



WARRENTON'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

# COLUMBIA PRESS

NUMBER 20

SERVING WARRENTON SINCE 1978

MAY 16, 2008

## Warrenton High receives \$15,000 grant for fish habitat study

By Bruce Dustin

Warrenton High School Principal Rod Heyen was all smiles one afternoon. Not that he's not normally a happy camper, but what with graduation looming in the near future and a rash of school vandalism, he lately looks a little haggard in the afternoons; you can see it in his eyes, and his shoulders are starting to take on an older man's stoop.

So, what was so different about this afternoon?

"Toshiba is endowing us with \$15,000!"

Well, yeah, even on our bleakest days money tends to lighten the load.

Why are they giving it to WHS?

"It's to study water quality and to improve fish habitat. And I owe it all to this lady."

He put his hand on the shoulder of a bright-eyed blonde-haired lady who he introduced to me as part-time Warrenton resident Ellen Zimet. Ellen describes herself as a retired Los Angeles school administrator

Continued on page 7

PAGE 7

## WHS receives \$15,000 grant

Continued from page 1

and grant writer.

How is the money going to be used?

"With the fish farm we showed that we could create a legitimate lab-based science program," Heyen explained. "In order to increase the numbers of salmon hatches, though, we need to show that the quality of the water in the Skipanon is sufficient to support the large numbers of returnees that we anticipate."

"Right now we hatch about 30,000, and we'd like to increase that to about 150,000, or whatever capacity would be," he said. "Of course, we have a responsibility to not hatch these fish unless we can bring them to maturity for release. And we need an environment conducive to those numbers—we need water quality and salmon habitat restoration."

Is it just about salmon, then?

"No, again this program will allow us to create a legitimate lab-based class here at WHS. With the state coming down in the near future with a third year of science for high school graduation we want to be proactive, we want to have a viable additional lab science class in place."