

# “Vernalla” Schools Complete Band Tour

Students from the “Vernalla” Schools recently returned from their Spring Break Band Tour of California.

Tim) was Yreka High School, where YHS sponsored a dinner for the Vernalla Band. The Yreka and Vernalla Bands



“Vernalla” students—members of the Vernonia and Molalla High School Bands visited Alcatraz Island during their recent tour of California.

both participated in a concert that evening; the tour spent the night in the Yreka HS gym.

Day two was spent on a bus drive to Healdsburg Community Church. Healdsburg is Mr. Izzett’s home town where he grew up. The Community Church held a dinner and the Vernalla band was able to play a two-hour concert with the Healdsburg Community Band and Healdsburg High School band.

“Vernalla” stands for Vernonia (middle and high school) and Molalla high school combined bands. Thirty-one Vernonia 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and fourteen Molalla High Schoolers toured California, March 21-26, 2011.

Vernonia Band Director Rob Izzett said the trip went smoothly and everyone seemed to have a great time.

First stop after a long charter bus ride (with a great driver named

“It just happened that the song the Healdsburg Community Band was performing was a song the Molalla Band has been performing,” said Izzett, “so they invited the Molalla kids to sit in with them and perform.” Izzett’s band director from when he was in middle and high school, Lou Sbrana, who is now retired,

conducted the Vernalla Band for one song as well. The group spent the night at the church.

Day three started with a short bus ride over the Golden Gate Bridge to San Francisco. The group had a Duck Boat tour of the city, ate lunch at Pier 39 and then toured Alcatraz! After a late dinner at Denny’s, the group arrived at their hotel at about 10:00 P.M.

Day Four included a tour of the Winchester Mystery House and a surprise organized for the band by Mr. Izzett-- an hour-long rehearsal/workshop conducted by the UC Berkeley band

director on the campus. Back at the hotel, the kids enjoyed swimming in the rain and karaoke. Izzett was named “Karaoke King” for his version of “Rhinestone Cowboy” by the group.

Izzett says that, when asked, many of the students stated the Berkeley visit and the chance to work with a college conductor was the highlight of the trip.

Day Five was a long ride to Dunsmuir, California, for a stay in their gym, and dinner provided by the DHS staff. The concert in Dunsmuir

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The “Vernalla” Band readies for a performance.

# VHS Spring Sports Under Way

Vernonia High School spring sports teams have begun competition after a very wet preseason.

With limited opportunities to get outside for practice on the field, course and track, and cancellations of several non-league competitions, the VHS baseball, softball, track and field and golf teams are well into the start of their seasons. But as head baseball coach, Aaron Miller says, “Weather is an issue, but everyone we play against has to deal with it too.”

Coach Miller has another young group in his baseball program. The team will be lead by juniors Josh Butcher at second base, Jackson Miller at shortstop, and returning First Team All League catcher, T.J. White.

After losing three games against former state champion, Portland Christian, the Loggers bounced back with strong outings against Nestucca.

Pitching is going to be key factor in the success of the Logger’s program this year. Lacking a dominant pitcher, Miller intends to use a variety of players on the mound throughout the season. Ryan Lawrence, Austin Cutright, Jake Titus, freshman Bo Clark, Jackson Miller, Butcher, and White will all see action throughout the season.

Miller expects one of the teams strengths to be defense, with several starters from last year returning to their positions. On offense, Miller hopes the team bats come alive and the team will be able to put together some runs. Miller says Butcher spent a lot of time in the off season working on his hitting, and it showed against Nestucca, as Butcher drilled a bases loaded double over the

center fielders head, driving in three runs, and later hit a long shot into left field to bring home another run.

Softball coach Randy Shockey also has a young team this year, with only three seniors. The team is off to a good start with early season wins over Portland Christian, and Nestucca.

The Lady Loggers are hitting the ball well so far this season, with Ariel and Meagan Rock leading the way.

Natalie and Samantha Wallace have also been key contributors along with freshman Stephanie Castro and Kelsey Brown. Defense and pitching will be key with Courtney Paden and Meagen Rock sharing the duties on the mound.

Next up for the Loggers baseball and softball: a scheduled home game against Neah\_Kah-Nie on 4/12; away games at Neah\_Kah-Nie on 4/15 and Gaston 4/19; a home double header against Gaston on 4/22 and a home game against Knappa on 4/26.



Courtney Paden pitches for the Lady Loggers.

# Vernonia Band Hopes to Perform at State Festival

The Vernonia High School Band is waiting to hear if they will be traveling to Oregon State University to perform in the State Festival.

Although Vernonia did not win their League, they still received qualifying scores, and, according to Band Director Rob Izzett, the band is now in a pool of schools that are being considered by adjudicators to be chosen. The band will find out on April 25<sup>th</sup> if they were picked.

Izzett says he is not sure of the last time the Vernonia Band has performed at the State level; he knows it has been at least eight years, and probably longer.

Izzett is looking for local sponsorship to help defray the cost of traveling to Oregon State. “Anything will help offset the cost,” says Izzett.

Anyone who would like to help sponsor the trip can call the school district office at (503) 429-5891 and pledge support for the Band State Festival.

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**Open House Celebration!**  
**Creatures & Vernonia Florist**  
are celebrating with the community!

**Saturday, May 7th, 10:00 AM**

Welcoming Michal & Dennis Smith as new owners of Creatures  
Enjoying our first ever Grand Opening for both Creatures and Vernonia Florist  
Celebrating 10 years in business for Ben & Lisa Edgar

Come in and see what’s new. Bring your Mom and get  
\$3 off your Mother’s Day gift from Vernonia Florist.

Free candy basket treats • balloons for kids • cake  
punch • coffee • raffle prizes

Miss Rodeo Oregon, Mackenzie Carr will be signing autographs.  
Bring the whole family and celebrate with us!

736 Bridge St  
Vernonia