

Elam named 2007 Surveyor of the Year

The Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors (OACES) surprised Washington County Surveyor James H. Elam at their annual banquet in November with its *Surveyor of the Year* award for 2007. Elam was honored for his dedication to the work of the organization, especially in its efforts to encourage consistency in interpretation of Oregon's complex subdivision and partitioning statutes. His conscientious work has resulted in greater clarity and less frustration for developers, builders and prop-

erty owners.

"The award was totally unexpected," Elam said, "it makes me feel privileged to be so recognized, while surrounded by my coworkers and my family."

Elam has been Washington County Surveyor since 2004. Born in Hood River, he has been a local resident for 34 years and a county employee for 28 years. Elam worked his way up through the survey technician ranks, adding expertise in all the new technologies of today's land survey realm. He earned his Profes-

sional Land Surveyor license in 1991.

Elam has been married for 36 years and has two daughters, both of whom completed bachelor's degrees at PSU. He enjoys "surveying the world" while traveling with his wife and daughters.

County Engineer Greg Miller said, "I am exceptionally proud of Jim, and of the excellent work and high professional standards that have marked our Survey Office for decades. This award is well deserved."



The Vernonia Middle School cafeteria was the site of the annual "Christmas in the Country" Bazaar on December 1 and 2. As usual, the event was well attended and there were many beautiful items and good eats to purchase. This view is in stark contrast to the scene the next day, December 3, when the Flood of 2007 put waist high water in the same gym.

Right; Bridge Street Mini Mart Manager Toni Barton hands a check for \$75.00 to Vernonia Cares Director Sandy Welch as Mini Mart employee Connie McNamara joins them. The donation on November 30 was to help with the Christmas food boxes.

Below, Left to right; Vernonia students Kelsey Brown, Elisha Marks, Shyla Tungwenuk, McKenna Stasiak, Kelly Smith, Ashley Loomis, Sicily Scott, and Becky Levenseller all helped load food collected during the school district's food drive for delivery to Vernonia Cares on November 15.

Banks Council hears about SKID

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Spring Break, "we have a lot of fatalities in the area..." SKID stands for **Stopping Kids Intoxicated Driving**; it is a program that brings what appears to be a fatal alcohol-related traffic crash to local high schools to illustrate the consequences of drunk driving. SKID is a graphic and realistic portrayal of crushed vehicles and injured bodies. As the scenario

unfolds, Sheriff's Office deputies, state or local police officers, Metro West Ambulance, Life Flight and other public safety partners, converge on the scene. They go through the motions of administering first aid to the "victims". Council President Pete Edison offered to help with the project.

The next city council meeting will be January 8 at Banks City Hall.



*Wishing You
a Joyous
Holiday Season
and a
Happy Year ahead*

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