

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

December 2, 2004

A great season



Vernonia High School Loggers defeated the Grant Union High School Prospectors, November 20, to earn their way to the quarterfinal round in state 2A competition. See team photo and article on page 10.

Tree lighting, Lighted Truck Parade and bazaar get holiday season underway

The holiday season will officially start in Vernonia on Saturday, December 4, at 5:30 p.m. when lights on the Community Christmas Tree at City Hall will be lit. Hot chocolate and cookies will help banish the evening chill, and Mrs. Santa will be here to enjoy the event.

At 6:00 p.m. a Lighted Truck Parade will begin at City Hall and end at California Avenue, alongside Washington Grade School. Trucks decorated with Christmas lights for the parade should assemble at 5:30 p.m. For more information about the parade, call Heidi Brown at 503-429-2787.

Many downtown business will hold open house following the Christmas Tree lighting and Truck Parade. It will be a good night to get into the holiday spirit and even get some early shopping done.

The 25th Annual "Christmas

in the Country" bazaar will open Saturday, also, with crafters from all over Northwest Oregon displaying hand-made wares that will include toys, ornaments, ceramics, fabric art, home decor items, foods, jewelry, soaps and personal care items, plus wreaths and much more. Bazaar hours will be 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 5. The bazaar will be in the Washington Grade School gym, 199 Bridge Street, Vernonia.

In addition to a wealth of hand made merchandise, Santa Claus will be available for

pictures and shoppers can enjoy breakfast, lunch and/or for an early supper at the bazaar. Home-made soups and fresh hot rolls, hot cinnamon rolls, pizza and a large variety of pies and desserts will be sold in the cafeteria by the Vernonia Booster Club.

**THE SCHEDULE
OF HOLIDAY
PROGRAMS AT
AREA SCHOOLS
IS ON PAGE 12.**

Holiday Bucks may save \$\$

Vernonia "Holiday Bucks", a local shopping promotion is now underway, with cards available at all participating merchants through December 22. Look for the snowflake design with "Holiday Bucks" on it, in the windows of participating businesses.

Merchants will stamp shoppers' Holiday Bucks card for each \$5.00 purchased (10 stamps to a card). When a card is filled up, the customer will put their name and phone number in the space provided, drop off the card at any participating business, and pick up a new Holiday Buck card.

The filled cards will be included in drawings on December 4, 11 and 18, for \$25.00 gift cards redeemable at any participating business. The grand prize drawing on December 23 will be for gift cards worth \$100, \$75 and \$50.

The drawings will all take place at noon: Saturday, December 4, the drawing will be at Vernonia Inn; Saturday, December 11 at Brettbauer Fuel; Saturday, December 18 at the Country Kitchen. The final drawings will be Thursday, December 23, at True Value Hardware.

Rules:

1. For every \$5 purchased at a participating business you will get 1 stamp or punch and a set of initials on your card.
2. US Bank, Wauna Federal Credit Union, West Oregon Electric Cooperative, Inc. and the City of Vernonia will give one stamp/punch per transaction, not per dollar amount.
3. Entrants must be at least 18 years of age.
4. Entrants are responsible for their Holiday Bucks cards.
5. Winning cards will be checked for authenticity.
6. Winning gift cards can be used at any one participating business (cannot split between two or more locations).
7. All winning gift cards must be used by February 14, 2005.
8. Holiday Bucks promotion will end December 22, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. No cards will be accepted after that time.
9. Need not be present to win.

Dukes named to NW Power Council, will leave Senate

State Sen. Joan Dukes (D-Svenson) will leave the legislative post she's held since 1986 to accept a seat on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, an agency representing the governors of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana in the politically charged arena of hydropower dams and their impact on Columbia Basin salmon.

The council, created by an act of Congress and funded by revenues from federal hydropower sales, works to balance the region's energy and environmental needs.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski appointed Dukes to replace Gene Derfler, of Salem, whose term expires Jan. 15. The governor emphasized Dukes' experience in the Senate as key to working collaboratively with other states "on growing the region's econo-

my while also protecting the environment."

A Tacoma native and graduate of Evergreen State College, Dukes has been active in fisheries and transportation issues while representing Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia counties, and portions of Washington and Multnomah counties. She was re-elected for a fifth term in 2002.

Dukes said she looks forward to the challenges of the new post.

"It's a great opportunity for me," she said. "But when I leave the Capitol and leave my office and my colleagues, I'll be sad. We have a lot of issues to work out this session. There are some regrets."

The senator will retain her seat until her appointment to the council is confirmed by the state Senate.

Special mailbox for letters to Santa

Children may mail their letters to Santa Claus at a special mail box set up outside the Vernonia Fire Station. The mailbox is sponsored by volunteers of the Vernonia Rural Fire District who will help make sure Santa answers letters received.

The mailbox will be available until Christmas day.

Flu shots given Dec. 3 in Vernonia

Columbia County Public Health will be giving flu shots to High Risk people at Vernonia Head Start on Friday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The high risk guidelines set up by the CDC will be followed
Please see page 16