

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

November 15, 2007

Home burns



Home on Alabama Avenue in Vernonia was destroyed by fire. See story below.

Family home destroyed by fire Monday

Fourteen firefighters responded to a house fire at 966 Alabama Avenue, shortly after 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 13, but couldn't save it.

According to Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District Chief Paul Epler, the home of Darryl and Theresa Norton is a total loss.

Also living in the home were the Nortons' three children, be-

tween five and nine years of age, Mrs. Norton's father and a family friend.

Fortunately, no one was injured in the fire, which appeared to have started at the chimney. The home was insured.

The family stayed at the Vernonia Inn Tuesday night and were scheduled to meet with a Red Cross representative.

Christmas Bazaar at Senior Center November 17-18

Always good for a variety of gift items, don't miss the Christmas Bazaar at the Vernonia Senior Center this Saturday and Sunday, November 17 and 18, starting at 9:00 a.m.

There will be wood products, gifts, jewelry, knitting and more.

WGS Safety Patrol helps students who must cross state highway

Crossing a state highway to get to school can pose some tricky situations for both pedestrians and drivers. The Washington Grade School (WGS) safety patrol is generally on duty from 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. and from 2:50 to 3:05 p.m. Monday through Thursday. On Fridays the afternoon time changes to 1:20 to 1:35 p.m.

Fifth grade Safety Patrol students at WGS, and the Educational Assistants who supervise them, are working hard to make this daily activity safer for both pedestrians and motorists. They would like you to be aware of some procedures that must be followed while they are on the job.

When a patrol member raises his/her flag, it is a warning to motorists that children are approaching to cross the street. They are also calling the motorist's attention to their obligation under the law to respect the rights and safety of pedestrians at crosswalks.

WGS patrol members can't stop traffic. Traffic has to stop for them. The flags will not go out until both directions of traffic have stopped, and it is safe for students to cross the street. Once students have safely crossed, flags will be pulled in, signaling that traffic can again move through the intersection.

Please be aware when ap-

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Events usher in Holiday Season:

Vernonia tree lighting

Everyone is encouraged to participate in a spirited, old fashioned Christmas celebration on December 1, being put on by Vernonia Pride.

There will be a lighted parade with big trucks, cars, and any other thing on wheels, such as strollers, wagons, etc. youth are also encouraged to join in. Everyone is encouraged to dress in Christmas attire, even if only a Santa hat.

Santa will be leading the parade starting at 5:00 p.m. at Washington Grade School and ending at City Hall, where the Christmas tree will then be lit.

Businesses are encouraged to decorate and to remain open

during the festivities.

The Vernonia High School band and choir will be performing, selling hot chocolate, and offering pictures with Santa for your children or pets. They are raising funds to bring the Dallas Brass Band to Vernonia.

Don't miss this traditional kickoff to the holiday season.

Banks bazaar, dinner

The annual Banks Union Point Cemetery Dinner and Holiday Bazaar will be Saturday, December 1. The bazaar will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the Yankee Pot Roast Dinner will be served from noon until 7:00 p.m.

All proceeds support the

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Music, dance and comedy, Nov. 15th

Music, comedy and dance are featured as Vernonia Hands-on art presents its third annual Community Variety Show on Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Washington Grade School.

Admission is \$5 for adults,

and two cans of food for children.

Proceeds will help two programs: the Vernonia Cares holiday food drive and the Vernonia School Bands' efforts to bring the Dallas Brass to Vernonia.