

The INDEPENDENT

Published on the first and third Wednesdays of each month by The Independent, LLC, 725 Bridge St.,
Vernonia, OR 97064. Phone/Fax: 503-429-9410.
Deadline is noon the Friday before each issue.
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Printed on recycled paper with vegetable based dyes

Opinion

How did Vernonia get here?

Recently, Vernonia City Council came to a standstill while trying to choose someone to replace voter recalled Kevin Hudson's council position. Councilor Parrow and Mayor Mitchell refused to budge on their choice of former City Councilor Brett Costley. Councilors Nicks and Burch also refused to budge on their choice, Victoria Peters.

We interviewed Peters when she ran for Mayor. She seems to be intelligent and with good general knowledge of how to get things done in meetings. We wish we could say the same about Costley.

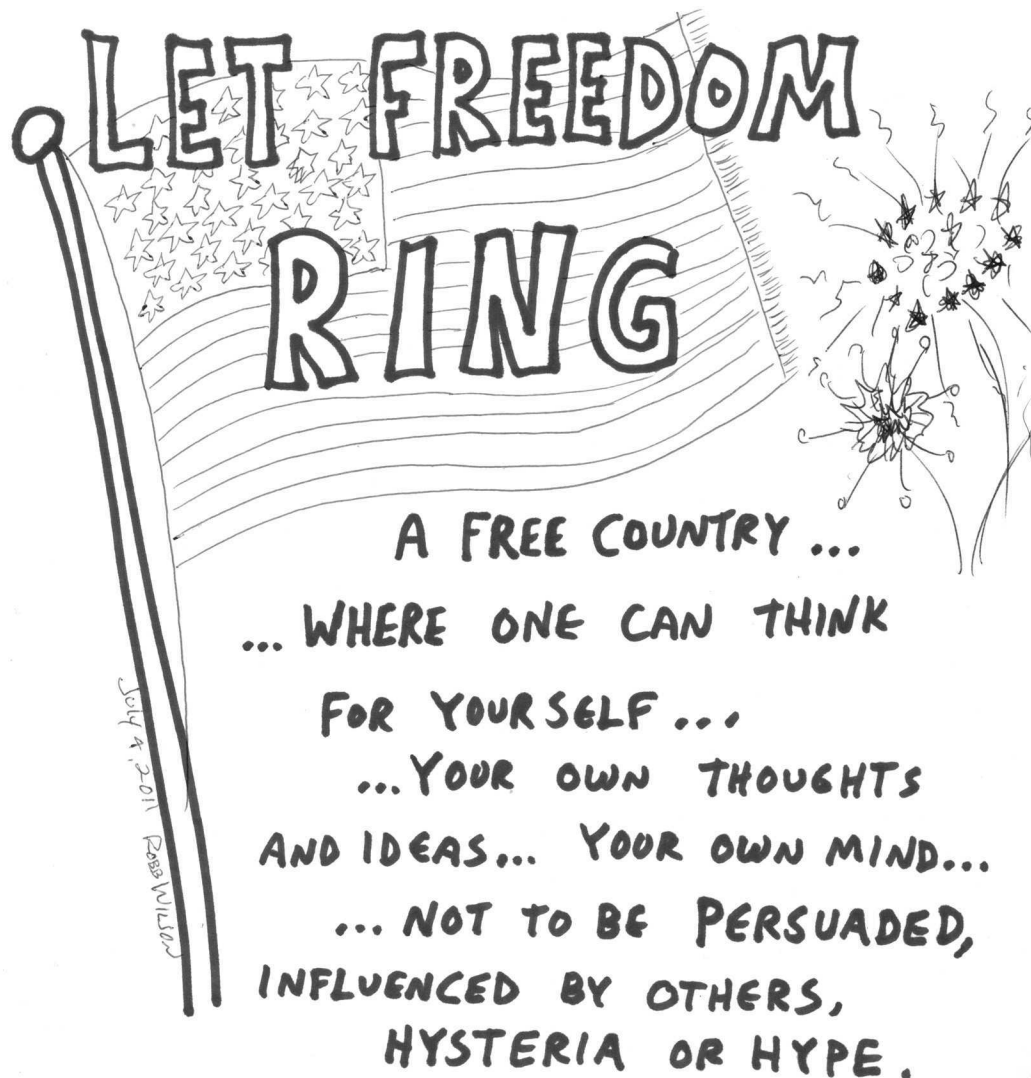
Mitchell and Parrow said they chose Costley because he has previous experience as a City Councilor. Costley's experience is part of the reason the City has the problems it is faced with today. He went right along with the other councilors while they made poor choices and ignored facts. At one meeting when council was complaining about coverage in *The Independent*, Editor Rebecca McGaugh told them, "Don't shoot the messenger." Costley vehemently shouted, "If the the messenger lies he deserves to be shot!" Costley diverted blame and made accusations without proof, then when it looked like he might be voted out of office, he resigned. Costley is not part of the solution, he's part of the problem.

Another recall has started

When three members of Vernonia's city council decided to terminate Bill Haack's contract as interim city administrator they started a chain reaction that is still active. One of those councilors, Kevin Hudson, was recalled in May. On July 5, recalls were started on the other two councilors, Willow Burch and Marilyn Nicks. We hope, when the dust settles and a new council is seated, that they listen to the community and not just special interests.

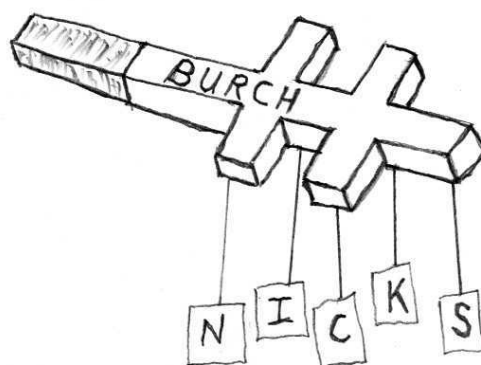
A great 4th of July this year

Another great 4th of July has come and gone. The parade in Vernonia, while perhaps not as long as some years, certainly showed the red, white, and blue with plenty of enthusiasm (and candy). The Vernonia Booster burgers (with grilled onions) were as good as ever, too. Thanks for keeping it small town, Vernonia.



COMING TO A COUNCIL MEETING NEAR YOU

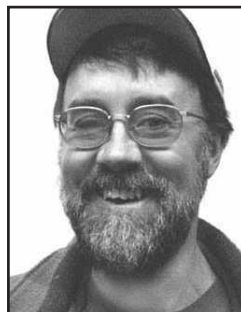
ENJOY THE SHOW



Ms B ©

Ike Says . . .

By Dale Webb, member
Nehalem Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League



The higher than average stream flows, so far

Once again I have been told that the local trout fishery was a success this year. I have seen quite a bit of activity on the Nehalem River this year, with many campers at Big Eddy Park and lots of rafts and boats tied onto vehicles.

this year, probably have something to do with this.

Dad and I made our customary trip to the Snake River the first week in June. Like last year, there was a lot of water moving through the reservoirs, and this had a negative effect on the fishery. We had to search a little harder for the right combination of jig to get the crappie to bite, but once we nailed it we were rewarded with nice size crappie, averaging around a foot long. Most people were having a hard time catching any amount of crappie. I feel this was due to the

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