

VERNONIANS: Pass the Bond, Not the Buck!

The Vernonia School District 47J Board of Directors has passed a resolution to place a bond measure on the November 3 election ballot. The bond will be for \$13 million dollars and will be used to purchase property and build new schools in a safe and insurable area of the community. From June to November the Vernonia School Bond Committee is bringing you information monthly to help you in your decision to support a YES vote in November--a Yes vote for our children and grandchildren and for the future and prosperity of our entire community.

This month our interview is with Dr. Phyllis Gilmore, who runs our local Providence Medical Clinic, and has years of experience working in small rural communities.

Question: Do you think schools are an important part of rural communities, and what role do you think our schools play in our community?

Answer: Schools and churches are the cornerstones of small communities. The strength of those cornerstones very often determines what type of community will be built over, under, and around them.

We are blessed to have several churches and many strong church leaders in Vernonia. Our American freedom of religion gives us the opportunity to worship and grow in our spiritual lives in ways that follow our individual beliefs. Our

Vernonia church cornerstone in some ways is even stronger than before the floods in that they helped shelter our hurting hearts and souls and we were reminded of the strength that comes in pooling our prayers and faith.

The school is the cornerstone where children and their families of all belief systems, all economic and educational levels come together to grow in the realm of education where we train our children to find their way in the world of employment, the arts and physical fitness.

THAT part of the cornerstone, however, was weakened and remains vulnerable.

Question: Why do you think it's important that we move our schools campus to a safe location?

Answer: When waters and winds come, people gather to safe haven. We need our school, our clinic, and our city government buildings available for the tax payers who built them to be able to use them when their own homes are threatened. Stewardship of our money means our schools are open to us when we need them.

Question: What would you say to someone who says we can't afford new schools in this community and in this current economy?

Answer: I probably have as good an opportunity as anyone in this town to see what the flood, the current economy, and future concerns are doing to people and fami-

lies. Lost jobs and homes become depression, lost marriages, substance abuse. BUT re-building, even though it costs that pound of flesh, is the only way to have a chance to go UP and OUT of where we are.

Question: How do you think a new school campus would impact student learning and the school districts ability to recruit faculty?

Answer: My mother was a school teacher for forty-one years. I remember how excited she got if our school got a new teacher, a new piece of equipment, a new set of books. GOOD teachers keep learning, and if we offer a teaching environment of growth and challenge, the good teachers will come. And, you show me a good, interested, excited teacher, and I will show you a child who learns.

Question: What do you think will happen to our schools and our community if we don't pass this bond?

Answer: If we don't pass the bond, then we have passed what opportunity we have in front of us to once again rebound, sustain, and grow. We all know we need money from the outside to help complete this mission. But, if the grant-givers and the bill-passers don't see our money on the table, they won't put down any of theirs. **PLEASE VOTE YES FOR VERNONIA SCHOOLS!**

Grade Schools Seek Site Council Members

The Washington Grade School (WGS)/Mist Grade School (MGS) Site Council currently has two openings for parent members. The term for these positions is two-years with the election to be held on Thursday, October 8 during WGS' Open House event to be held from 6:30-7:30 PM. Parents from WGS and Mist Grade Schools (MGS) are eligible to apply. Applications are available at the WGS office. Completed applications should be turned in to the office by Friday, October 2.

The WGS Site Council meets monthly to discuss plans to improve the school's educational environment, to provide positive leadership, to facilitate communication between all stakeholders, to pursue grant

monies and to implement plans to improve the physical and academic environments of WGS and MGS.

The WGS Site Council would like to extend an invitation to all community members interested in attending these meetings. All Site Council meetings are open to the public, and interested people are encouraged to attend.

The Council meets at Washington Grade School on the last Monday of the month from 3:15-4:15 PM. The next two meetings are scheduled for Monday, September 28 and Monday, October 26.

If you have questions regarding Site Council and/or their meetings, please contact Aaron Miller or Cici Bell at 503-429-7941.

