

'The Nutcracker'
Christmas classic performed this week



Headlight-Herald

SERVING TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON, SINCE 1888

Vol. 120, No. 50

www.TillamookHeadlightHerald.com

December 12, 2007 • 50 Cents

County begins recovery from relentless wind storm, flooding, power outages, but ...

Long, dark week takes toll

Farms face havoc, losses

BY DENISE PORTER
Headlight-Herald Staff

TILLAMOOK COUNTY — Farm losses from last week's wind storm and floods varied countywide. Barns across the county toppled at the force of the wind, and major flooding issues in North County quickly gave way to larger concerns over the lack of water and electricity.

Damages for area farmers were substantial, according to Brian Gibson of Tillamook County Creamery Association. All parts of the county saw barn damage from the wind, and Gibson estimated that roughly between 30 and 40 animals were lost to drowning.

The total, he said, is only a guess at this point. Gibson did note that the number of animals See **FARMS**, Page A4



COURTESY PHOTO

The Port of Tillamook Bay's railroad suffered devastating storm damage last week along a section of track in Salmonberry Canyon, east of Wheeler. Soil slippage undermined track roadbed, and the nearby county Salmonberry bridge was destroyed, as well.

Tillamook ports reel from hits

BY AMBER NOBE
Headlight-Herald Staff

TILLAMOOK BAY — The long-term economic effects of last week's storms will be severe, especially for the Port of Tillamook Bay and the Port of Garibaldi.

The Port of Tillamook Bay reported the most significant damage: an estimated \$20 million worth of repairs needed on its rail line. Tracks are sagging in areas where soil underneath was washed away; various sections are also covered in debris from land slides, including the entrance to one of the track's tunnels.

Port Manager Bob Van Borssum issued a indefinite embargo for the line last week, affecting shipments of lumber and livestock feed in and out of the county. While all of the railroad's trestles and tunnels remain intact, repair work on the rest will take several months, Van Borssum said.

"We're really anxious for the federal process to kick in so we can move forward," he said. Repairs to the railroad were given top priority in the federal recovery assistance plan. Typically, federal aid will cover 75 percent of repair expenses, but the port

See **PORTS**, Page A4



BOB REED/FOR THE HEADLIGHT-HERALD

Port of Tillamook Bay Manager Bob Van Borssum and Port Chair Loten Hooley listen as lawmakers at the state and national level pledge to seek assistance for storm-devastated counties, including Tillamook.

Senators vow support

BY KEN O'TOOLE
Headlight-Herald Staff

TILLAMOOK — Port of Tillamook Bay officials set out a grim scenario for visiting U.S. Senators Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) at a briefing Saturday in Tillamook.

With as much as 25 percent of its railroad track badly damaged by high winds, flooding and slides, Port of Tillamook Bay Chair Loten Hooley said, the future of big rail shippers Hampton and Stimson mills in Tillamook is uncertain. "They'll move," he asserted. "And if Stimson and Hampton

See **SENATORS**, Page A4



BOB REED/FOR THE HEADLIGHT-HERALD

U.S. Senators Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), left, and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.), in Tillamook last Saturday, listen at a briefing on countywide storm damage.

THE GREAT WINDSTORM AND FLOOD OF 2007

Following the recent flooding and wind storm that pounded Tillamook County and the Oregon coast, crews from outside of the county arrived to assist. Repairing lines on the traffic signal at Main and Fourth in downtown Tillamook, was Mike Bachand from Oregon Department of Transportation, Region 1 from Portland accompanied by Dave Armes.



BOB REED FOR THE HEADLIGHT-HERALD

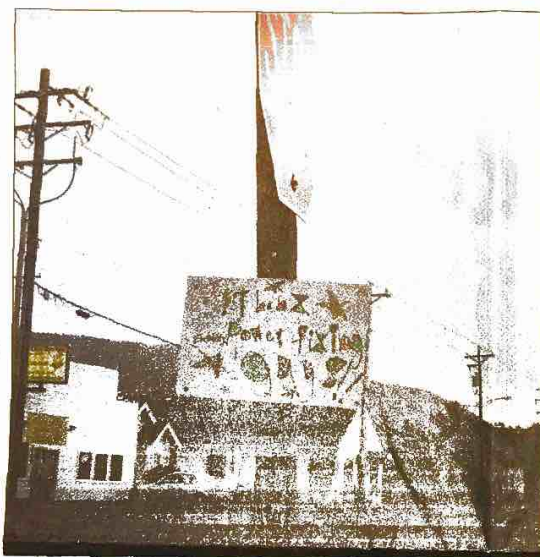


AMBER NOBE/HEADLIGHT-HERALD

Tillamook RV Repair employees power washed office furniture Thursday that was muddied when flood waters rose up to 49 inches in the shop.

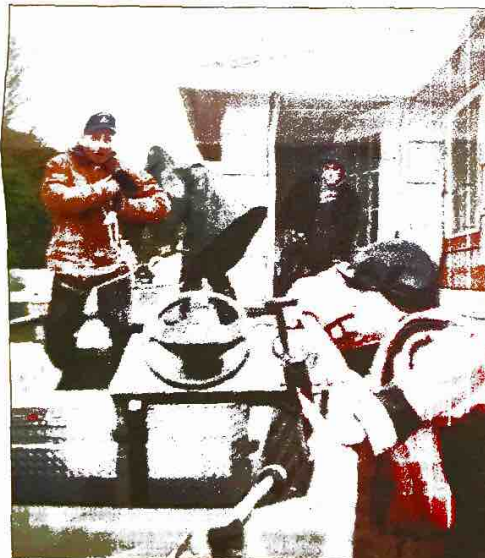
An anonymous sign thanks Tillamook Public Utility District workers for restoring power in Rockaway Beach Friday. The sign reads, "We love our electricity. Thanx power fixing guys!!!"

AMBER NOBE HEADLIGHT-HERALD



SUE SMITH/ FOR THE HEADLIGHT-HERALD

These road-clearing volunteers paused in their labors Monday, Dec. 3, after spending several hours helping clear scores of trees from Eckloff Road, enabling travelers to make it through.



COURTESY PHOTO

Coast Guard personnel performed water rescues and transports by boat in the early stages of flooding in Tillamook County.

ANNUAL CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE

JOIN US ON SATURDAY
DECEMBER 8

11 AM - 5 PM

ONE DAY ONLY