

Eleven families now have homes thanks to Self Help 12 year old now in fair condition



July 14, 2006, is a day that eleven families will remember for a very long time. It was the day they were given the keys to the new homes they helped build.

The eleven new homeowners and their volunteer building partners worked for a year to complete their homes on newly developed Raven Wood Court in St. Helens. Each family worked a minimum of 30 hours weekly. Under the watchful eyes of construction supervisor Bruce Holz, they learned exactly how to build their homes, from bare land to the finished product, including landscaping. They also earned a substantial "sweat equity" at the same time.

Welcoming visitors to the celebration for the completed project, was Casey Mitchell, director of the Self Help Housing program run by Community Action Team. Mitchell recounted, with thanks, the many donations of labor, materials and money by area businesses. "With their donations," he said, "they did not just help the families, they made the entire project possible."

Basic funding for the pro-

gram was provided by the Rural Development program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and a community development block grant from the State of Oregon to the City of St. Helens. Rural Development provided mortgages tailored to fit self help builders. Additional assistance came from the non-profit Rural Community Assistance program, which provided construction loans to get the project underway.

Jim Tierney, C.A.T. Deputy Director, provided background on the program, and C.A.T. Director Rocky Johnson noted

that the assistance of local, state and federal agencies was "good government," adding value to the community not just with homes for families, but by increasing the tax base, as well.

Raven Wood Court was the second project completed under the Self Help Housing program run by Community Action Team, which wants to do more Self Help projects, including one in Vernonia. The program is designed for low to moderate income families. For more information, call Casey Mitchell at 503-366-6550.

Austin Shaddy-Kelley, 12, Newberg, was riding a Honda 50cc motorcycle on the morning of July 10, when he was struck by a pickup truck on Highway 47, about eight miles south of Vernonia, police said.

A Chevrolet pickup driven by Linda M. Curtis, 60, Vernonia was southbound on the highway when the scooter "suddenly came onto the southbound lane from a private driveway in the 56000 block of Highway 47," said Oregon State Police Lt. Gregg Hastings.

Shaddy-Kelley, who was visiting in Vernonia, was transported by LifeFlight air ambulance to Legacy Emanuel Hospital where he was listed in serious condition initially. He was in fair condition by Tuesday, July 18.

No parade for those under 19

The Jamboree Committee, along with the Vernonia Police Department, have decided that due to liability, insurance, and safety issues, that persons 18 years of age or younger will not be permitted to ride a three wheeler, quad, four wheeler, dirt bike, or motorcycle in the Jamboree Parade.



Top: Many businesses contributed time and materials to the development of Raven Wood Court. One remarkable example was this home, framed in 18 hours by a group of volunteers from Parr Lumber.

Bottom: The smiles express how these families feel on the day they got the keys to the homes they helped build with a year of hard work.

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(references available upon request)

Vernonia Cares Food Bank Sponsors

BBQ Chicken Meal

Saturday, July 29

11:00-6:00 PM

At the Senior Center

446 Bridge Street, Vernonia

Meal: Quarter BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Roll, Cookies, Beverage. \$8

All meals are "To Go"~ inside seating available

All proceeds benefit Vernonia Cares Food Bank

"Show your support and have a great home-cooked meal at the same time. We'll do the clean up!"

Questions? Call Rosie or Sandy at 503-429-1414

