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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

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Property is purchased for Scappoose-Vernonia trail

Columbia County has completed the purchase of 17 miles of the Crown Zellerbach Logging Road from Hancock Timber Resource Group for use as a hiking, biking and equestrian trail.

"The acquisition of the Crown Zellerbach Logging Road is a major effort," said Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde. "We appreciate Hancock Timber's collaboration and commitment on this project.

The successful completion of this purchase is the result of a huge collaborative effort on the part of many agencies and individuals," he concluded.

"At Hancock Timber, it's a cornerstone of our culture to be

a good neighbor and try to place lands with special recreational or environmental value into public ownership," said Bill Marré, Northwest General Manager for Hancock Forest Management, a subsidiary of Hancock Timber Resource Group that manages the company's timberland operations in this region.

"We're pleased to help Columbia County convert this road to a trail and enable hikers, bicyclists and horseback riders to enjoy working forests from the Multnomah Channel to Vernonia and along the Vernonia Linear Trail to the Hares Canyon State Park," Marré added.

The agencies involved, in addition to Columbia County and Hancock Timber Resource Group, include Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD), Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), both the Nehalem and Scappoose Bay Watershed Councils, City of Vernonia, City of Scappoose, Washington County and the Port of St. Helens, which is donating Chapman Landing on the Multnomah Channel.

The Crown Zellerbach Log-

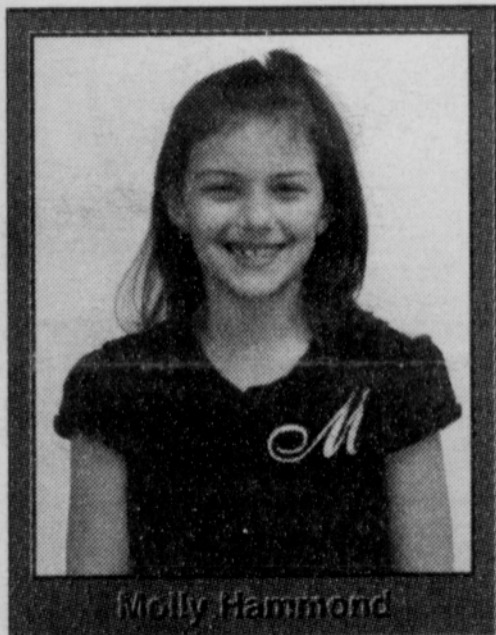
ging Road acquisition is a 17-mile, 40-foot wide strip of property (173.6 acres) that was used as a logging road by Crown Zellerbach. After Crown Zellerbach sold the property, it was no longer used to transport logs, but was maintained as a fire and access road by Hancock Timber Resource Group. From Highway 30 in Scappoose, it runs adjacent to Scappoose-Vernonia Highway and ends three miles short of a connection to the Vernonia-Banks Linear Trail in Vernonia. The last three miles of the Crown Zellerbach Road are owned by Weyerhaeuser.

Development of the trail will begin with a master plan to determine the scope of trail improvements, mitigation of impacts to area residents, and replacement of undersized culverts to facilitate fish passage. The public will be notified when the planning process begins.

The Columbia County Parks Department is working with the Scappoose Bay and Nehalem Watershed Councils to obtain funds for the master plan and to replace the culverts. Both watershed councils, plus local equestrian and 4-H groups

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Student shows how pennies can add up



Molly Hammond

Many eight year-olds spend the time leading up to Christmas writing letters to Santa Claus and trying to be good. Molly Hammond, who had her ninth birthday on December 7, spent the weeks before Christmas raising money to provide food baskets and gifts for those

who needed a helping hand.

Molly, the daughter of John and Jean Hammond of Banks, got the idea for a penny drive from OPB's TV show, ZOOM. She saw the program and said to herself, "I could do that."

After decorating a big jar, she asked the principal at her school, Banks Elementary, if she could put a collection jar there and make an announcement to the student body. She made the announcement and the project was up and running. She also put collection jars at the checkout stands at Jim's Thriftway.

Her penny drive started the week before Thanksgiving and she hoped to collect \$200 to help the United Methodist Church and Banks Food Bank provide gifts and food baskets, respectively, for Christmas.

"At the Winter Concert alone, people gave \$50 or \$60

dollars." Molly said, "Somebody even gave a \$5 bill." The "funnest part" was counting the money at recess with her school friends and the hardest part: Carrying all those heavy coins was "even harder than making the announcement at school," Molly said.

Molly's penny drive raised \$400 in time to help with Christmas. The drive continues with an additional \$31.29 raised for the Food Bank and Molly plans to do it again next year, with a goal of \$500. She has a spin-off now, with one of her classmates holding a YuGo card drive.

In return for her generous and caring contribution, Molly hopes to make the HighFlyers Club at school, for those who donate at least three hours of community service, though she has spent much, much more than three hours on her project.

New year for Vernonia City Council

The swearing in of a new mayor, Sally Harrison, and a new councilor, Shirley Goodman, was one of the first pieces of business at the January 3, 2005, Vernonia City Council meeting. Outgoing Mayor Cindy Ball and outgoing Councilor Glen Purvee, each received a plaque, and heartfelt expressions of thanks, for their service to the city and community.

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Ready for 2005



Vernonia City Council held their first meeting of the new year on January 3. Policy setters for the coming year are, from left, Councilor Brett Costley, Councilor Shirlee Daughtry, Mayor Sally Harrison, Councilor Randy Parrow and Councilor Shirley Goodman.