

Vernonia Celebrates Opening of New School *continued from front page*

The school building was designed to achieve LEED certification and to be a model which incorporates human and environmental health, sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality into its design and uses. The facility includes natural lighting and ventilation and is orientated on the site

"Vernonia is on the national map as a leader in natural resources education."

~ US Senator, Jeff Merkely

Construction of the new facility is almost complete with several key pieces yet to be finished. The large gymnasium and wrestling room remain under construction with hopes that they will be completed in late September. There is other minor detail work that is still unfinished, but for the most part the building is ready for the first day of school on September 4, 2012.

"I have watched us dig deep and help each other and I have been blown away by the outpouring of support from our neighbors and people from across the country who have helped us clean up and rebuild our lives."

~ Columbia County Commissioner, Tony Hyde

Some people thought the day would never arrive. But arrive it did, and there were smiles all around. Especially from the children and students who now have lockers and hallways and a new school they can be proud of. Dr. Cox made sure the teachers and students were the first to enter the new building following the dedication ceremony, because first and foremost, this building will be for them.

"Kids bring us to this place of faith where we step out sometimes not knowing what might happen. We dare to dream big again in spite of adversity. We actually say to ourselves that which we hope our children will say when they are not around us which is, 'One door may close, but another opens.'

These children in front of us, children who are going to come to this school and children all around this state, are asking us,



and you have demonstrated the ability, to step out on faith and say, 'We will actually build, not just this, but we'll build a whole new world around it.'

I want to tell you, that's inspiring. It's absolutely awe inspiring. From somebody who has been in big cities, all across this country, from somebody who has been across the back woods of a lot of places both here and in Washington, I can tell you I have seen inspiring and I have not seen it any more beautiful, any more finely textured, any more human than what I have seen right here in Vernonia."

~ Chief Education Officer, State of Oregon, Rudy Crew



to maximize use of solar energy and day lighting. A biomass boiler will provide heating and cooling through a radiant in-floor system. Solar panels will be installed to provide some power. The site includes bio swales to treat storm water; a community garden, and a greenhouse and nursery will be added. Off site is a wetland education center.



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On July 26th, 2012 Ben Pinnak and Jolene Botchie were married on a promenade overlooking the Willamette River in Lake Oswego. The evening wedding was met with perfect conditions for the family and friends that attended. In a mixture of tradition and new Ben & Jolene celebrated their love and began their journey as husband and wife in a beautiful style all their own.

The ceremony was performed by Larinda Robb, the sister of the Bride, and Bon Pinnak, the brother of the Groom. The parents of the Bride and Groom are Michael & Marie Botchie, residents of Rainier, OR, and Waluka & Ron Schweizer, residents of Tillamook, OR. Linda & Charlie Miller, and Ruth Botchie, Grandparents of the Bride were in attendance, along with 60 other family and friends who travelled from East Coast to West Coast and places in between to join Ben & Jolene on their special day!

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Only in love do we create great things...

On your wedding day, you celebrated your love openly with your family and friends. You shared the best of yourselves with each other and those you care about. You laughed, you danced, you cried. Toasts were made in gesture of your love, food was shared, and imperfect moments were forgiven.

On your wedding day, you were LIVING an amazing moment that you will REMEMBER because you were committed to being there heart and soul!

Our wish for you both is that you keep that same love, passion, commitment, understanding, and forgiveness that you shared on your wedding day in your hearts always. That you remember those feelings and revisit that day often in your minds, because on your WEDDING DAY, you got to experience your lives together the way it can be everyday if you never lose focus of what really matters.

May you always be thoughtful and kind in your love for one another, and may you love each other enough to let go and encourage each other be true to your inner selves. Share in your lives openly, honestly, and unconditionally... We all deserve that one person in our life that accepts us without expectations and celebrates with us in our dreams. Be that one person to each other!

CONGRATULATIONS! ~ Marie Botchie