

**Business**

## Noble fir for Capitol tree

The Oregon Department of Forestry delivered a 25-foot noble fir from the Tillamook State Forest for the holiday tree in the rotunda of the state Capitol.

The governor will oversee the lighting of the Capitol's holiday tree tomorrow, Dec. 2, at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend the 30-minute program, which marks the 24th annual "Holidays at the Capitol."

"We're proud to provide the tree this year for the enjoyment of all Oregonians," said Bob Gustavson, acting Forest Grove District forester. "And we're proud of the way the Tillamook State Forest has again become a productive forest – through careful management – after the fires from 60 to 70 years ago."

The tree was delivered by a crew from the South Fork Camp, an inmate work camp located in the Tillamook State Forest. "It's a daunting task to find the so-called perfect tree, but I think we have a good one picked out," said camp supervisor Gordon Dana.

The 364,000-acre Tillamook State Forest is located about 40 miles west of Portland in northwest Oregon. The forest replanting after a series of devastating wildfires in the 1930s and 1940s turned the "Tillamook Burn" into the Tillamook State Forest.

Following the fires, thou-

## Some improvement in unemployment rate for Columbia County workers

Columbia County's unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 6.0 percent in October, according to Oregon Employment Department figures. This was still a bit higher than the statewide unadjusted rate of 5.4 percent and higher than the national rate of 4.6 percent. Total employment in the county grew by 216 from September, and the number of

sands of Oregonians, many of them school children and volunteers, helped plant more than 72 million Douglas-fir seedlings across the blackened landscape.

Though still relatively young, the Tillamook State Forest has already begun to provide the economic, environmental and social benefits envisioned for this publicly owned forest. The Oregon Department of Forestry manages the forest, using harvesting to produce revenue for local governments and schools; to develop habitat for native fish and wildlife; and to pay for recreation projects such as trails and campgrounds.

The rich history of the Tillamook State Forest and the potential it holds as a sustainably managed public forest in the future are the key themes of the soon-to-open Tillamook Forest Center. The 13,500-square-foot center along the Wilson River Highway will be filled with exhibits that invite visitors to learn about the Tillamook State Forest and about sustainable forest management.

The center will open to the public in early 2006, with a grand opening celebration scheduled for Oregon Arbor Week April 1-8. Visit the Tillamook Forest Center on-line at [www.tillamookforest.org](http://www.tillamookforest.org)

unemployed people decreased by 16.

Columbia County's revised unemployment rate for September was 6.1 percent. The rate was 8.0 percent one year ago in October. Total employment was 21,704 in October and 1,380 people were unemployed. Total employment was 570 greater than one year ago.

## Columbia County is processing waivers

From page 1

County Measure 37 claims until the Supreme Court issues a final ruling. This will allow current claimants to avoid investing time and money on their claims until the Supreme Court rules on the constitutionality of

Measure 37.

For additional information about Measure 37 claims or to discuss the County's stay agreement option, contact Todd Dugdale, Director of Land Development Services, at 503-397-7207.

## FEMA says it's time for flood insurance

Snow, rain and windy weather up and down our coasts and winter storm warnings for the Cascade mountains herald more to come in the Pacific Northwest. According to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Director John Pennington, it's time for flood insurance policyholders to review their policies and consider increasing coverage, and for uninsured homeowners and renters to think seriously about buying flood insurance.

"Our region is prone to a variety of natural disasters, ranging from seasonal flooding and winter storms to wildfires, earthquakes and volcanic activity, but flooding tops the list for disaster-driven property loss," said Pennington. "National flood insurance offers solid protection from future flood losses, and pays off whether or not there is a federal disaster declaration. But there is a thirty-day waiting period before the coverage takes effect, so don't wait!"

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies are available to communities that agree to adopt and enforce sound floodplain management practices, and according to Pennington, virtually every community in the Northwest qualifies. "By aggressively managing their floodplains, local officials guarantee access to affordable coverage, and that's important," said Pennington. "While the very act of qualifying to join the NFIP reduces flood damage, by joining NFIP's voluntary Community Rating System (CRS), commu-

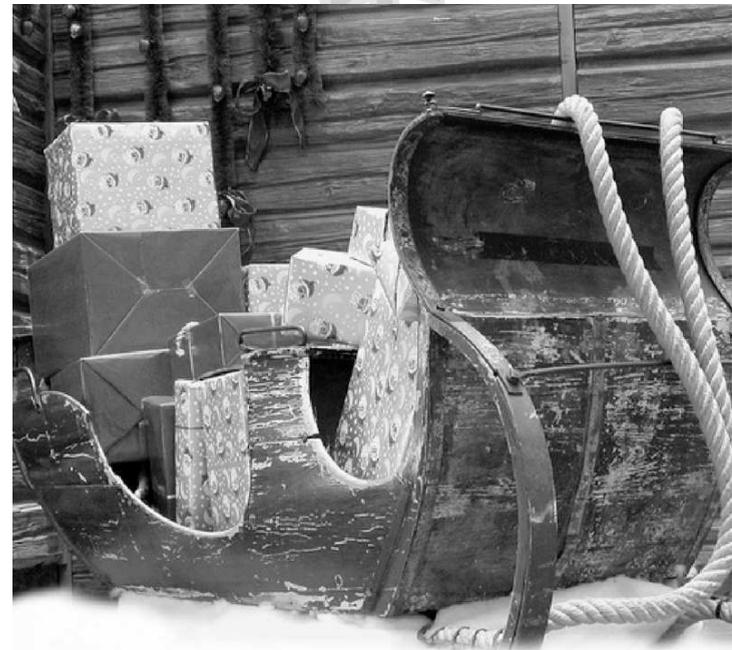
nities can earn rate reductions for policyholders by adopting stronger management practices. You don't have to live in a high risk flood zone to be vulnerable."

Flood insurance covers structural damage and contents for all insurable residential and non-residential buildings. Policies can be purchased from any licensed insurance agent or broker. Maximum coverage for single-family homes is \$250,000 for the structure itself, and \$100,000 for contents. Renters can also insure their personal belongings for up to \$100,000. Businesses can insure buildings for

up to \$500,000 for the structure, and contents for up to \$500,000. The NFIP is self-supporting, with all claims and operating expenses paid from policyholder premiums, not tax dollars. For more information about the NFIP, contact your insurance agent, or call toll free: 1-800-427-4661.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program.

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