

VERNONIA'S voice

reflecting the spirit of our community

volume6 issue 4

Let's Go Loggers!

Boys Basketball Wins League and State Playoff Game--Head to Pendleton for State Final Eight

The Vernonia Loggers Boys Basketball team won the Northwest League Championship on February 18, and followed up with a resounding first round state playoff victory over the Pilot Rock Rockets on February 25.

the Rockets, with Austin Edgar and Jesse Edgar, along with Cutright and Craig Weller dominating the boards. Byron Weller was solid all night on defense.

The Loggers secured their place in the State Tournament on February 16 with a hard fought league playoff victory over Gaston 52-49 at home. For the Loggers, Paul Jiranek led the way the entire evening with 2 points. Austin Cutright added a solid 10 points and 8 rebounds.

But it was Craig Weller who closed out the win, making four crucial free throws in the final minute for the Loggers.

In winning the League Championship on February 18 the Loggers defeated Faith Bible for the second time in less than two weeks. In their next to last game of the regular season the Loggers beat first place Faith Bible at home 55-45. Playing for the League Championship on February 18, it wasn't even close, as the Loggers rolled over the Falcons 66-35.

After the League Championship game, Loggers Craig Weller and Jiranek were named First Team All-League, while the Austin Edgar and Austin Cutright, were named to the Second Team.



The Vernonia Loggers Boys Basketball team celebrate their Northwest League Championship after defeating Faith Bible 66-35. Photo courtesy of Amanda Mikalow Photography.

The Loggers now head to Pendleton for the final eight State Championship, beginning on March 1, and will play Regis.

Playing their usual fast-paced, uptempo style against Pilot Rock, the Loggers took control early and never looked back in a 85-55 dominating win. In front of a packed hometown crowd in the Logger Dome, the boys played a great all-around game. The Loggers rebounded and passed well, played strong defense and got outstanding outside shooting from Craig Weller, Austin Cutright and Paul Jiranek. The Loggers won the battle inside against

Wrestlers Win District Team Title--Send Five to State

On February 18 the Vernonia High School Wrestling team won the District 1 Tournament and qualified five Loggers for the State Tournament on February 24-25.

At the State Tournament, the Loggers finished tied for fifth place in the team standings, with four Loggers winning individual medals.

Jake Stevens at 182 and Brett Benes at 195 both made it to the state championship final round and finished second. Quin Johansen finished third at 145 and Joe Benes took fourth at 152.

The Logger wrestlers won the District Tournament with 240 points, far ahead of second place Neah-Kah-Nie with 186.5 points. For the Loggers it was a sweet victory after finishing second last year by only one point. The Loggers placed eleven wrestlers in the semi-finals and five wrestlers in the finals. Loggers Quin Johansen at 145,

Jake Stevens at 182 and Bret Benes at 195 all won individual District Championships and earned a trip to the State Tournament. Shylo Dooley at 132 and Joe Benes at 152 both finished second and also qualified for State.

Also at the District Meet, Ty



VHS Wrestlers Quin Johansen, Jake Stevens and Brett Benes were individual District Champions. Photo courtesy of Yaraslava Denysenko.

Talantov took fourth at 126, Mikol Pihl took fourth at 152, Jake Barnes finished third and Jacob Levenseller fourth at 160, and Dawson Shay took third and Kristian Wredstroem fourth at 170.

Council Approves Release of Escrow Funds for School

At the request of School Superintendent Ken Cox and with the consent of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, the Vernonia City Council approved an amendment to escrow instructions, allowing for the release of escrow funds of approximately \$500,000 to be paid out to the Vernonia School District.

The funds had been set aside in escrow to assure compliance

requirements for the replacement of Spencer Park which is to be developed at the existing school site following the demolition of the current school facilities.

The School District has been finalizing plans for the new park in conjunction with the City of Vernonia. The City of Vernonia currently owns the old school property. The Vernonia

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Empty Bowls Event Scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2012

The sixth annual Empty Bowls event is scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2012, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at McBride Elementary School, 2774 Columbia Blvd. in St. Helens. Empty Bowls is sponsored by the Columbia County Commission on Children and Families which is the annual fundraiser for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. Guests will receive a simple meal of soup and a bowl of your choice.

This is truly a community effort. Everything involved in the event, the bowls, the soup, the entertainment and the auction items, are donated by schools and individuals, local businesses and artists, who are dedicated to making

the lives of those facing food insecurity a bit easier.

Guests donating \$10 receive a ticket allowing them to choose the bowl of their choice and to have it filled with soup. Restaurant owners of Bertucci's, Dockside, Houlton Bakery, Nawitka Catering, and Sunshine Pizza have generously agreed to provide soup while Starbucks will provide the coffee and tea. Advance purchase of tickets for the event is appreciated for planning purposes.

Advance tickets can be purchased at Word for Word and Houlton Bakery in St. Helens, and Dianna's Formal Affair in Scappoose.

