

Thank you

Thank you to Columbia Inspection, Inc. employees and management for the donation of \$5,000.00 to help with the Storm Recovery in Columbia County. This generous donation to United Way of Columbia County's Storm Relief fund will be used to support programs serving people who were impacted by the recent flood and storm damage in Columbia County.

We appreciate your support of the community during this time of great need in our community.

We are so fortunate to have companies who are able to offer volunteers, products and money to help in this crisis.

Sincerely,

Kathy Beck

Executive Director
United Way of Columbia
County

Thank you to Georgia Pacific, LLC – Camas Mill for the donation of \$2,500.00 to help with the Storm Recovery in Columbia County. This generous donation to United Way of Columbia County's Storm Relief fund will be used to support programs serving people who were impacted by the recent flood and storm damage in Co-

lumbia County.

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Sincerely,

Kathy Beck
Executive Director
United Way of Columbia
County

Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters that include personal attacks on private citizens. Because of space limitations, preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number; all letters are subject to editing for clarity or length.

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



Nearly two months have passed since the flooding in early December and there is still much to be done before the community is close to normal. Many residents are in trailers or with friends while repairing or trying to decide what to do about

their damaged homes; youngsters are attending school in various buildings and communities; supplies are still being donated and disbursed; and flood-related meetings are still taking place.

One cannot talk about the sad and undecided status of the community without emphasizing how the residents have united to help each other and how much help has been received from so many unexpected and appreciated sources. The library has been the recipient of three large boxes of new paperback books for youngsters from Scholastic Publishers; craft items from Rock Creek Kennels, and snacks for youngsters from Steven & Kelsey Bourdeau of Portland. Book drives are being conducted through Powell's books and the St. Helens Bookshop. The Friends of the Library received a generous monetary donation from Richard Neal Lishner Architectural Firm of Portland. A non-matching grant application for \$700 worth of books from the Libri Foundation is presently being completed. All of these contributions and the phone calls from other libraries and individuals questioning the status of our library have been greatly appreciated.

At the same time, the library as well as every other available building in the community, has been called into use for numerous purposes. One way the library has been able to contribute to the community during this traumatic time is by providing space for flood-related meetings, meetings of city committees and of local civic groups, plus daycare for parents who are work-

ing on flooded homes or whose regular daycare providers are unavailable. It was a bonus to host Santa Claus and the distribution of toys from the Vernonia Boosters and Pacificorp, as well as being a location for registration and monitoring of WIC families.

At present, the meeting room is the home of Vernonia Head Start. Kathy Kelly and her staff have arranged a cozy room for their youngsters to meet and try to re-establish a much-needed routine for learning. Everything comes with mixed feelings at this time. While it is gratifying to provide space for these needed activities, the reason they need the space is greatly distressing.

Library activity—circulation of materials and computer use has nearly returned to normal. Preschool story time will resume Monday, January 14th at 10:30 a.m. The Monday afternoon story/activity time at 3:30 will resume when youngsters are once again on a regular school schedule.

New acquisitions include *T is for Trespass* by Sue Grafton, *The Senator's Wife* by Sue Miller, *Plum Lucky* by Janet Evanovich, *Bleeding Kansas* by Sara Paretsky, *Hand of Evil* by J. A. Jance, *There's No Place Like Here* by Cecelia Ahern, and *Blood Dreams* by Kay Hooper.

Maybe getting temporarily lost in a good book, listening to some soothing music or watching a favorite movie will help at this trying time. If so, remember these are all available in the library. Not that anyone probably wants to think about taxes, but tax forms have also been arriving. Hang in there. This community consists of resilient people who will recover from this latest sad event.

Vernonia Public Library: 701 Weed Ave.
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tues., Thur. 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Preschool Story Time: Mondays, 10:30 a.m., when school is in session.
Phone: 503-429-1818

NOTICE

The INDEPENDENT publishes on the first and third Thursday of each month. Because there are five Thursdays in January, the next issue will be published on February 7, 2008. The deadline for the Feb. 7 issue is Friday, February 1, 2008.

Where to Find Them

US Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-OR)

700 NE Multnomah St, Suite 450 • Portland OR 97232
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516 Hart Senate Ofc. Bldg. • Washington, D.C. 20510
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US Senator Gordon Smith (Republican-OR)

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US Representative David Wu (Democrat-01)

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Representative Deborah Boone (Democrat-32)

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Out of My Mind . . .

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and a new administrator is needed. So, instead of using the professionals at the League of Oregon Cities to do the advertising and initial screening, the council is going to "save money" by doing it themselves.

We know how well they did with the last two administrators they hired. Kline spent more time "working at home" than at City Hall, and litigation is still underway with Bassett.

Vernonia taxpayers have reason to be nervous.