

# Responses reviewed, continued

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 incident were identified. Some primary areas of improvement discovered were:

- The long-term need for additional plows, sandbags and four-wheel drive vehicles in Columbia County.

- The desire to continue to better coordinate emergency needs calls between the county emergency operations center and special needs agencies.

- The request to train additional city and county officials to use the WebEOC® program.

Although these events were not as bad as those that took place in December 2007, many agency leaders noted at the meeting that the storms provided a successful "test" of emergency procedures and plans. Local agencies will continue to

work together to improve response and review any other lessons learned.

Due to these weather events, Columbia County was declared a disaster area by two federal agencies:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is providing financial recovery dollars to cover up to 75 percent of local government agencies' eligible public infrastructure and emergency response expenses incurred during a portion of the storm running from December 20 through 26. However, officials from the county and the City of Clatskanie are working with state and federal officials to expand the program to cover costs incurred during January's storms as well.

The Small Business Admin-

istration is providing low-interest loan programs for business-

es adversely affected by the storms. Businesses interested

in the program are urged to call 1-800-659-2955.

## Letters

### From page 3

The Arts. The students will see how many laps they can run around the high school track in 30 minutes. Prizes, t-shirts, and other awards are awarded for their participation.

Washington Grade School couldn't do it without the support of the community and other Run For The Arts parents! At a time when the arts are vanishing from our classrooms, your support for the Run For The Arts is especially needed. As Washington Grade School gears up for its Run, we hope to raise enough money for more cultural and arts assemblies for the students, and more artist in residencies.

Thank you for enriching your child's education through your encouragement and involvement. With your help, our school will have an outstanding Run For The Arts! Thank you!

I also invite you to help our school family have a successful Run by volunteering some time. Please contact me, our school coordinator, to help with this project.

**George Spaulding**  
**K-5 PE Teacher**  
**Washington Grade School**

### Make Vernonia clean up day even bigger

To The Editor:

Vernonia Pride's annual clean up day is scheduled for

May 16. This year is Oregon's 150th birthday and the state has designated May as "Take Care of Oregon Day". They are hoping for a record number of people to turn out and volunteer some of their time during this May.

Vernonia Pride is also hoping that many of you will turn out on May 16 to help us on Clean-up Day.

If you are not inspired to come out and help with the community clean up, you might take a look around your own home and see if there is something you could do to make your own property more attractive.

**Please see page 22**

## Obituary

### MICKEY RAY ALEXANDER SR.

Mickey Ray Alexander Sr., 64, Cornelius, died March 12, 2009. Private services will be held later.

Mr. Alexander was born May 31, 1944, in Forest Grove to Calvin and Peggy (Gay) Alexander. His family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, when he was a child before returning to Forest Grove when he was a teenager.

In 1963, he married Joanne Landauer. They made their home in Cornelius. A welder, he most recently had worked for Columbian Trailers in Hillsboro.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Sheryl Wilson.

Survivors include his wife; three children, Mickey Alexander, Jr. of Gaston, Dalawna Akers of Cornelius and Bonnie Schnepf of Banks; five siblings, Kenneth Gay, Darlene Oberg, and Jeanne Beck, all of Forest Grove, Larri Patricia Swinford of Ocean Park, Washington, and Toni Wagner of Gaston; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Duyck & VanDeHey Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### WILMA KAY DOBRATZ

Wilma Kay Dobratz, 55, Forest Grove, died March 20, 2009. A memorial service was held March 25.

Mrs. Dobratz was born March 7, 1954, in Benton Harbor, Michigan, to Al and Roberta (Swartz) Orlaska. The family moved to Hawthorne, California, when she was a small child and she was raised there.

In 1972, she married Michael Dobratz. They made their home in New Mexico before moving to Timber in 1976, then to Forest Grove in 1993. She had owned and operated a landscaping business. Recently she had been a teacher's aid in Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Beaverton school districts.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Jennie.

Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Morningstar Crane of Forest Grove and Oshalynn Cronk of Washou-

gal, Washington; two brothers, Mike Orlaska of North Carolina, and Dave Orlaska of Mission Viejo, Calif.; one sister, Lynn Montgomery of Manteo, Illinois; and two grandsons.

