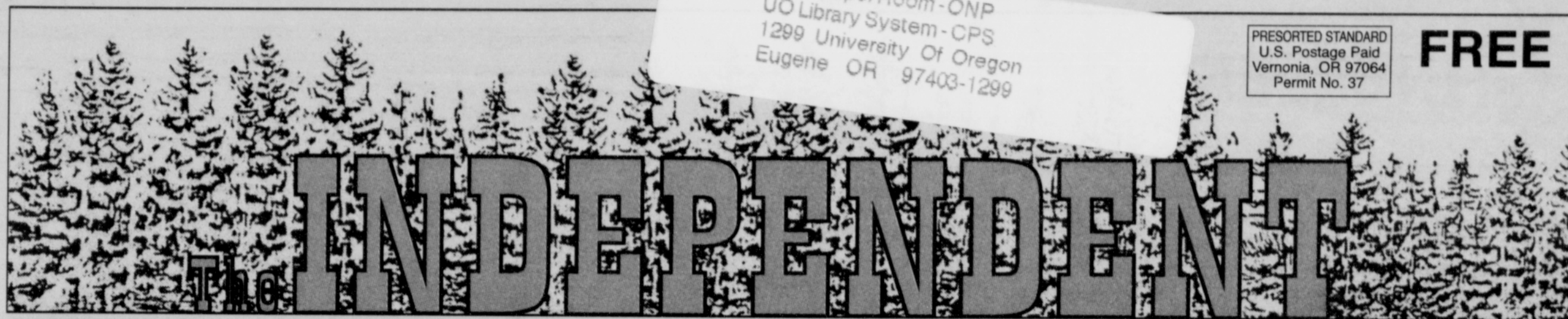




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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

November 18, 2004

Cooperative efforts...



Volunteers of all ages and abilities turned out to plant a bioswale at Banks Elementary School. See article blow for more information.

Agencies, volunteers combine for clean water, healthy habitat

Believe it or not, Banks Elementary School has a naturally occurring bioswale along its Main Street side. And, before you ask, a bioswale is a long, gently sloping, landscaped depression that collects and cleans surface water.

The soil and native plants in a bioswale filter and clean the water before it is released into a waterway. It is also a welcome habitat for small animals and birds. Native plants suited to a bioswale must be able to adapt to both wet and dry conditions.

The bioswale at Banks Elementary School was in need of more native plants, as well as removal of invasive species such as reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry. The

school's Help Our Habitat (HOH) club, a 4-H Wildlife Stewards club, had studied the bioswale and how to improve it. Under the leadership of Bonnie Shumaker and Pam Brown, the school was awarded a grant from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to restore the bioswale.

Pacific University's Environmental Education class and their professor, Deke Gunderson, volunteered to help with removal of invasive species and plant about 400 native plants. Clean Water Services donated all the plants and loaned the tools needed for the job.

Members of the HOH club, from kindergarten through fifth

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Loggers will host Grant Union Saturday in quest for state title

The Vernonia High School football team will take their record-breaking efforts onto the field Saturday in the second round of state 2A playoffs, as they host Grant Union at 2:00 p.m.

Grant Union, which averaged 30.1 points per game while giving up an average of

7.1 points, will bring in a big, physical team and should be a good match for Vernonia.

The Loggers have averaged 32.6 points per game while surrendering a stingy 4.4 points to their opponents.

Led by senior running back Travis Gwin, whose 1,820 rushing yards set a new school record, the Loggers were unbeaten in league play as they captured their first Northwest League title in 22 years.

Additional standouts for the Loggers are junior running back Russell Lende, with 752 all purpose yards, and senior quarterback Eric Schmidlin,

with 443 passing yards.

This season is fun for everyone, but especially exciting for the seniors on the team – Andrew Gritman, Eric Hansen, Kevin Swayze, Rocky Jones, Patrick Schilling, Luke Enneberg, Caleb Isaacson, Gwin and Schmidlin.

VHS coach resigns

The Vernonia School District Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Tony Pupo, effective immediately, during an emergency meeting yesterday, November 17.

Pupo's letter did not specify why he resigned, other than "Due to personal reasons..."

Pupo taught health and conditioning classes at Vernonia High School, and was also athletic director and head football coach.

The VHS football team was informed of Pupo's resignation yesterday afternoon.

Vernonia Cares in need of donations

Vernonia Cares is back in operation two days per week (Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) and donations are still needed for the Christmas food boxes. Turkeys and hams are the most expensive item in the boxes and are on sale at area stores.

Vernonia Sentry has offered

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Red Cross Blood Drive, November 20

Give the gift of life on Saturday, November 20, at a Red Cross Blood Drive to be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Vernonia Community Church, 957 State Avenue.

Vernonia

vs.

Grant Union
November 20
2:00 p.m.

Condition of U.S. flag brought to attention of Vernonia City Council

During the section for public comments at the November 15 meeting of the Vernonia City Council, local resident and business owner Willow Burch brought to the council's attention that the American flag outside City Hall is dirty, tattered, and is left out 24 hours with only a temporary light that shines about half way up the flag pole. She asked the city to either display the flag appropriately respect or remove it.

Acting City Administrator Robyn Bassett took Burch to task for bringing the matter to a public meeting. Bassett told Burch the matter should have been brought to her or other city employees before it came to the council meeting. Burch replied that she had talked to city employees twice, with the only result being the light bulb was changed after burning out. Because the other concerns had not been handled, she brought it to council to try and get it resolved. Burch also of-

fered to buy a new flag, if that was the only way to get a new one up.

Another member of the audience said that Burch should be thanked for bringing the situation to the council's attention. City Councilor Shirlee Daughtry responded that the city needs to fix the issue.

Resident Jacqueline Ramsay asked the city to do something about the lighting at Rose Avenue and Bridge Street, and behind City Hall, where the parking is very dark at night.

In other business, council approved a 60 day temporary occupancy for a motorhome at 507 Rose, while the owners await closing on a new home.

Bassett requested and received a moment of silence in honor of Enid Parrow. She also told council that two flowering cherry trees would be planted in honor of Enid and her late husband, Art Parrow.

The next council meeting will be December 6.