

Free acappella concert on March 27

A Mennonite Church Choir from the Canby area will perform on Thursday evening, March 27, 7:30 p.m. for the Vernonia Community. Everyone is invited to come and hear this beautiful acappella performance held at the Nehalem Valley Bible Church where Grant and North St.'s meet. No charge.

The Christian Aid Ministries (C.A.M.), a worldwide Amish and Mennonite Church disaster response team, came to Vernonia after the flood to help with the rebuilding of people's homes and lives. The Nehalem Valley Bible Church has opened its doors to this group for its use in headquartering the C.A.M. offices and teams. The teams are groups of volunteer workers who come in from across the United States and

Canada to help locals in their flood and storm recovery efforts. These volunteers, many who are skilled craftsman come to help and can be seen in the area working on many kinds of building projects. Every week workers come and go as they labor in the flood and storm areas helping folks rebuild.

C.A.M. was here after the flood of 1996 and helped out many folks then and are glad to do so again. A few returning volunteers said they were glad to come to Vernonia once more to help as they remembered the folks here were very friendly and gracious for their hard work here. Two of the returning fellows who came as teenagers in '96 are now married with families of their own and said

Please see page 21

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay\



article that you read on March 6 was written on February 28. No one but me (I) knew before it was printed what it was about. Lo and behold, on my way to church on March 2 the Bridge St. sidewalk had been swept clean. Oh, the power of just thinking good thoughts. I wonder now what else needs fixing that all of us could concentrate on as one, or maybe just easing the burden of one other per-

Gee, the powers that be must all run on the same track as I do. My

son that needs help.

The Ax Men – History Channel, Sundays at 10:00 p.m. I think it will be worth watching and learning about. Not just because it's based in the Vernonia area but because you can see what it costs to have a lot of things we take for granted. Only one thing: Monday the 10th, about 1:30 p.m., I and a friend were returning home from shopping – among the curves pops up a "men working" sign, (since you never know how far ahead or whose around the next curve) I dropped from 50 to 45 by the time "men working" came up, so I drop to 40 – no one in sight yet. Then "flagger ahead" slowing again I go around the next curve, hear screeching brakes and tires – see skid marks and

smoke and smell the stink of hot rubber. Also, the rear end of a load of logs. I stopped three car lengths behind the truck but his front end was beside the man flagging. Were you asleep when we all passed four signs that mean SLOW DOWN? If you'd have had a clean license plate I'd have turned you in followed you through Vernonia. Oh, why should we obey signs? The reason was a very large tree pruning rig perched over the center line swinging his crane.

I thank God I wasn't in front of you or we may not live here anymore.

Spring is around the corner, so between rain showers get out and clean up yard, gutters and roofs. Then, sit back and relax the summer away.

50 Years ago this Month

The March 27, 1958, issue of the *Vernonia Eagle* included the following story:

There's an oft repeated quip that defines a small town newspaper as one everybody reads to see if anyone found out what they had been doing. Getting the news of local happenings and sharing it with the subscribers is an important part of the work in a local newspaper office, but often the editor wishes that those who do interesting things were less reluctant to make it known and less inclined to expect the editor and his staff to have a crystal ball that tells all.

Since 1922, the Vernonia Eagle has been the news medium for Vernonia and the Nehalem valley. Prior to that, there had been a newspaper published here called the Nehalem Journal which was started in 1890 with Gus H. Bynon as editor. It evidently survived only a few years. Later, about 1895, there was another paper. The Sentinel, published at Pittsburg, by H. H. Mitchell, grandfather of Louis Towne.

When Paul Robinson came to Vernonia in 1922 and established the Vernonia Eagle in a building on Bridge Street where the Card Room now is, the railroad was just being built into Vernonia and the "big mill" was just in the talk stage but everyone was turning eyes in this direction because thing were due to start happening here. News was happening and a paper to carry it to the people was welcome.

After a few years, Mr. Robinson sold out to Mark Moe and the paper was moved to a new home, the building on Third street that now houses it. In 1930, Moe sold to Ray D. Fisher who published the Eagle for seven years during the depression when it was a real struggle to keep going.

December 1, 1937, the present owner and editor, Marvin Kamholz, and Marion Sexton came to Vernonia from Goldendale, Washington and purchased the paper from Mr. Fisher. Mr. Sexton was here for 10 months, until October of 1938, when he sold out his interest to Kamholz...

In the 21 years that Mr. Kamholz has been in Vernonia he has put down roots here that make him an integral part of the community. It was here that he met his wife, the former Amy Hughes, who came to Vernonia with her parents in 1924 when the mill went into operation here. She was teaching in Vernonia high school when he came to Vernonia and in August of 1939 she became Mrs.

Kamholz and has since that time been a partner in the newspaper business, also. She has devoted more or less of her time to its interests, at times doing much of the news writing...

Mr. and Mrs. Kamholz have both been active in Vernonia community life. He served five years on the city council, was a charter member of the Vernonia Lions club, helped organize the Vernonia ambulance association...

The Eagle's last issue was September 19, 1974. The next paper in Vernonia was the News Weekly which printed from April 29, 1976, until May 25, 1978, followed by the Vernonia Freedom from November 16, 1978 through October 29, 1981.

The INDEPENDENT's first issue was January 30, 1986 and the editor was Noni Andersen. Andersen ran the paper until turning it over to her son and daughter-in-law, Clark and Rebecca McGaugh in June 2005. Many things have

changed since the above article in the Vernonia Eagle in 1958, but the final paragraph below is as true today for the McGaughs as it was then for the Kamholzs...

Nothing makes them happier than when they can print good

news of an encouraging sort. They will continue to give you the news and hope when you have news or make news, you will give it to them to use. The only thing that doesn't work well around the shop is the crystal ball.

My Fair Lady nominations open

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is now accepting nominations for the 2008 My Fair Lady Court.

The My Fair Lady Pageant is held during the Columbia County Fair each year to recognize senior women for their outstanding service to our community. Nominees must be at least 55 years-old, but do not need to be a member of RSVP or their local senior center. Nomination forms are available at the RSVP and Chamber offices and must be received at

the RSVP office by March 31st. For more info, call RSVP at 503-397-5655.

Craig Tolonen of Vernonia True Value offers this reminder: State law requires studded tires to be removed by April 1.



Mariolino's



**Check out our
Awesome Friday
Dinner Specials!
As well as Saturday's
Prime Rib!**

721 Madison Ave., Vernonia • 503-429-5018

MOLD
FREE INSPECTION & EVALUATION

503-232-6653

www.RealEstateMoldSolutions.com

Remediation - Containment - Removal



SAMPLE LAB TESTING
CCB# 149575

