

Holocaust Survivor Speaks at Banks Christian Academy

Alter Wiener, one of the very few Holocaust survivors still living in the Portland area, spoke to students and an audience of other visitors at the Banks Christian Academy on Monday January 28, 2013.

Wiener, who is eighty-six years old, shared his life story with approximately 200 avid listeners, as he recounted the horrors of the Nazi occupation in his homeland of Poland and his survival in five different forced labor camps over three years. Wiener was liberated by Russian soldiers in 1945.



Alter Wiener speaking at Banks Christian Academy.

Mr. Wiener's autobiography "From a Name to a Number" was published in April 2007. He has spoken and told his story in Oregon and Washington to almost 800 audiences at universities, colleges, schools, churches, synagogues, prisons, companies and book clubs. He has been interviewed by radio, TV stations and newspapers.

Wiener told the Banks Christian Academy audience that when he was thirteen years old his father was murdered by Nazi soldiers in 1939. He said that after his father was killed, as a Jew he was no longer allowed to attend school. He was sent to a work camp in June of 1942 at the age of fifteen, traveling in a cattle car and standing the

entire time with nothing to eat or drink for a day and a half. He spent the next four years working in Blechammere; Brande, Gross Maselwitz, and Klettendorf work camps and attempting to survive. He spent the final months of his captivity at the Waldenburg Concentration Camp.

Wiener says he was reunited with his older brother at the first camp, Blechammere; he did not recognize him initially because the harsh conditions had changed him so much. Wiener says in the morning the prisoners were fed two slices of bread made mostly from saw dust and in the evening they received an extremely weak broth.

Wiener tells a very moving story about how, at one camp he was working in a factory where there were also German citizens working. The Germans were told not to have any contact with the prisoners, but one woman would hide a sandwich in a secret hiding place each day for Wiener. Wiener says she did this each day for a month straight until he was moved to another camp. "She risked her life for me and I don't know why she did it," says Wiener. Wiener says he returned to that town many years later hoping to find the woman and thank her, but was un-

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Rose Avenue Project Gains Momentum

The Vernonia City Council held a workshop on Friday February 1, 2013 to discuss the proposed Rose Avenue Project, which would help relocate three social service facilities within the Vernonia community.

The Council met with representatives from the Vernonia Health Board, the Vernonia Senior Center, and the Vernonia Cares Food Bank. All three organizations suffered damage in the 2007 flood and are interested in moving their facilities out of the flood zone.

The City of Vernonia controls a piece of property between Rose and Weed Avenues at Cougar Street, next to the new West Oregon

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Lady Loggers Win League Title



The Vernonia Lady Loggers defeated Riverdale 49-40 on Saturday February 2, 2013 to clinch first place and the championship of the Northwest League in front of a raucous crowd at the Vernonia gym. The win guarantees the Lady Loggers a spot in the first round of the State Playoffs.

It was the sixteenth win in a row for head coach Steve Whiteman and the Vernonia girls.

Vernonia trailed by nine points with just five minutes left in the game

but came storming back to overtake the Mustangs behind the senior leadership of Samantha Wallace, Samantha Lindauer, and Cierra Hensen. The Lady Loggers also received tough inside play and several key baskets from Stephanie Castro, and received lots of help from Julia Fletcher and Meagan Sullivan.

The Lady Loggers play their final regular season game at home against Nestucca on Friday February 8, which will also be Senior Night.

Vernonia Health Center Ready to Open February 19

The Vernonia Health Board is pleased to announce that they plan to open the doors of the new Vernonia Health Center on February 19, 2013.

The Vernonia Health Center will operate under the management of The Public Health Foundation of Columbia County. Medical oversight will be provided by Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU).

The Health Center will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 5:00 PM and Tuesdays from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. Appointments are currently being scheduled, but according to Health Board members the response has exceeded expectations and they are currently already booked through the beginning of March. Appointments can be made by calling 800-244-4870.

"The community is showing that there is a need and that there is a desire to access services made available here in their own community," says Vernonia Health Board President, Marie Krahn.

The Health Center will be staffed by a Nurse Practitioner, Tera Roberts, and a Medical Assistant, Laura Onderdonk.

The Health Board is also actively working to regain rural health clinic status which will allow for a broader base of clients that can be seen. They are also going through the credentialing process in order to be able to accept most major insurances. Potential clients are encouraged to contact the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County at 503-397-4651 to ask if they accept their insurance. Anyone who is part of Care Oregon or have children in the Oregon Healthy Kids program are already accepted and can be seen immediately.

"One of my favorite things about

having the clinic re-open here in Vernonia is the fact that we are going to be able to see so many people," says Krahn. "Virtually everybody can be seen, which is how it should be. I am so thrilled about that."

The Health Board is asking that if community members would like to support the efforts of the Health Board to provide health care in Vernonia, they can schedule appointments at the clinic and also tell others in the community about the re-opening of the Health Center.

In other news, the Vernonia Health Board is continuing to move forward with plans to build a new facility to house the Health Center. Currently the Health Board is working with Scott Edwards Architects as their project manager and who will also create pre-design plans for the building.

The Health Board is getting ready to kick off their Capital Campaign to raise the remaining funds needed for the new construction. Current plans call for the new building to be part of the Rose Avenue Project, a group of social service buildings that would be developed between Rose and Weed Avenues at Cougar Street.

"The Health Board's goal is to do the project debt free," says Krahn. "We feel that the people in this community have already taken on enough with the passing of the school bond and the expected future costs of the wastewater treatment plant. With those two obligations that the community already has, the Health Board is really dedicated to this being a debt free project for the community."

The Vernonia Health Board does have some buyout money they will receive from FEMA for their current build-

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