

Community Pride + School Spirit = \$10,000 Success! *continued from front page*

stating that the modular buildings are now being torn down and moved away. Thanks to a donation from a local logging company (who was not named) the entire new school building will be ready with lockers and a completed gymnasium! The school will also be getting help from two crews of inmates from Oregon State Corrections for the move. The grand opening celebration will be held August 21, 2012 for the new K-12 school with



This wood scroll fir plaque was one of the many donated items that were part of the auction at the Last Chance Dance.

a ribbon cutting at 10 AM. Dr. Cox said once the doors are open, the kids will get to go in first. Tours will be given by high school students and at 6:30 PM there will be a community appreciation celebration with desserts.

At the dinner, the cafeteria was filled with the excitement of 150 people in attendance sharing memories and enjoying a \$25 per person buffet-style menu of house salad; strawberry, spinach, and almond salad; fresh rolls; glazed carrots; roasted red potatoes; beef brisket; and pulled pork. Most of the dinner was prepared by Sheril McWhirter. Larry Steele and Cedar Ridge donated the use of place settings and utensils for the dinner.

The event also included a dessert dash where each table was encouraged to vie for their favorite dessert by donating money into an envelope. The top donating table got the first run at the desserts followed by the second place table and so on. This entertaining

competition yielded an amazing \$1300! The desserts included cheesecakes, cakes, chocolates, cream puffs, pies and more.

During the dinner there was also a live auction with many wonderful, original, handmade items such as a hand-stitched quilt, the Timberbound Songbook, wood scroll fir plaque depicting Washington Grade School, a cribbage board made from deer antlers, and many more. The top items auctioned were a case of wine from Winderlea for \$400 and the wood scroll fir plaque at \$310 made by Vernonian Ronald Smith. All totaled the live auction brought in \$3,270. The silent auction items were set up at the dinner where the bidding



Old and new friends gathered for dinner and an auction to raise money for the Vernonia Education Foundation as part of the Last Chance Dance on June 23.

began then moved to the dance where bidding continued until about 8:30 PM. Top silent auction items were A Week at Larry Steele's Basketball camp at \$155 and Mariner's tickets at \$150. The silent auction totaled \$2,264.

There was also a 50/50 raffle that totaled \$420 won by Vick Lawler Gotter. The coin toss for the participants was exciting for all to watch as the contestants were eliminated one by one with the coin landing on heads a whopping seven times! The event also gave people a chance to buy other items including vintage wooden school chairs selling at \$60 apiece, framed pictures of Washington Grade School (\$3 each), a book written by local teacher Lynn Shaw titled; *Vernonia Schools Back in the Day*, and T-shirts and tote bags from the Jamboree committee honoring Washington Grade

were \$83.00. The total event proceeds at the time this article was written tallied approximately \$10,000!



Vernonia School Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox, his wife Carol and special guest U.S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici had a chance to chat at the dinner.

The dance, held in the beautiful Washington Grade School gym, was decorated with balloons, tables, a dessert and refreshment table, and a D.J. who played music that spanned the many decades the school has existed from the 1930's to today. The dance was well attended with many people dancing, visiting, and walking through the halls reminiscing or touring the downstairs with Dr. Cox. It was fun to watch people walk down the halls looking at all the pictures of graduated classes to find themselves, family, and friends.

Yes, it is true: Community pride plus school spirit equals success and Vernonia is a stellar example of hard work and dedication for our future as a community to educate and support our children. Congratulations!

School. Sales from the wooden chairs totaled \$1000 and sales from the pictures

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