

# The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

December 18, 2008

## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...



A log truck contributes color to a landscape that became increasingly snow-covered on Wednesday, December 17. This photo was taken at 9:30 a.m.

## Reward offered for info about damage to trees

A reward of \$1000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for criminal activity on Longview Timber Property, off Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy. near milepost 11.

The incident occurred either on the evening of Friday, November 21, or the early morning hours of November 22,

when a person(s) entered Longview Timber property and used equipment, which was on site for a nearby logging operation, to destroy about a 370' x 15' section of 18-20 year-old re-prod timber. A total of 47 trees were destroyed with damage estimated in the thousands.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to

contact Sr. Trooper Robin May at 503-397-0325 ext. 43, or the Oregon State Police TIP line at 1-800-452-7888. Callers may remain anonymous.

The reward is being offered by the Oregon Hunters Association-Columbia County Chapter and Longview Timber, in cooperation with the Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish & Wildlife Division.

## Vernonia Cares still seeking donations

Back to basics. These three simple words describe the efforts at Vernonia Cares food bank. We all need food and shelter. Everyone is feeling the effect of the current economic crisis across the country and it is compounded, here in Vernonia, in the wake of last December's flood. Back to basics. Vernonia Cares is committed

to helping local residents with food assistance. "Cares" can really stretch your monetary donation through the Columbia Pacific Food Bank, in St. Helens, by purchasing food for approximately 14 cents per pound. All of your donations (dollars or food) stay here to help this community. Vernonia Sentry has step-

ped forward to help our community in several ways. Their donation of approximately 100 turkeys to this year's Christmas food boxes at Vernonia Cares will make a huge difference to those in need, right here. The dollars saved in meat products, allows Vernonia Cares to stretch their funds into the New Year for clients. Vernonia Cares

## Fire Chief Paul Epler resigns

Vernonia's long-time Fire Chief, Paul Epler, resigned his position during the December 9 meeting of the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors. His resignation was effective December 15.

When contacted on December 17, Don Schulte, one of the board members, did not give any reason for Epler's resignation, saying that any additional information would need to

come directly from Epler. Minutes from the December 9 board meeting have not yet been transcribed and were not available at press time.

"The board will fill an interim position in order to maintain service to the community and are actively going to pursue filling the position," stated Schulte.

Epler did not return phone calls on Wednesday.



Children, including this one, enjoyed the snow on Wednesday, December 17, in Vernonia's Anderson Park.

is now assisting, on average, 475 people per month. Over one-third of this number are children. We have found that the most flexible family budget item is food, therefore your help is greatly needed.

Vernonia Sentry is also helping by accepting "Check Stand Donations" through December 24. A ten-dollar donation will

purchase a turkey and a thirty-dollar donation will sponsor a family's Christmas meal, including a turkey. Please specify your donation preference on your check by indicating 'turkey', 'meal', or 'general fund'. As always, it is 100 percent tax deductible.

Vernonia Cares needs your help to get back to basics.