From Summer Days To School Days

By Brandi Fosdick

Summer's over. (Sigh). No more driving by Hawkins and seeing it full of smiling, laughing kids. Instead, they'll be solemnly sitting in school, most of them anyway, daydreaming about the past three months... images of fireworks and watermelons and barbecues running through their minds. Right this minute, someone's mouth is watering at the memory of walking around at Jamboree while eating a sugar-smothered elephant ear.

Speaking of Jamboree, it was a great success, from new booths to a parade that lasted over an hour *without* pausing for five minutes every block. Our small but mighty car show saw not only a lot of newcomers, but also some long standing traditions like the "The Pink Lady" and "Betty Boop" cars. While admiring everyone's rides, there were two excellent bands jamming in the background. Locals and tourists could also see more novelty events such as the lawn mower races, the black powder rendezvous up on Stoney Point, and the Logging Show. Later Saturday night, the parents and younger siblings could enjoy a concert and fire-

works while the teens went to a dance. Originally, the dance was set to be in the gym, but had to be moved to the cafeteria. No one seemed to mind, though. About the only comment anyone had was that it was two dollars cheaper and that that was great with them.

Their very unusually optimistic outlook (think about it, when is anyone between 12 and 20 ever optimistic?) got dampened a little as they dragged their feet and backpacks to yet another school year in mods. I mean, they are better than nothing. But still, they're cramped, stuffy, and the students still have no lockers. While they are pretty well adjusted to their new environment after a year and a half, they would really like to see new schools built before they can't remember what a real school is like. You know, the kind of school with lockers, a full-size library, and real home-ec and art rooms. But well, what the hey, everyone will survive as usual. Hopefully, the snow won't attack the students in between classes quite so much this year, though. If you're so inclined, a prayer or two for them couldn't hurt.

WGS Launches Fundraisers

Washington Grade School Physical Education Instructor George Spaulding has announced a number of fundraising campaigns designed to raise money for school library books, school supplies, playground equipment and P.E. equipment, including a new climbing wall.

Mr. Spaulding has announced participation in the following programs:

Box Tops for Education fundraising campaign, with a goal of earning \$600 through Box Tops. The Box Tops for Education program offers school supporters three easy ways to earn cash for schools:

- **Clip Box Tops** from hundreds of favorite products and send them to Washington Grade School, "Attention Mr. Spaulding, Box Tops Coordinator" at 199 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR. 97064.

- **Sign up to support Washington Grade School** on the Box Tops website at btfe.com
- **Shop online** once you've signed up, Washington Grade School will earn a percentage of your purchases made through the Box Tops MarketplaceSM.

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- **Buy books** once you've signed up, Washington Grade School will earn a percentage of your purchases made online at Barnes & Noble through the Box Tops Reading RoomSM.

NORPAC Foods' Label Redemption Program. Washington Grade School will earn 5¢ for each UPC symbol saved from the frozen fruits, vegetables, juices or canned vegetables of any of these NORPAC brands: Flav-R-Pac, Westpac, Santiam. A collection bin has been set up at the school where you can drop off your UPC symbols.

Cambell's Labels for Education. Save product proofs of purchase from eligible Campbells, V-8, SpagettiO's, Prego and Pepperidge Farm products and send them to Washington Grade School.

Tyson Project A+TM This program features various Tyson products with a Tyson Project A+TM label, worth 24¢, on the front of the package. A collection site is set up at Washington Grade School where parents and others in the community can drop off their Tyson Project A+TM redemption labels.

For more information about any of these programs contact Mr. Spaulding at 503-429-7941.

Below: Vernonia teachers and staff show their support for the school bond in the Jamboree Parade. Left: Even Pedro and Mackenzie Carr joined in. Notice the sticker on Pedro's bumper.



Pretty Gifts & Things



Stop by & check out our selection of jewelry, gifts, and other new merchandise!

Shop local!

phone 503-429-4696
786 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR