



Left; Ripley Burch, Julie Prohaska, and Bridger Steward all helped draw the final winners in the 2005 Holidays Bucks program, as Donna Webb from the Chamber of Commerce holds onto the box of entries. Julie Prohaska was the December 10 winner of a \$25 gift certificate in addition to getting to draw names at this December 17 drawing held at the Vernonia Library. The following people won gift certificates on December 17; Gloria Schoenwald won \$50, Connie King won \$75, and Tamara Sullivan won the \$100 top prize. Merchants have told the Chamber that this promotion does keep dollars in the community, so look for Holiday Bucks to run again in 2006.

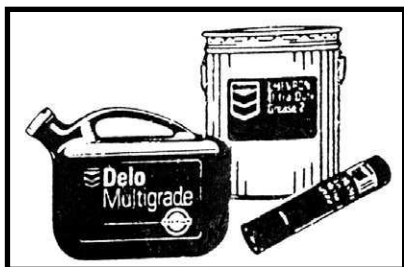


Canadian Geese, on a winter stop-over, are resting in the foreground of this photo taken of the fuel house of the former Oregon-American Lumber Company at Vernonia Lake. Photo taken January 4, 2006.

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New Orleans musicians to be at gala dinner

A group of Columbia County residents have found a creative way to lend a helping hand to Hurricane Katrina victims. Thousands of residents of the many affected communities have not been able to return home. Many of those who have returned were devastated by the condition of their homes and belongings, if they found anything at all.

On Saturday, January 21, the Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity are dedicating their annual dinner to the theme of Rebuilding of America. Some of the proceeds will stay in Columbia County to assist families in rebuilding their lives. Proceeds will also go to support inclusive rebuilding of the Gulf Coast.

In addition to a five-course dinner of Gulf Coast Cuisine, the Gala will feature New Orleans musicians displaced by hurricane Katrina. The Tom Sandhal Trio, now living in Oregon, will headline the evening's entertainment.

For more information on displaced New Orleans musicians, visit their website at www.nola2pdx.com.

Tickets, priced at \$25, may be obtained at Houlton's Bakery or St. Helens Bookshop, or by calling 503-543-8417 or 503-543-8217. Tickets must be purchased in advance, as there are a limited number and they are selling quickly.