

The INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19, No. 24

"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

December 16, 2004

Happy Holidays to all



Log trucks lit up the night December 4 in Vernonia's second Christmas truck parade.

City okays lien fees, vacation

The Vernonia City Council preceded their December 6 meeting with a public hearing on vacating a portion of East Avenue between 210 C St. and 186 C St. The street shows on plat maps of the Eastside Addition, but has never been built. Consent forms were obtained from over 60 percent of adjacent property owners. The staff report recommended approval of the vacation because the portion in question is not included in the city's Transportation System Plan, it isn't used or needed for utility easements and it will go on the property tax roll if it is vacated. There was no public testimony either for or against the vacation.

When the Council meeting was reconvened following the
Please see page 16

Six Loggers named League All Stars; Gwin picked Offensive Player for '04

A great football season ended for Vernonia High School on November 27, when the Loggers lost to Bandon in the quarterfinals of state competition. But the caliber of play presented by the team was recognized by the Northwest League which named six of the Loggers as league All Stars.

In addition, Vernonia running back Travis Gwin was named Offensive Player of the Year for the Northwest League. Knappa linebacker Dana Barendse was tabbed as Defensive Player of the Year.

Rounding out the first team, which was selected by the league's coaches, are Vernonia's Eric Schmidlin (quarterback and defensive back), Russell Lende (receiver), Rocky Jones (offensive line),

Andrew Grittman (defensive line), Caleb Isaacson (linebacker) and Gwin (running back and linebacker);

Knappa's Brandon Wing (running back), Casey Bushnell (offensive line) and Barendse (offensive line and linebacker);

Warrenton's Shane Rudduck (running back), Brandon Engebretson (tight end and punter), Jon Anderson (offensive and defensive lines), Billy Pike (defensive line) and Nick Miller (defensive back);

Charlie Antal (receiver) and Jordan Hegg (defensive back) from Portland Christian; Riverdale's Mike Nance (defensive line) and Ryan Johnson (defensive line); Kevin Donaldson (offensive lineman) from Clatskanie, and Corbett's Allan Baker (linebacker).

First CERT course volunteers graduate

Following seven weeks of training, 17 volunteers participated in a live disaster exercise, successfully completing the eighth training session needed to qualify as part of the Vernonia Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The eight week CERT training included earthquake and disaster preparedness, hands-on fire suppression, light search and rescue techniques, light disaster medical operations (first aid), disaster psychology, team building and a lot of FUN!

The final class culminated with a disaster exercise. Class members "worked" a simulated earthquake that required fire suppression, search and rescue of victims, triage and treatment of victims, and debris removal — while being mindful of dangerous "traps" the instructors rigged. The victims...convincing live volunteers...had cosmetically designed "injuries."

The graduates were Helen Johnson, Marie Krahn, Mike Orth, Heather Lewis, Carolyn Velasco, Cindy Ball, Alexis Posley, Janet Conger, Karin Goodman, Bonnie Morse, Claudia Johnson, Pat Stipe, David Gonzales, Lynn Thomas, Kristina McCord, Bob Paleck and Brandi Landry.

Instructors for the eight three-hour classes included Vernonia Fire Chief Paul Epler, Assistant Fire Chief Tom Ramsay, retired City of Hillsboro Fire Fighter Jerry Rilette and Oregon CERT Instructor Terri Nelson. Classes were held on Wednesday nights at the Vernonia Rural Fire District station.

What's next for the CERT graduates? Their names will be added to a database and they will be activated, when needed. If a natural or man-made disas-

ter occurs, the CERT folks will start by assisting their families, work through their neighborhoods and assemble, as a team, to work with the fire department and start assisting Vernonia residents.

CERT members will also be invited to on-going training and disaster simulation events, which will be held in Vernonia as well as Columbia and Washington Counties. Each time a CERT member participates in training exercises and learns (or refreshes) skills, that information will be added to the database so appropriately trained people can be called when they are needed. The community may also begin seeing CERT people helping with events such as Jamboree.

If you missed this opportunity, be assured that, when additional funds are secured and more people have expressed an interest in CERT training, another class will be taught in spring 2005. Individuals or businesses interested in sponsoring future classes may make donations to the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection Fire District earmarked for CERT Training.

The CERT course was made possible by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security, generous donations from Rose City Moving and Storage in Portland and Mr. and Mrs. Jason Keim of Portland, and Fire Extinguisher Services in Aloha.

For further information, contact Terri Nelson at 503-429-9113 or by email at <tnelson@safetywithoutcompromise.com> (Put CERT in the subject line of emails.) CERT photos are available at www.safetywithoutcompromise.com under the PHOTO tab.