

Make Vernonia Shine Day!



**Come join
your neighbors
for the Annual
Make Vernonia
Shine Day**

**9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday
May 10th**



**More than ever, we need your help to give
Vernonia its annual spring cleaning!**

For more information call: (503) 429-5201

Sponsored by Vernonia Pride

Oregon Solutions Accepts Vernonia Schools Project

By Scott Laird

Good news arrived in early April for the Vernonia School District and the community of Vernonia. Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski has approved the involvement of Oregon Solutions in assisting the Vernonia community with the siting of a new school campus outside of the flood zone. Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde and Tom Kelly of Neil Kelly Company were named co-conveners for the project and have assembled a team to help shepherd the project through to completion.

The involvement of Oregon Solutions is a breakthrough for the Vernonia School district, which has been exploring the idea of moving the schools but is under pressure to make decisions quickly as well as find funding sources. Oregon Solutions provides access to key decision makers at state agencies, and it brings a record of success that foundations will find appealing when presented with funding proposals.

"I am obviously a real fan of this process because it brings everybody to the table at the same time," said Wendy Willis, Program Manager for Oregon Solutions. "When we are able to get everyone together, it streamlines the decision making process. The group process also makes it easier to patch together funding because many more players have been involved in planning the project from the beginning."

Oregon Solutions has as its mission the development of sustainable solutions to community-based problems. It works to support economic, environmental, and community objectives that are built through the collaborative efforts of businesses, government and non-profit organizations. It operates as part of a program of the National Policy Consensus Center at Portland State University that promotes a new way for communities and local governments to solve large issues using the principles of collaboration, integration and sustainability.

"Oregon Solutions works with consensus as part of our process which limits opposition as a project moves forward," said Willis. "Everyone is part of the decisions at each step along the way, so a project knows it has the full support of the team."

Oregon Solutions has participated in the development of thirty-seven local projects around the state since its inception in 2001.

Governor Kulongoski is quoted on the Oregon Solutions Web site: "I believe that to meet the challenges we face today it is essential to engage businesses, government, non-profit organizations and citizens in collective action. Oregon Solutions creates the place to come together and provides the means to reach community agreements that connect Oregonians in solving these challenges, in communities across the state."

Maddy O'Leary is State Gymnastics Champ

Madeline O'Leary, a 7th Grader at Vernonia Middle School, qualified for the Oregon State Gymnastics Championships held in Medford April 4-6 and returned as Level 8 State Champ on the Vault. She and her teammates all had a great weekend as they brought the level 8 team championship trophy home to their gym, the Oregon Gymnastics Academy of Beaverton.

Maddy's performance at the state meet qualified her for the Region II Championships that were held in Spokane, Washington, April 19-21. This meet featured the best qualifying gymnasts from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and Hawaii.

For those unfamiliar with gymnastics, the athletes perform routines on four events: the bars, the beam, the floor, and the vault. Maddy was solid in each event in the Regional Championships as she finished 5th all-around against nearly forty outstanding competitors.

While Maddy is relieved that her competitive season has come to an end, the practice never stops. She'll now go to work on new skills and routines to prepare for next season.

Congratulations Maddy!



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