

The INDEPENDENT

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The Hardy Family (and friends) presented a delightful blend of Gospel and show tunes at the Hands-on Art Variety Show, November 7, at the Vernonia Grange Hall. PHOTO BY ILENE GRADY

Kay promoted to Captain in VPD

Sergeant Mike Kay was promoted to Captain, effective November 16, and his grandfather pinned on his new badge at the November 16 Vernonia City Council meeting.

The promotion had been announced, but delayed at Kay's request, with the reason stated that he wanted to stay in the police union until some legal issues were settled.

After an executive session on November 2, City Administrator Bob Young made a statement that, after some accusations about Kay's background, an investigation found no deceit or untruthfulness during his employment process.

Young was asked by *The Independent*, about his November 2 statement that he had been in contact with DPSST (the state's police certification board) and they were not investigating Kay. Young responded that his statement

was correct. When *The Independent* contacted Eriks Gabliks at DPSST to verify Young's statement, we were told, "We have no record of speaking to any city administrators or to anyone named Bob Young regarding this case."

Vernonia City Attorney Jeff Bennett also confirmed his statement on November 2, that there was no current investigation by DPSST on Kay. His statement was also inconsistent with information from Gabliks who said that he had spoken with the city attorney, Ron Guerra, and "on November 2, we told Mr. Guerra that we (DPSST) had opened a case on Michael Kay." Guerra is an attorney at the city's law firm, Jordan Schrader, as is Bennett.

At this time, Kay's future as a police officer is still uncertain, as the investigation by DPSST has not been completed.

Vernonia Band again in Macy's Parade

Vernonia Schools band has again been chosen to appear in the festive annual Macy's Holiday Parade. This year's parade will be November 27, the day after Thanksgiving, starting at 8:45 a.m. in downtown Portland.

In addition to the local band, other Vernonia favorites will appear; the Get A Life Marching Band and the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo Court are included in the array of marching bands, equestrian units and floats.

A new parade route starts at NW Park and Davis, goes east to Broadway, south on Broadway to SW Alder, east on Alder (past Macy's) to 4th, north on 4th to NW Flanders, west on Flanders to NW Park for disbanding. The parade takes approximately one hour, but viewers are advised to arrive early for a curbside seat.

Share the season by helping provide holiday food boxes

This is the time of year when people begin their Christmas holiday preparations. Some Vernonia households, due to difficult economic situations, may not have funds to purchase groceries for a Christmas meal together. Vernonia Cares Food Bank (VCFB), through generous donors, seeks to provide a solution to that dilemma. The food bank facilitates a special project so Vernonia area families may share a turkey dinner together. VCFB volunteers assemble the basic groceries and dispense these food boxes in December to pre-registered households in Vernonia.

Registrations for these special holiday food boxes began November 3, with registrations ending December 8. Pre-registration is required so the food bank will know how many groceries to purchase. The easiest way to register is to come to

the special table located within Vernonia Cares Food Bank. VCFB's regular business hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (The food bank will be closed Thanksgiving Day.)

Vernonia Cares is in the American Legion Building (behind West Oregon Electric) at 627 Adams Avenue. The simple application process takes only minutes. Questions may be directed to Barb or Sandy by calling the food bank during its usual business hours at 503-429-1414.

Wondering what to give that special someone for Christmas? Or want to give a gift in honor or memory of someone? How about sponsoring a Christmas Food Box? For only \$20, you can honor that special someone and brighten a whole family's Christmas at the same time.

See Sharing on Page 5



**Mail your Christmas letter
in Santa's Mail Box
at the Vernonia Fire Hall**

Reward offered on illegal elk kill

Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish & Wildlife Division is asking for the public's help to identify the suspects involved in the illegal killing of a spike bull elk in the Saddle Mountain Unit near Vernonia. A reward of up to \$1,000 is offered by the Oregon Hunter's Association for information leading to an arrest and conviction in this case.

According to OSP Trooper Tim Schwartz on November 17, at approximately 9:50 a.m., he and Recruit Trooper Vogel responded to the reported complaint. Witnesses advised three unknown people were attempting to salvage the spike elk in

the area of Keasey Road and Columbia River Mainline. They were seen leaving the area in a newer model white Chevrolet Suburban with unknown dealer plates heading south on Keasey Road toward Vernonia.

The spike bull elk was found, including the head which had been removed and concealed beneath vegetation. The elk's four quarters and back straps had also been removed.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to call the Turn in Poacher (TIP) number at 1-800-452-7888.