

## Volunteers needed to help restore B-V Linear Trail

The Banks-Vernonia State Trail may not open for many weeks because of damages from this month's flooding, according to resident Ranger Scott Green.

Two major landslides, one near Tophill and the other near Buxton, cannot be repaired until weather conditions improve. Many smaller problems, including clogged culverts, toppled signs and downed trees, could be repaired if enough volunteers can be found.

Many state parks have sustained major damage from Mother Nature's recent onslaught of wind storms, ice storms, drenching rains and

flooding, but the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation has only a small emergency fund to draw from to pay for the most urgent repairs.

Though it may be several

## Vets medical care changes made

Effective March 1, 1996, the Veterans Administration Medical Center Emergency Care Unit will be open for emergency services seven days a week, 24 hours per day.

The VA and Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) previously combined nighttime emergency room services in order to provide qual-

ity care and allow limited health care dollars to be used more effectively. The OHSU Emergency Department will no longer provide emergency care to VA patients between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. as of the above date.

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## Watershed meet date changed

The next meeting of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council has been postponed until Tuesday, March 12, 1996. This meeting will be held in the Washington Grade School library at 7 p.m.

The meeting was rescheduled to allow people time to recover from the flood.

All meetings of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council are open to the public. All interested people are encouraged to attend.

## Remembering . . .

### Hobos, Grain Doors and Chicken Feed

By Jerry Lionberger

This is the third and final column about hoboes in Vernonia. Lionberger grew up in Vernonia, where he was called "Dean". He now lives in Milwaukee.

When hobos traveled around the country on the railroads during hard times it was referred to as riding the rods or the rails.

We all know what the rails are, but what were the rods?

The rods were long bracings that ran beneath the floor of a car and the rails to add stabilization and strength to the car's long length.

Hobos used to place grain doors across these rods to lay on when boxcars were loaded and the doors were locked. They laid on these and held onto the rods. It was very dangerous and some lost their lives when they lost their grip and fell onto the tracks.

Most of the hobos who arrived in Vernonia did not have to ride the rods because the boxcars and flatcars were brought in empty for loading lumber at the Oregon-American Lumber Mill. They rode in style inside the boxcars or on the flatcars.

Many of the boxcars that came to Vernonia had been used to transport wheat or corn beforehand.

Some might wonder how the doors could be opened without the grain cascading out. This is where grain doors, as they were called, were used -- and used by hobos later. They were constructed of one-inch boards, double thickness and about the size of a closet door. Before the boxcars were loaded with grain, a heavy craft-like paper was tacked onto the walls around the inside and about halfway up. This sealed off any splintered or missing boards. The grain doors were then laid on edge across the door entrance as grain was loaded.

When the cars were unloaded at their destination, many of the grain doors were left inside. These had many uses around the home and were often carted home to later be torn apart for the boards.

My family raised chickens and rabbits for our own use as well as for selling and couldn't always afford to buy feed at the feed store. That's where my job of sweeping the boxcars came in. My tools were a worn-out broom, a dustpan and a gunnysack.

The craft paper had to be torn from the walls, then you'd bang the walls with the broom handle, which loosened pockets of grain that sifted out at the bottom. There was always one board left off around the bottom of the wall's construction. Sometimes I'd really hit a bonanza and fill a gunnysack about half full.

A fresh string of boxcars was constantly being brought to town and I had to keep track of where they were switched on the sidings. It was easy to run alongside and jump up to see which cars had hauled grain. Of course I had strict orders to stay back when the engine was switching cars, but it was a treat to climb aboard and take a short ride when no one was in sight.

Looking back, I think it's amazing how much confidence parents had in their children to do a good job when assigned one to help the family's cause, even when danger was present. The most valued memories of my life are those of growing up in Vernonia during the depression and hard times. I can barely recall any events of importance in later, good times.

I can remember families pulling together, exchanging things and helping each other make ends meet. I can still taste the home-canned venison, elk and bear meat given to us that was shot out of season while the game warden turned his back, knowing the meat would be distributed to families in need.

I am thankful that I had these experiences "branded" in so deeply that they can easily be recalled to enjoy, over and over.



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## Church Directory

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Bob E. Holbrook, Branch President  
1350 E. Knott Street  
Vernonia, 429-7151

Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 10 a.m.  
Sunday School & Primary 11:20 a.m.

Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women, Sunday 12:10 p.m.

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Michael Jackson, Pastor  
662 Jefferson  
Vernonia, 429-6353

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study,  
1st & 3rd Mon. 7:00 p.m.

Women's Ministry, alt. Wed. 7:00 p.m.

### ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Robert Grafe, Vicar  
700 Adams Ave.  
Vernonia 429-1860

Sunday Services, 10:00 a.m.

### FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Wally Ratkie, Pastor  
850 Madison Avenue  
Vernonia, 429-1103

Sunday Services  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

### GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

D.J. Dickey, Pastor  
Grant & North Streets  
Vernonia, 429-1919 or 429-8720

Sunday School, All Ages 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

John Cahill, Pastor  
952 Washington Avenue  
Vernonia, 429-1161

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Visitation, Monday 7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

### VERNONIA EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Grant Williams, Pastor  
957 State Avenue  
Vernonia, 429-6790

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Church w/Nursery  
Evening Fellowship 6:00 p.m.  
Nursery Care

Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.  
Bible Studies, Wed. 7:00 p.m.

**The Churches of Vernonia Welcome You**

### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Dick Halaas, Pastor  
410 North Street  
Vernonia, 429-6522

Sunday School 9:40 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Children's and Junior Church  
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

Ladies' Bible Study, Mon. 7:30 p.m.  
Women's Fellowship, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.  
Every Wednesday:  
Ladies' Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.  
Evening Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.  
Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Ron Millican  
Pastoral Administrator  
Lani Vandehey

960 Missouri Avenue  
Vernonia, 429-8841

Mass  
Sundays 10:00 a.m.  
Reconciliation 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
or by Appointment

Holy Day Services 7:00 p.m.

St. Vincent dePaul Society  
Irish Bruers, 429-7201

### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Roger Kruger, Pastor, 397-6883  
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.  
Vernonia, 429-1941

Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

## Milligan's Cut 'N' Curl

*Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you who suffered so much damage and heartbreak during and after the flood. We wish you the best as you work to recover.*

OPEN 9-5 MON.-SAT. • CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

**429-0108**

Gwen Milligan, Owner  
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