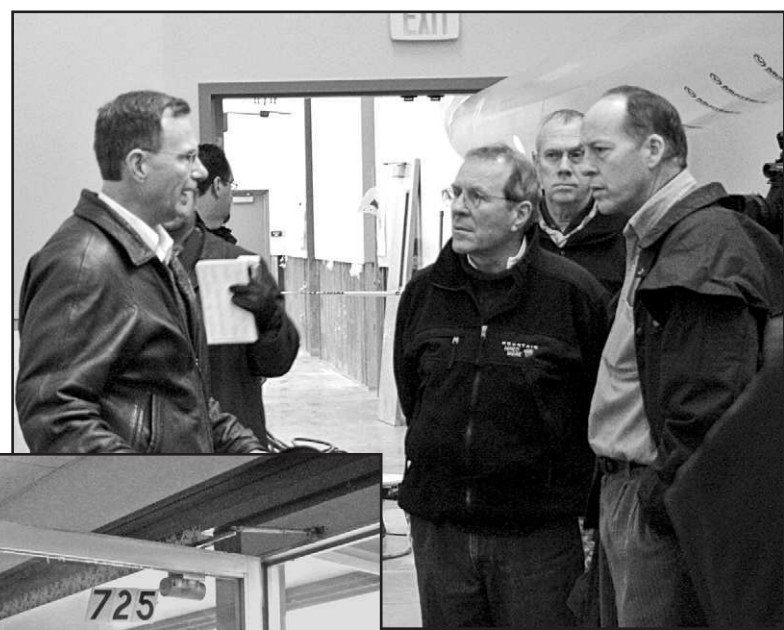




Left, a Verizon employee works on the equipment, in the phone substation in Vernonia, after the December 3 storm. Right, on the left is Vernonia School Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox, who is explaining to Governor Ted Kulongoski some of the damages at the Vernonia Middle School. Beside the governor is U.S. Representative Greg Walden.



At left, left to right; U.S. Representative Greg Walden, Governor Ted Kulongoski and FEMA Administrative Assistant Carlos Castillo look at the flood marks on the front counter at the office of *The Independent*. The marks show the flood line from the Flood of 1996 about seven inches below the line from the Flood of 2007. The governor and others were touring Vernonia for the second time since the flood on December 3.

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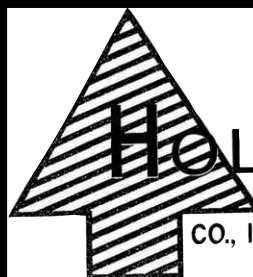
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