

VHS Take 4th Place at Pendleton

nity put into helping us get here, with fundraisers on very short notice," said Weller. "We received a photo of the sign the kindergarten class made that said, 'We Believe,' and there were fans still showing up Saturday morning who came out to watch us play. There was a big group of fans that greeted the team outside the Convention Center before the game Saturday morning. I told the team that their fans were still here supporting them and we owed them a good game."

The game against Central Linn was extremely exciting and close. The Loggers trailed 15-10 at half time. "At the half I asked them if they wanted this to be their last sixteen minutes of basketball or their best sixteen minutes of basketball," said Weller when asked what he told his team in the locker room as they considered the potential end of their season.

The team still trailed by 9 points late in the third quarter. "I called timeout and told them, with a little more fire, that I wasn't done yet—that I didn't come out here to only play two games," said Weller.

The Loggers fought back to tie the game three different times in the fourth quarter. Cutright hit a clutch jumper with 1:37 to go, Austin Edgar hit the game winning basket for the Loggers with :57 left and Jiranek

sealed the game with a steal in the final half minute. Cutright led the Loggers in scoring with 10 points and 7 rebounds. Austin Edgar added 8 points and 13 rebounds, Craig Weller scored 8 and Byron Weller added 7 points, and 4 assists.

All of Byron Weller's points came in a less than two minute span at the end of the third and start of the fourth quarter and ignited the Loggers comeback after Coach Weller's timeout. "Byron had the best game of his life," said Coach Weller, who is the older brother of both senior teammates Byron and Craig Weller. "He really was the game changer for us."

In the Consolation final, the Loggers led Weston-McEwen almost the entire game. The Loggers out rebounded Weston-McEwen 48-42 and shot well from the free throw line, hitting 21 of 27 attempts. Cutright again led the team with 14 points, 15 rebounds, 4 blocked shots and was 6 of 7 from the free throw line. Jiranek scored 13 points, had 9 rebounds, 4 assists and was 6 of 8 from the foul line. Austin Edgar added 9 points, 12 rebounds, 4 blocked shots and was 3 of 4 on free throws. Craig Weller scored 8 points, had 7 rebounds and was 6 of 8 from the free throw line.

"I was really happy we ended our season on a high note," said

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Coach Weller. "At the State Tournament, only three teams won their last game—the Champion, and the third and fourth place finishers. So that felt really good."

Weller stuck with his starting lineup through most of the tournament and used his bench sparingly. He did note the play of Jesse Edgar who was consistently the first player off the bench. "Jesse came in and gave our starters a breather, which was really important, especially in a three day-three game tournament," said Weller. "He was somebody we could really count on." Weller also mentioned guard Kendrick Leverton, who came in and provided some solid play and good defense at a key point in the Weston-McEwen game. Coach Weller also noted that even though he struggled offensively throughout the tournament, Craig Weller played very inspired defense, and was constantly diving for loose ball and getting important rebounds. "Our defense kept us close in every game," said Weller.

Vernonia's Voice would like to extend our congratulations to coach Weller, his assistants, and the entire Vernonia Loggers Boys Basketball Team for a fantastic season and a great showing at the State Championship.

Vernonia Awarded \$4 Million for School

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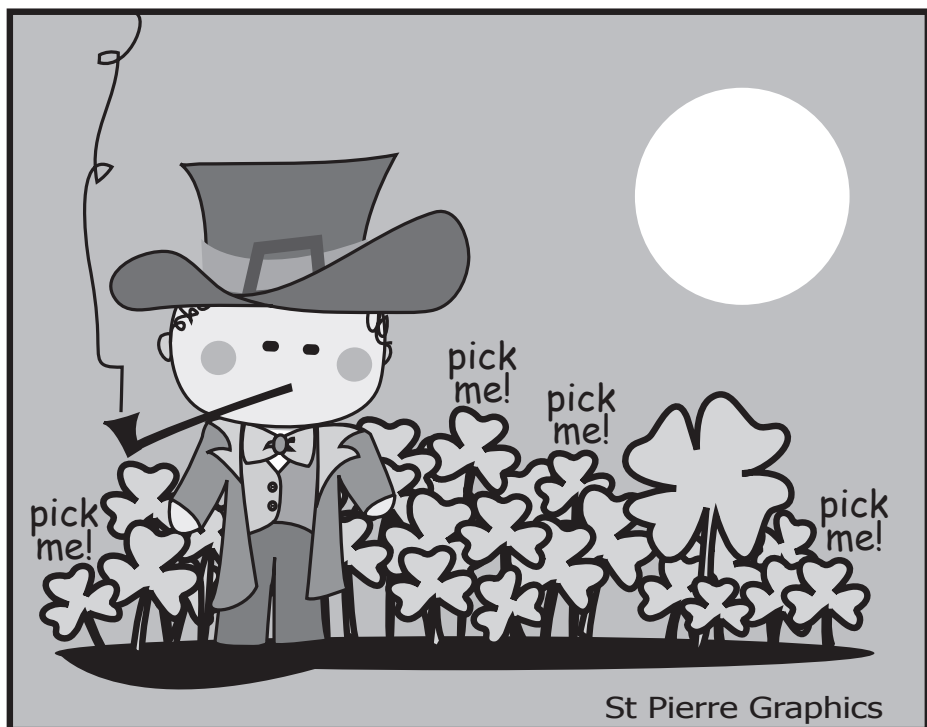
on legislation originally spearheaded by State Representative Brad Witt

That legislation was passed in Oregon after the 2007 storms that affected multiple parts of the state and established a fund to provide assistance for local disasters. The current legislature modified that bill to create a fund for grants and loans for local governments and school districts to be used after federally declared emergencies.

Johnson later stressed that the money Vernonia will receive does not come from the general fund, but is coming out of a risk management fund administered by the Department of Administrative Services.

"This will be a templet that will be used for other distressed communities," said Johnson.

"We still have a lot of hard work to do," said Johnson. "We still have a long way to go and our fundraising effort continues full speed ahead. But the bottom line is, that school is going to open in 2012. That's a promise we made to this town and the kids who are going to go there. We're going to open a school in September."



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