

Schools Update: Building Dedication

By Dr. Ken Cox

The Vernonia School District would like to invite you to the formal dedication of our new facility on June 5th at 10:30 AM. We will be unveiling the Donor wall, our Champions Wall, and the bronze dedication plaque and quote from our open house. We also hope to have a surprise memorial to unveil as well. We are working diligently to have everything ready for the big event, so please join us for a short program, followed by building tours and a light lunch.

We are pleased to announce that the district has contracted with local contractor Dan Titus to begin work immediately on our new shop facility. Dan has done a lot of work for the district this past year in get-

ting us ready to start on the shop and in helping finish the greenhouse. He has also donated space to store the shop equipment for the past year. Many thanks to him for his help and the many hours of donated time he has contributed to our cause.

The current design for the shop is a 32 foot by 72 foot building that will house the wood shop equipment that was in the old building and much of the metal shop equipment as well. It will also include a restroom with access from the outside to make it available to those using the greenhouse when the shop is closed.

You may recall that the district received a grant from the Oregon Department of Education that is helping to pay for the facility. However, the cost of the building is nearly twice what was expected. We are going to need your help in getting the shop ready for the start of school next fall. You can help on the building itself (we will need help to install the insulation in the walls and then apply the wall covering), or if you can contribute financially, which would also be greatly appreciated and help with district funding.

In either case, please contact the district office at 503-432-1880.

As the school year winds to a close I want to thank all of those who have spent so much of their time volunteering for the district. It is a surprisingly long list and their service, no matter how small, makes a difference. I think we should all be proud of our small community that provides so many hundreds of hours of volunteer time to help others.

When I first came to Vernonia, nearly eight years ago, I often heard the comment "What do you expect, we're from Vernonia," spoken in a derogatory way indicating there was little to be proud of in our community. Drugs were more prevalent, often exchanged or used in the open. But I am pleased and proud to say that I have seen a difference in the pride and attitude of the members of our community. Especially since we have such an effective symbol of our perseverance, our dedication, and our commitment to the future, in our new schools. You have and are making a difference!

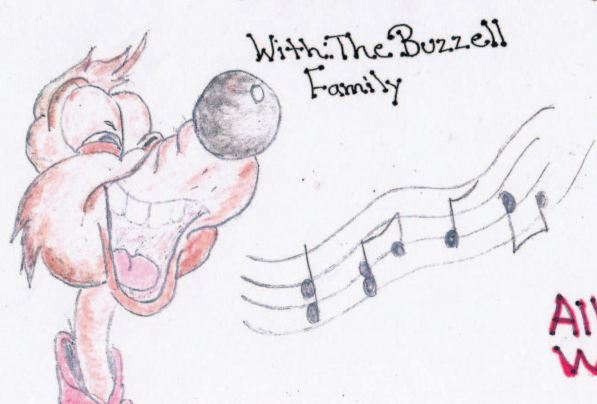
Thank you Vernonia district patrons for standing together and having the faith that we can do great things, if we simply stick together and believe that they can be done. It is truly amazing what can be done when we have faith: faith in the future, faith in one another, and faith that there is a hand, greater than any of ours that can guide us, if we are only willing to be still, to listen, and then to have the courage to follow.

Columbia County Spelling Bee

Six Vernonia students represented the Vernonia Schools at the Columbia County Spelling Bee in early May. Pictured (left to right) Ashley Jackson, VMS, took 2nd place, Ben Fleck VMS, finished in 3rd place, Gabriella McAdams, VES took 4th place, Dylan Taylor, VHS, finished in 1st place, Cassidy McLaughlin, VES, was a participant, and Jacob Eyrrick, VHS, took 2nd place. Taylor will represent Columbia County at the State Spelling Bee in August at the Oregon State Fair. Congratulations to all the Vernonia participants and good luck to Dylan at the State competition.



COUNTRY GOSPEL MUSIC NIGHT!



With The Buzzell Family

Where?
The Scout Cabin
When?
May 17-2014
Time?
6:30pm

All ages
Welcome

Vernonia School District Volunteer of the Month April 2014

Larry Elton



The Vernonia School District has had many compliments lately about how great the grounds at the new school and old school are being kept. A generous part of those compliments are due to our April "Volunteer of the Month," Larry Elton. Larry is a 1968 graduate of Vernonia High School and has lived his entire life in Vernonia.

Larry was an all-star athlete in both basketball and football at VHS and went on to play for Pacific University before serving his country and going to Vietnam. Larry retired from the logging industry almost 2 years ago. In his free time he enjoys hunting, fishing, attending his 3 grandkids' sporting events and helping Mark Brown with the maintenance of the school grounds. When the fishing isn't hot, you will often see Larry mowing, weeding or driving through town on the tractor. Make sure to give him thanks for helping our school grounds look so great, and remember that there are many ways to volunteer to help our community!

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