Remembrances are suggested to Women's Shelter of Forest Grove.

Duyck & VanDeHey Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### DENNIS NEIL HINES

Dennie Neil Hines, 62, Birkenfeld, died March 16, 2009.

Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives in Hillsboro will provide a full obituary when it is available.

### GENE EDWARD KYSER

Gene Edward Kyser, 52, Forest Grove, died March 17, 2009. A celebration of life was held March 26. Private interment will take place later.

Mr. Kyser was born June 28, 1956, in Vernonia, to Wayne Leroy and Irene LaVonne (Sparks) Kyser. He graduated from Vernonia High School in 1975. He worked for the City of Vernonia for the next 13 years.

In 1984, he married Cindy Ashcraft. They made their home in Vernonia, then moved to Gaston for a short time before moving to Forest Grove in 2000. He worked for Olympic Forest Products for 13 years, then for Stimson Lumber Company until the last layoff.



Survivors include his wife; one son, Jeffrey of Coos Bay; his mother, Irene Kyser of Forest Grove; two brothers, Warren of Oregon City and Ronald of Jewell; one niece; and one grandniece.

Remembrances are suggested to a charity of choice.

Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives of Hillsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include his wife; one son, Jeffrey of Coos Bay; his mother, Irene Kyser of Forest Grove; two brothers, Warren of Oregon City and Ronald of Jewell; one niece; and one grandniece.

Remembrances are suggested to a charity of choice.

Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives of Hillsboro was in charge of arrangements.

### DARRELL D. K. SCHOONOVER

Darrell DeWayne Kenneth Schoonover, 29, Vernonia, died March 19, 2009. A celebration of life was held March 28. Private interment will be held later.



Mr. Schoonover was born August 13, 1979, to Luvern Kenneth and Margaret Rose (Denton) Schoonover in Mountain Home, Idaho. He was raised in Idaho Falls, Idaho, until moving to Vernonia as a teenager. He attended Vernonia High School and later obtained his G.E.D. He worked as a Licensed Caregiver, most recently for his father's adult foster home, My Safe House, for the past two years.

He was preceded in death by his mother and a brother, Mickey Todd.

Survivors include his father and step-mother, Rosalind Karczewski, of Vernonia; three brothers, Jason Todd of Twin Falls, Idaho; Frank Alan Todd of England, and Ian Todd, whereabouts

unknown; a sister, Dawn Mitchell of Salt Lake City, Utah; two step-sisters, Kimberley Urbach of Pensacola, Florida, and Krizia Irish of Alamo, California.

Remembrances are suggested to Vernonia Flood Relief Fund or Vernonia Cares Food Bank.

Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives of Hillsboro was in charge of arrangements.

### JOSEPH "BUD" F. TRUSSELL

Joseph "Bud" Fletcher Trussell, 87, Banks, died March 12, 2009. Grave-side services will be held at 10:00 a.m., on April 4, at the Mountainside Cemetery of Scholls.

Mr. Trussell was born October 4, 1921, in Canadian, Texas, to Eugene F. and Lou A. (Griffin) Trussell. He was raised in Longview, Texas. He and his family moved to Scholls in 1937. He served in the U.S. Army. He went to mechanic school after the war and worked for Haney Trucking in Cornelius for 25 years. He then owned and operated Bud Trussell Well Drilling for over 15 years until he retired in 1987.

In 1971, he married Evelyn Florence Paroz. They made their home in

Banks.

He was preceded in death by a son, Larry; and two siblings, Eugene and Delores.

Survivors include his wife; one son, Donald of Sequim, Washington; three daughters, Kathleen Vandershere of Cornelius, Barbara Davis of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Beverly Sinha of Los Alamos, N. Mex.; three step-children, Ronald L. Carte of Milwaukie, Leslie A. Carte, and Laurie C. Carte, both of Banks, 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Remembrances are suggested to the Banks Volunteer Fire Department.

Duyck & VanDeHey Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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 741 Madison Av. Vern.....429-6611  
 E-mail: Fuitenrosehoyt@aol.com

To sign the online guestbook or send a condolence to the family, go to:  
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