

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

January 3, 2008

Slide closes Timber Road



A landslide on Saturday, December 29, covered Timber Road with mud, rocks and trees near the Washington County line. Columbia County and Oregon Dept. of Transportation are working on clearing debris from the road and hope to have it open soon.

Citizens must now sign up to address Council

Vernonia City Council meetings on November 19, December 17, and December 18 are

Extended hours set for Vernonia Cares

Vernonia Cares has announced extended hours for January. On Tuesdays, they will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., as usual. The extended hours will be on Thursdays, when they will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. so those working out of town can still access the food bank.

— CORRECTION —

On page 22 of the December 20 issue, the donated amount from Bridge Street Mini Mart to Vernonia Cares was incorrectly given. The correct amount was \$750.00.

The Independent regrets the error and apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

included in this article. The meeting scheduled for December 3 was not held due to the flood.

Mayor Sally Harrison announced at the start of the November 19 meeting that a new policy for Topics from The Floor would be instituted at the next meeting. The new policy requires anyone wanting to speak about items not on the agenda to fill out a file card before the meeting. City Administrator Dick Kline added a re-

minder that, "this is a meeting held in public, not a public meeting."

Kate Conley, prior city recorder, spoke to council, thanking them for the opportunity and education and experience of working for them and went on to say, "despite all the bad times in the last few months, I know your hearts and that you are trying to do your very best for this community. I wish this community well."

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Sen. Wyden Town Hall tomorrow, Jan. 4

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will host two town hall meetings tomorrow, January 4, 2008. Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are scheduled to attend both town halls.

County residents are invited to attend the open forums to ask questions and voice their

concerns. Clatsop and Columbia Counties are two of the five Oregon counties eligible for federal assistance as a result of storms and flooding in early December.

The meeting in Vernonia will be January 4, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., at the Scout Cabin in

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Vernonia 2007 Year in Review

- Jan. 2 – Council hears Vernonia Community Learning Center has been officially changed from an Adult Learning Center to a Community Center.
- Jan. 8 – Vernonia has new postmaster, Janet Wedgworth.
- Jan. 11 – 47J school board member Angie Taylor resigns due to other commitments.
- Jan. 16 – Council meeting cancelled due to weather (snow & ice).
- Feb. 5 – City Administrator Kline tells council that audit showed negative \$384,174 in Community Development Fund, and reserves of \$83,965 in Water Fund and \$51,698 in Sewer Fund are not in place.
- Feb. 8 – 47J swears in new board member, Angie Rhoades.
- Feb. 10 – Mist-Birkenfeld Helping Circle holds fundraiser for family whose home was damaged by fire.
- Feb. 20 – Council 1st hears of possibility of changing downtown speed limit from 25 to 20 mph.
- Feb. 22 – 47J discusses possible increased use of WGS basement.
- Mar. 12 – 47J decides by split vote not to change name of Vernonia Middle School.
- Apr. 2 – Town Hall held on downtown speed limit change.
- Apr. 5 – Council approves 2nd temporary structure at Vernonia Lake to be used as a shaded rest area.
- Apr. 13 – Previous City Administrator, Robyn Bassett, files lawsuit against city and Mayor Sally Harrison.
- May 3 – Questions to City Administrator Kline and his answers printed in paper.
- May 7 – New Vernonia Police Officer Jeff Dalrymple sworn in.
- May 21 – "Rally" to support Dick Kline held at City Hall.
- May 23 – Budget Committee approves 2007-08 budget.
- June 1 – First 1st Friday held downtown.
- June 23-24 – CycleOregon weekend ride in Vernonia.
- June 25 – Kline makes changes to approved budget. Council declares city-owned 20 acres surplus to open option to sell.
- June 30 – Official ground breaking for Bicycle Skills Park held at O-A Mill site.

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