

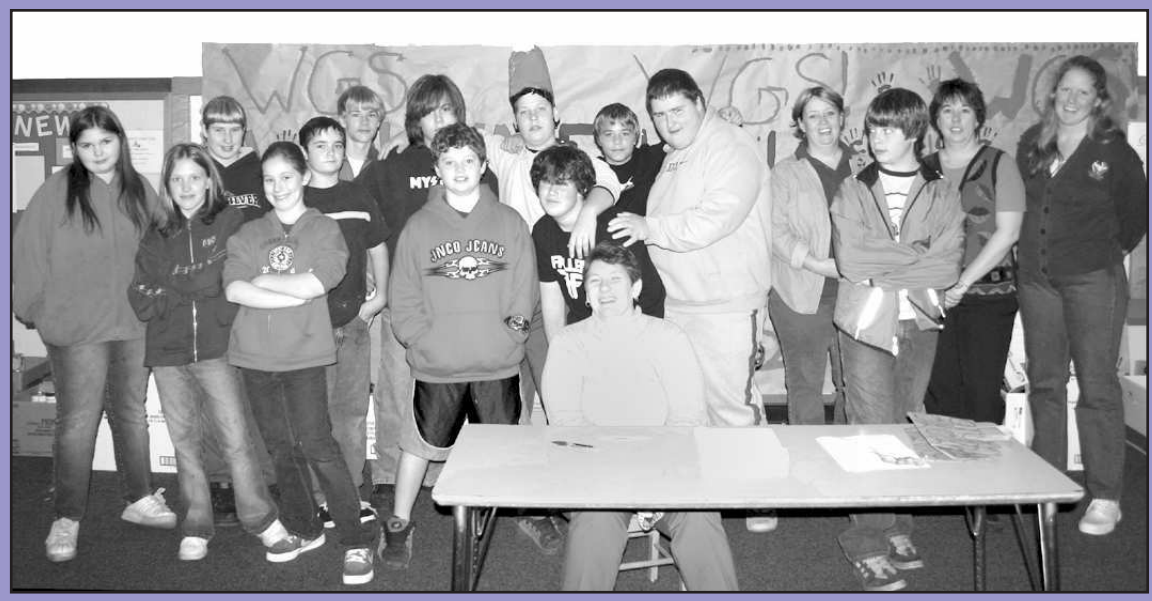
The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

November 4, 2004

Service with Smiles...



The Washington Grade School community service class, above, spearheaded this fall's Canned Food Drive, in cooperation with Wauna FCU. During the week of Oct. 25-29 students in the Vernonia School District brought in over 3,600 cans, totalling 3,658 pounds of food for Vernonia Cares. The students also doubled their goal of 1,800 cans.

Vernonia Cares reopens to help people

Vernonia Cares Food Bank reopened October 26 after an eight week closure. The temporary closure allowed the food bank to reorganize, enlist more volunteers and board members, and access funds.

Financial support from the community, emergency grants from United Way of Columbia County and the Oregon Food Bank, a donation from the Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, a "buy one/get one free" offer for whole chickens from Foster Farms in Kelso, and several other sources, allowed

Blood Drive will be held November 20th

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held November 20 from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Vernonia Community Church, 957 State Avenue.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 is okay with parental permission), and weight at least 110 pounds. Give the gift of life, be a blood donor.

the emergency food program to reopen. The board of directors is continuing efforts to develop long-term success for Vernonia Cares.

At this time, Vernonia Cares is open only on Tuesdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will return to its original two-day-a-week schedule as further restructuring is finalized. Vernonia Cares is located in the American Legion Building at 627 Adams Avenue.

"We are so glad to again be available to our low-income clients," said Executive Director Sandy Welch. "On our opening day, we served 29 families containing 91 people! These three days worth of emergency groceries, once a month, make such a difference to our clients. Some patrons tell me that the meat we give them in these food boxes is the only meat they eat in a month. It is vital we help people who are hit doubly hard during these difficult economic times.

"The expanded Board of Directors, and many local citizens

who helped with, or organized fund raisers, put in many hours to enable the food bank to reopen. These supporters," she went on to say, recognize the value this organization adds to this community. In 2003, over 3800 people, many needing the services several times in the year, received grocery assistance from Vernonia Cares. That included 1456 children. Without the generous contributions to Vernonia Cares, we could do nothing. It also takes many, many volunteers to keep our doors open," Welch emphasized.

The schools' canned food drive helps replenish the pantry shelves at Vernonia Cares just in time for the Christmas holiday. (Vernonia Cares does not provide Thanksgiving food baskets.) Pat Stacklie is organizing a "turkey roundup" for the special holiday food boxes, usually distributed in mid-December (See article on page 6.). These many projects will make Christmas a happier time.

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Voters return Hyde, Corsiglia to Board

New Banks, Vernonia mayors

Columbia County voters returned incumbents Tony Hyde and Joe Corsiglia to the Board of Commissioners.

Hyde, a Republican, won easily with 52 percent of the vote over Democrat Rosemary Lohrke and Keith Carpenter, of the Constitution Party.

Democrat Corsiglia received 47.6 percent, with Republican Colleen DeShazer polling 38.75 and 13.25 percent going to Constitution Party candidate Bob Ekstrom.

Sally Harrison will be the next Vernonia Mayor, winning in a three-way race against incumbent Cindy Ball and Michael Seager.

There will also be change on the Vernonia City Council, with Shirley Goodman taking over the seat of incumbent Glen Purvee. Randy Parrow was easily elected to another term on the council.

Banks will also have a new mayor, with Michael Lyda winning over Teri Branstitre for the position vacated by Robert Orłowski.

Brian Biehl and Ryan Birr will fill two positions on the Banks City Council. There was no candidate for a third seat on

the council.

City of Banks voters also turned down two levies. The law enforcement levy lost when 51.5 percent of the ballots were cast in the NO column. The parks maintenance levy went down to defeat by 62 percent to 38 percent.

Banks Fire District fared better, however, with nearly 54 percent of the voters approving a five-year operating levy.

In another district election, Bill Eagle retained his at-large position on the Columbia Soil & Water District, defeating Maggie Peyton. CSWD Zone 4 incumbent David Freytag also won over challenger Samantha Katterman.

One of the more interesting races was in State Representative District 32, where three candidates vied for election in four counties.

Democrat Deborah Boone, who is also the appointed incumbent, won with 50 percent of the vote in a close race against Republican Douglas Olson. Olson was the choice of 47 percent of the voters. The other three percent went to Constitution Party Candidate Ben Snodgrass.

Democrat incumbent Betsy Johnson, coasted to another term in State Representative District 31, with little opposition from Constitution Party candidate Ron Ross.

In other balloting, voters in

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Observance set for Veterans' Day

A Veteran's Day ceremony will be held November 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Vernonia Lake.

Prepared by volunteers of the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District, the ceremony will include a 21-gun salute using fireworks display shells, followed by Taps and the National Anthem.

Election returns are "Unofficial" until they have been certified by the state Elections Division. It is unlikely, however, that any results will be substantially changed.