

Hazardous cleanup a huge success

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed a week's worth of hazardous waste identification and cleanup that started Monday, March 31. See picture page 1.

Loren Garner, of DEQ, provided the following information from the cleanup and the three day household hazardous waste event held in Vernonia:

A total of 2757 containers were collected and processed, including:

- 19 tanks larger than 55 gallons (five additional tanks were recovered from the floodplain and returned to property owners, not counted in the 19),
 - 65 steel and plastic 55 gallon drums (waste oil was the most common substance in the drums, after river water or empty),
 - 516 containers larger than one gallon but smaller than 55 gallons,
 - 2157 containers one gallon or smaller.
- Included in the counts

above, the three days of the Household Hazardous Waste event netted a total of 1010 containers. There were approximately 475 additional items picked up from ad hoc events at the Mist SW transfer site and Fishhawk Lake, and some specific pickups of flood-impacted materials from the City of Vernonia and the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire District.

Of the 2757 containers collected, 1485 were from the Household Hazardous Waste event and the other 1272 were recovered from the Nehalem River and floodplain.

A boat assessment crew floated 30 miles of the Nehalem River from River Mile (RM) 99 to RM 69. This took the crew from just below Clear Creek to about halfway between Mist and Birkenfeld.

Land-based teams evaluated accessible debris piles and flood plain areas on foot from approximately RM 101 at Clear Creek to RM 54 near the Northrup Creek confluence, a total of 47 river miles. Crews

also assessed the Fishhawk Lake flood area.

Additionally, a few items from outside the assessment areas were identified by people who called them in and by driving roads adjacent to the river, looking for debris fields and talking with local fire or police agencies. DEQ drove from RM 0 at Nehalem to RM 9 above Mohler (where the bridge was out), RM 38 at Hwy 26 at Jewell Junction to RM 108 at Hwy 26 at Timber Junction – a total of 79 miles of the river.

The largest items removed were 1000 gallon tanks. One 2000 gallon tank was found, left from the 1996 flood, and left in place after it was determined to contain only water and not to pose a threat that justified the cost of removal.

Two heating oil tanks found during the cleanup will be returned to the owners if they can be identified. If your heating oil tank floated away, call Susan at Columbia County Flood Relief, 503-429-4948, to identify it and get it returned.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



First, I think I'll gripe. I know many of you readers are suffering with me

because not everyone has Dish, TIVO, or other costly hook-ups, just plain old Cable T.V. and we are thankful for it. BUT, have you noticed more lately that changing from one channel to another (at the end of the one you are watching and want to see the end) by the time you switch, the new program is into about two or three minutes of the viewing. (Example, from Ch. 2 to Ch. 16.) If you want to see the end of one you have to give up the beginning of the other. Your T.V. Guide (in some instances) tells you a program starts at 9:58 while the program you're watching (a local channel) the climax is on till 9:59-1/2. It's too bad East and West time zones have a different idea of what constitutes a one hour program.

If you decided to stay home from the live entertainment at the Grange Hall on Saturday, April 5, presented by the "Home School Group", you missed two very well presented and performed plays by a group of aspiring young actors and actresses. "Heidi" was very

entertaining. The entire cast was on "Q" at all times. The second play, "The Ugly Duckling" was a very pleasant surprise (it's the first time I'd ever heard it was not about a swan). I really can't say anything but kudos for all of the performers. But the King, Ethan Hardy, has found his niche (acting), his presentation of the character kept my attention. He was very convincing. Desperate in trying to accomplish a point without being exposed in the farce. He was the STAR.

Because the audience was invited to visit and intermingle during the intermission, the Vernonia Orchestra was not really heard or seen. I did enjoy what I was able to hear, though. I suggest you bring them back some time with full and proper introduction and program.

Oh yes – now that the "lily pads" are beginning to show their pretty green heads at the lake, did anyone but me see the ad in the March '08 issue of the Ruralite? Page 27 - Catalog & Mail Order Shopping. The ad says, "Kill Lake Weeds" (lilies and sea weed), does not harm fish. It gives a toll-free number and address. Registered with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Hello – someone wake up, the pond is slowly (oh, yeah) being eaten up by the lily. I want to enjoy the lake, fish and birds, not slime and mosquitoes.

Sword to speak at next Museum Talk

On Sunday, April 27, the Vernonia Pioneer Museum will host its first Museum Talk of 2008. Bill Sword will discuss the early days of logging and describe the logging displays housed at the Museum. This event will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Vernonia Pioneer Museum, 555 E. Bridge St. Come

hear about life among the old time "Ax Men".

The Museum continues its regular winter hours (1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays) through May.

The next Museum Board meeting is Wednesday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. All members and supporters of the museum

are welcome to attend. As always, new members are welcomed, especially new volunteers. Let us know if you can spare an occasional Saturday or Sunday afternoon. You don't have to be an expert in Vernonia history to help out. Contact us at vpma@agalis.net or leave a telephone message at 503-429-3713.

80 Years Ago in Vernonia

There was a library in Vernonia prior to February of 1928, with a librarian who was paid \$25.00 a month for five days of work. Papers on file at the library, provided by Librarian Nancy Burch, record the fact that the Vernonia Public Library became official on February 21,

1928, when the following resolution was passed by the Vernonia City Council:

WHEREAS, the City Council is desirous of establishing, equipping and maintaining a free public library for the City of Vernonia, and

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