

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

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Helping hands



Loren Loomis and Mitch Seibert, with Seibert's dogs, run a log splitter during the volunteer woodcut on November 15. Seibert and Loomis were woodcutting volunteers; Seibert also donated wood and the use of his log splitter.

Volunteers woodcutters add more heat

The final volunteer woodcut, coordinated by Bob Alverts of the Oregon Society of American Foresters (SAF) was held November 15. The woodcuts were started as a way to provide heat to those needing wood after the 2007 Flood.

With the help of agencies, companies, volunteers, local landowners, residents and SAF members, over 110 cords of wood were cut, split and delivered in less than a year.

On November 15, a dozen volunteers hauled over 1-1/2 cords of already cut and split wood from Kim and Linda Swanson in Banks. Another 1-1/2

cords remains to be hauled and three trees will soon be cut by local volunteers. Another three cords of wood were cut, split and delivered from Mitch and Leslie Seibert's property in Vernonia. Seibert assisted with his farm tractor and splitter.

After the final woodcut, Alverts said, "Thanks again to all who helped make this such a success!"

Future woodcuts will be coordinated by Robb Wilson, Columbia County Flood Relief Volunteer Coordinator. Call Wilson at 503-429-4948, or 503-704-2973, or email to: robb@vernoniaflood.com.

A.B.A.T.E. Toy Run set for Dec. 6

The 29th annual Toy Run by A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon, Inc. Portland Chapters will be held Saturday, December 6. The Toy Run is a benefit for the Shriners Hospital for Children.

County slates public hearing in Vernonia

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tim and Michelle Bero's application for a comprehensive plan map amendment and zone change on land near the Vernonia Airport. The hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 1, at the Scout Cabin, 901 Park Drive, Vernonia.

All interested parties may attend and be heard.

City correcting charges sent to residents with unusable sewers

After inquiries by *The Independent* about sewer charges being made to non-occupied or non-existent flood damaged homes, Interim City Administrator Jim Johnson has decided to send out notices in the water bills to identify any other residents who may qualify for sewer reimbursements.

The Independent brought one such situation to the city's attention and recently identified two other possible properties in the same situation. Anyone who has not been able to use sewer service as a result of the flood last December should not have been charged for it. If you are in this situation and have been charged for sewer serv-

ice, contact City Hall at 503-429-5291.

VHS Band to be in Macy's Parade

For the first time in recent local history, the Vernonia High School band will be marching in a major parade outside of Vernonia. Formerly known as the Meier and Frank Holiday Parade, the Macy's Holiday Parade in Portland continues the tradition of inviting local high school bands to march in the event, which takes place on Friday, November 28. In return for their participation, VHS band will receive a donation from Macy's for \$1000, which will go directly toward the band's Spring Break trip to Disneyland, where they will perform twice in the theme park.

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FLOOD TOWN HALL

The next Vernonia Flood Town Hall will be December 3, at 6:00 p.m. in the Vernonia Middle School cafeteria.

Before the Town Hall there will be a spaghetti feed starting at 5:00 p.m. Town Hall attendees can also receive a pass to the first home Basketball game in the newly reopened high school gym.

VERNONIA SCHOOLS HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Middle/High School
December 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Washington Grade School
December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Mist Grade School
December 19 at 6:00 p.m.

 **Santa's Mail Box is ready and waiting at the Vernonia Fire Hall for your Christmas letter.**

Sr. Center Bazaar set

The Vernonia Senior Center Bazaar will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 29 and 30. Hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and Noon to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Tables still are available for \$10. Call 429-3912 for a table.