

# Vernonia School Helps Keep Local Businesses Going

## Additional Contracting Opportunities Will Be Available As The Project Advances

Local residents of Vernonia are helping to build the \$38 million K-12 project, providing a life line to many businesses hit hard by the recession.

Construction is well underway for Vernonia's new school, positioned safely on higher land. The general contractor, P&C Construction, has awarded contracts to local firms to keep dollars in the community, including:

- Fischer Rock Quarry, a local aggregate company, is supplying over \$200,000 in aggregate, transported by locally owned dump trucks.

- Vernonia resident, Matt Clark, is the foreman for Heinz Mechanical, which is installing the mechanical systems.

- KLS Surveying, a Vernonia company, has helped prepare the site for over a year.

- Vernonia resident, Dwayne Cowells, a 21-year veteran of Cascade Acoustics, will oversee construction of the interior walls and ceilings, including metal studs, drywall and acoustical ceilings.

- Hillsboro-based Crestview Construction is grading the land for construction.

- Vernonia-based Gwin and Sons Logging is handling the stump removal. Other Columbia County businesses include Weller Brothers, Dennis Electric and Hudson Portable Toilets.

"This job has meant not laying someone off," says KLS Surveying owner, Don Wallace. Many businesses have reported 35 – 50% reduction in work since the recession. To view



The school construction site in Vernonia on January 3, 2011.

interviews with local subs on what the project has meant for their business:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smyz76kM\\_3s&feature=BF&list=ULvD0leX9HfWM&index=5](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smyz76kM_3s&feature=BF&list=ULvD0leX9HfWM&index=5).

### Finding Good Local Firms

P&C, which recently completed major school projects for Scappoose and is currently working on Clatskanie Public Utility District Headquarters and St. Helens Transit Center, says finding a pool of good local subs is key to keeping costs down and monies local. "You don't just hire people because they're local. You have to find the right people in the community who can do the work to a high level of craftsmanship and at a competitive price. We've worked long enough in these communities, where we have developed relationships, but we're always looking for new ones."

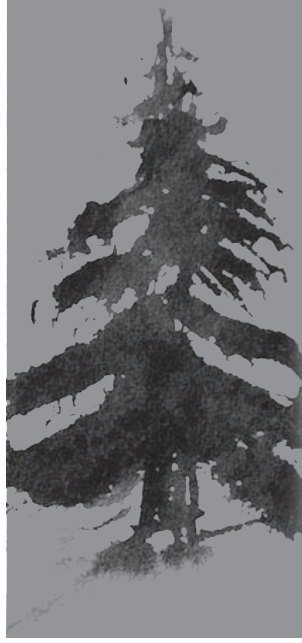
### More to Come

One of the defining features of the Vernonia project is the Vernonia Center for Rural Sustainability, which will be an international model of sustainable forestry and clean energy research. P&C has set a goal of using at least 75% local resources on the Vernonia Center for Rural Sustainability, including site work, concrete, wood framing, HVAC, plumbing, painting and electric—over \$2 million of work. P&C is

encouraging all subcontractors to look for workers that live in the local area and to purchase materials they'll need on the project from local suppliers. The firm is targeting a minimum of 15% of the subcontract and material supply value on this project to derive from local firms.

Opportunities for bidding on additional work will be posted on the district's website. <http://www.vernonia.k12.or.us/node/562>. Steve Anderson of P&C Construction can also be contacted at 503-665-0165.

## January is School Board Recognition Month



Thank you  
to our Vernonia School District 47J  
School Board Members!

Jim Krahn

Greg Kintz  
Ernie Smith  
Kim Wallace

Tim Bamberg  
Cari Levenseller  
Bill Langmaid

## Vernonia Students of the Month

### December 2010

#### Sara Rhodes, Grade 5



Sara is an exemplary example of a responsible student. According to her teacher, Mrs. Hoerauf, Sara is an excellent listener, school-wide helper and scholar. Sara collects and delivers classroom mail each morning. She pays attention and contributes in class. Sara works very hard, takes care of her classmates, is fair, kind, considerate and is a shining star. Sara says her favorite subject is Band where she plays the clarinet. She says she also enjoys writing. She is playing basketball this year. She enjoys animals, especially reptiles and is trying to talk her mom into letting her get a lizard; mom says no snakes! Two years ago, Sara and her friends organized a dog wash to raise money for the community 4th of July fireworks.

#### Jarrett White, Grade 7



Jarrett is a very intelligent young man. According to his teachers, it is a pleasure to have him in their classes. They have watched him grow into the gentleman that he is today. He was a quiet, shy fellow a few years back; not any more. He is outgoing and contributes in class. Jarrett works hard on his assignments and is very conscientious about handing his assignments in on time. His teachers believe he will be successful in any career path that he chooses. He has the right discipline, work ethic and drive to accomplish anything that he sets his mind to. Jarrett plays football, baseball, and track. His favorite subject is math and he enjoys snowboarding, watching movies, riding bikes and hanging out with friends.

#### Katie Mae Ellington, Grade 11



Katie is a young lady who has strong character. It doesn't matter where you see Katie, in the lunch room, walking in the halls, in the community, or working in the library, she always has a smile on her face. She treats people with respect and kindness and is honest and fair. You would see these traits in Katie even if you just met her for the first time—they show through immediately! Katie has been a team manager for Track and Field and has also helped organize Homecoming and Airjams. Her favorite subjects are Physics and Trigonometry. Outside of school Katie helps out at home with her mom, enjoys reading and hanging out with her friends.

Sponsored by Senator Betsy Johnson

**If you don't help  
stop bullying,  
who will?**

Parents, teachers, school administrators, health care professionals, law enforcement officers —we all have a responsibility to prevent bullying. To find out how you can help stop it, log on to [www.StopBullyingNow.hrsa.gov](http://www.StopBullyingNow.hrsa.gov)

**STOP BULLYING NOW!**  
TAKE A STAND. LEND A HAND.

A campaign of the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services