

# Ten Years After the Flood *continued from page 5*

CommunityLearning Center hosted the quickly formed Columbia County Flood Relief where residents and businesses received assistance navigating the FEMA system and helped victims with immediate unmet needs. Volunteers came from near and far; one was from Arizona. A load of supplies arrived from Wyoming, packed by relatives of a local Vernonia family.



Providence Health set up a temporary clinic in tents to meet the medical needs of local patients.

An unusual assortment of volunteer groups and organizations stepped up to help Vernonia get back on its feet.

Vernonia Cares, the local food bank, a service people

would have counted on in an emergency, was a victim of the flood themselves, and lost a good portion of their supply. Local volunteers spearheaded the initial clean up while the Church of Scientology Disaster Relief Program built new shelves to store food. Vernonia Cares was reopened and distributing food in six days.

Several other church and religious groups showed up, including the Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation. Groups of school children arrived with blankets and picked up garbage. Even inmates from the Oregon Department of Corrections were

on hand for several weeks, unloading supplies, chopping firewood, cleaning up debris and hauling away garbage.

After an eight day break and with all three school buildings unusable, Vernonia students were bussed to Scappoose and shared facilities there for nine days until the Christmas break.

As the immediate needs of local residents were met – things like food and shelter – the community began to realize that the full recovery would take many long years, and things never would be the same.

*Next issue:  
Part 2 – The  
Long Recovery*

## Where Do You Read The Voice?



**If you think Vernonia Seniors are having fun together now, reading Vernonia's Voice, just wait until their new Senior Center gets built! Join the Vernonia Senior Center for just \$15 for the year and get in on all the fun!**



## ADOPT BOOK

for the Vernonia Public Library  
December 4 - December 22, 2017

Choose from a selection of books to purchase for the Library's collection during the month of December. This year, we are focusing on books for children and teens. By request, the Library will put a donation plate inside the book commemorating the gift.

Thank you to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this event.

Vernonia Public Library • 701 Weed Avenue • 503-429-1818 • library@vernonia-or.gov

# Are You A Veteran?

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Columbia County Oregon Building Bridges to Self Sufficiency Community Action Team C12163

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