



THE INDEPENDENT

Vol. 26, No. 3

The Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley for Over 25 years

February 3, 2011



Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill Manager Mike Tomkins, State Senator Betsy Johnson, Vernonia school principal Aaron Miller, Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde and G-P Public Affairs Manager Kristi Ward at the January 31 presentation of a \$50,000 "check" to the Vernonia school project.

G-P grant adds \$50,000 to Vernonia school project

A \$50,000 Georgia-Pacific community investment grant was presented, January 31, to the Vernonia school district to help with construction of the new school. This grant brings the fundraising effort to over 80 percent of the funds needed to complete the \$38.2 project to replace three flood-damaged schools with one building out of the flood zone. That building will house kindergarten through high school students.

The announcement of the grant took place at Georgia-Pacific's Wauna mill in Clatskanie. Grade school principal Aaron Miller accepted the check on behalf of the Vernonia School District. Columbia County Commissioner and Vernonia resident Tony Hyde, and State Senator Betsy Johnson, among

others, attended the event, which also included a tour of the mill's biomass boiler.

"We are a timber community, and it is rewarding to see a timber-based organization like Georgia-Pacific step up," noted Hyde. "Their investment in the future of Vernonia demonstrates the best of our community, and of our neighbors' spirit of compassion."

Five Georgia-Pacific facilities contributed to the \$50,000 grant: Wauna Consumer Products Mill in Clatskanie; Camas Consumer Products Mill in Camas, Washington; Toledo Containerboard Mill; Coos Bay Lumber Mill; and the Philomath Lumber Mill. "This is our most significant donation ever," said Kristi Ward, G-P Public Affairs Manager.

Merkley meeting set in St. Helens

Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley will hold town halls in Lincoln, Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia Counties this week.

He will update constituents on his work in Washington, D.C., and answer their questions and invite their suggestions about how to tackle the

challenges facing Oregon and America.

"Traveling across Oregon and meeting with residents in every county is crucial to helping me advocate for all Oregonians," Merkley said. "I invite all residents of Lincoln, Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia Counties to come and discuss how we can create jobs, strengthen Oregon, and put America on the right track."

In 2008, Merkley pledged to hold town halls in each of Oregon counties.
See Merkley on page 4

Rummage sale, car wash for band tour

The Vernonia High/Middle School Band is holding a rummage sale and, weather permitting, car wash on Saturday, February 5, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

All proceeds will go to support the band for their Spring Break 2011 tour. During Spring Break, 33 middle and high school students will be on a three-stop, charter bus, concert tour in California. The Vernonia band will be joined by 11 students and the band director from Molalla High School. The Vernonia Community PTA is one of the tour sponsors.

Clothing drive to aid VHS students

An effort is underway to start a clothing closet at Vernonia High School. Bring clothes to the covered playshed on Saturday, February 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or call 503-429-3521 by Feb. 11 for pickup. Like-new clothing and formal wear for both girls and boys is requested.

A New Tool for Job Seekers
See Page 4

TOWN HALL MEETING
VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
Thursday, Feb. 10 • 6:30-8:00 p.m. • Middle School Bldg.



An OOPS! moment occurred January 23 when this house stuck on the green bridge while it was being moved. Bridge St./Hwy. 47 was closed briefly, until the problem was solved.