

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

April 2, 2009



This hawk, seen along Hwy. 47, is one of several raptor species in the area.

Grant received to help businesses harmed by weather emergencies

Col-Pac has received a \$200,000 grant from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) to assist communities in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties continue their economic recovery from the 2007 and 2008 storm events. Funding will target activities that better prepare or "storm-proof" the region against future storm events, such as Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) geological mapping to identify areas of historical flooding and erosion, and implementation of broad band technology to underserved areas.

"This generous grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) will provide much needed match funds to expand valuable LIDAR mapping in NW Oregon. This is just another example of how EDA has stepped up to the plate to help rural Oregon," said Tillamook County Commissioner Mark Labhart, who is president of Col-Pac.

Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District includes Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and western Washington counties. Information about Col-Pac can be found online at NWOregon.org.

One dead, friend jailed in tragedy

Desmond W. Hines, 31, Birkenfeld, is in jail and his best friend, Darrell Schoonover, 29, Vernonia, is dead after a shooting in Birkenfeld on March 19.

dictment for 1st degree Manslaughter, rather than Murder. The other charges remained the same. After Hines' arraignment on March 30, his bail was set at \$145,000.

According to an individual close to the investigation, at the time of the shooting Hines was despondent over the recent death of his father, Dennis Hines, and was attempting to commit suicide. Schoonover tried to prevent Hines from shooting himself and, in the resulting struggle, Schoonover received a fatal gun shot wound. Hines then called 9-1-1 and the Sheriff's Office responded.



Darrell Schoonover

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to a residence in Birkenfeld, where they found Schoonover dead of a gun shot wound. Later in the day, Hines was arrested and jailed for Schoonover's death.

Hines was initially charged with Murder, Felon in Possession of a Weapon, and two counts of Theft. When the Grand Jury met on Thursday, March 26, they returned an in-



Desmond Hines

Emergency responses reviewed

Officials from throughout Columbia County recently reviewed actions taken during winter storms that occurred from mid-December through mid-January, in order to be more prepared for the next major emergency.

During that time period, Columbia County endured several weeks of heavy snow, ice, high winds and subsequent runoff flooding mixed with heavy rain. At various times during those weeks, shelters were opened, emergency alerts were broadcast for flooded and landslide-prone areas and evacuations were ordered. The cities of St. Helens, Vernonia and Clatskanie, as well as Columbia County, declared states of emergency.

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Annual Vernonia Easter Egg hunt set

The annual Vernonia PTA Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 11, at 10:00 a.m. in Hawkins Park, on Park Drive.

Children aged 1-10 are invited to bring their baskets and join the hunt. The Easter Bunny is expected to make an appearance and children's pictures can be taken with him.

Don't be late, as the hunt starts on time.

Let's Talk of Parks

Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.
Vernonia Learning Center
Bring your ideas for improving Vernonia's parks and enjoy light refreshments.