

**Business Notes**

**Specialist gives tips on restoring your wood floors**

Cory Colburn, of Fall Creek Woodworking (ccb# 79876), provided the following information on wood floors that got wet in the recent flooding.

Wood floors can be restored after flooding. Too many floods though, will shorten the life of any wood floor. Restoring a flooded floor begins with cleaning, then drying. Cleaning is straightforward. Use whatever you're handy with: mop, squeegee, hose or vacuum and soap or bleach to sanitize.

Drying requires patience. Wood gives up moisture slowly. Heat and air movement are the tools needed. Wood expands with moisture and shrinks as that moisture is given up. Cupping and buckling of floors are the results of that expansion.

The sub-floor, joists and framing will also need to be dried.

Fans can draw air through a crawl space or basement, carrying off excess moisture. It's better to remove plastic vapor barriers so the soil doesn't hold excessive moisture. Heating air increases its capacity to hold water so if warm air from the interior can be directed underneath the floor then exhausted outside, drying will occur more rapidly and be balanced. Space heaters can help, but carry the risk of fire. Dehumidifiers condense water out of the air and are excellent for drying wood when the air can be warmed.

Battery operated moisture meters are used to determine dryness of wood. When wood reaches a balance with the air,

it's called an equilibrium moisture content or emc. Out here in west Oregon, we expect an emc of 10 percent for interior woodwork at this time of year. In a crawl space, 19 percent would be normal. After reaching similar levels, wood floors can be assessed and either repaired and refinished, replaced, or left alone.

Colburn said he'd be glad to answer any questions about wood floors that were flooded. He can also offer the services of repairing or replacing. His business has been operating in this community for many years, so plenty of local references are available.

Colburn can be called at Fall Creek Woodworking, 503-429-4351.

**Contractor meeting on rebuilding**

Columbia County Flood Relief (CCFR) has scheduled a Contractor's Event, for homeowners, general contractors and sub-contractors. The event will be held Saturday, January 19, at the Vernonia Christian Church, 410 North Street, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The event is intended for residents to meet contractors for the purpose of discussing their rebuilding projects.

Boyd Ruby, Volunteer Construction Coordinator for CCFR and a retired contractor, will make information available on the steps residents should take to complete their rebuilding project, including the permitting process, cost schedules, and

lists of contractors and sub-contractors.

Residents who have chosen to act as their own contractor, will have an excellent opportunity to shop for sub-contractors in one convenient place. It will also provide a chance to speak to contractors for advice and/or to get competitive bids for projects.

This is an open event. No appointment or registration is necessary to attend.

Contractors or sub-contractors interested in attending can call Jill Hult at 503-369-5182 or email [jill@vernoniaflood.com](mailto:jill@vernoniaflood.com). Tables will be available to set up information on each company's services or products.

**Sewage treatment upgrade, schools are concerns**



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charge above the average. The crowd responded to that with a round of applause.

When it was brought to Wyden's attention that flood insurance, unlike regular insurance, does not include temporary housing assistance, he responded that, "It's a federal program so we ought to step up and fix the confusion."

Vernonia Mayor Sally Harrison asked for federal help with Vernonia's sewer upgrade needs, noting that flood water caused the treatment lagoons

to overflow. Wyden said he could help get some meetings going, but that "the war in Iraq will cost over a trillion dollars by the time it ends, plus the loss of life and limb. We need to bring them home." After the applause ended for that statement, he went on to say he would try to get the Corps of Engineers here on the sewer project.

When asked by Wes Kibby, "Are you going to help us with the funds to raise the schools? Is Ron Wyden going to give us a hand?" Wyden responded,

"Yes, I'm going to pull out all the stops." There was also talk about possible options to keep the area from such bad flooding in the future.

Wyden's final statement was, "One last thought, it is a tremendous honor to represent Oregon in the U.S. Senate - what an unbelievable honor. But, it's a special honor to represent Vernonia as I especially admire the help you are giving to others. I admire all you've been able to do after this event. All of us will stay at it until nobody continues to suffer."

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| Location   | Date         | Time            | Phone    |
|------------|--------------|-----------------|----------|
| Astoria    | Feb 7, 2008  | 6:30 to 7:30 pm | 325.1044 |
| Clatskanie | Feb 7, 2008  | 6 to 7 pm       | 728.4321 |
| St Helens  | Feb 1, 2008  | 5 to 6 pm       | 366.1334 |
| Vernonia   | Feb 7, 2008  | 7 to 8 pm       | 429.8031 |
| Warrenton  | Jan 29, 2008 | 6:30 to 7:30 pm | 861.7526 |



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