

Schools Update: Strategic Planning and Budget Committee

By Aaron Miller

Where are we? Where do we want to be? And how do we get from here to there?

These are the basic questions that the Vernonia School District (VSD) is seeking to answer through its new long-range strategic planning process, which will lead to the development of short- and long-term goals and priorities for the entire District. It will help us make important improvements for our students and community.

Staff and parent surveys have been distributed, with returns coming in at a very high rate. In addition to these surveys, we will gather information at several focus group meetings. These meeting dates include:

- March 10 – Vernonia Schools Instructional Team Leaders
- March 10 – VSD Board of Directors
- March 12 – Parent/Community Forum at Vernonia Schools Commons (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)
- April 2 – Parent/Community Forum at Vernonia Schools Commons (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)
- April 14 – Present initial findings to VSD Board at their regular meeting
- May 12 – Present final draft to VSD Board at their regular meeting

The final product will include three or four focused goals that support the vision for the future of VSD, as well as specific strategies to help achieve

those goals. We will determine how to measure our progress, and we will identify ways to activate staff, parents, and community partners in the programs and activities that will lead to our desired outcomes.

In short, this is an exciting process that will create a pathway to success for our District. We hope you will join us, whether that involves completing one of our surveys, or joining us at one of the community forums. Your input is invaluable.

If you have any questions regarding the process or meeting times and locations, please don't hesitate to call the VSD office at 503-429-5891.

The Vernonia School District has four open positions on its Budget Committee and is seeking interested applicants to help review their budget proposal for the upcoming 2016-17 school year. Budget Committee positions are filled through application and interview by the VSD Board of Directors for a three-year term. Public involvement in the school budget process is mandated by law.

Budget Committee Members are responsible for reviewing the proposed budget and assuring it is balanced, receiving public comment, and providing input and feedback at meetings that will be held throughout the spring. This

year's meetings are scheduled for May 5 and 12, with the final budget hearing on June 9.

In reviewing the over \$6 million dollar General Fund budget, the Committee must keep in mind the budget goals of the District which include providing the necessary instructional resources to ensure student success, maintaining safe and healthy physical facilities that provide a quality learning experience, and offering professional development opportunities for all employees.

Through their work the Budget Committee can recommend revisions to the budget if needed, and will approve a budget for adoption by the VSD School Board. The adopted budget becomes the basic short term operational plan and fiscal guideline for the VSD Board of Directors and the administrative staff for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of the VSD Budget Committee, please contact the VSD office at 503-429-5891.

VHS Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

The selection committee for the third edition of the Vernonia High School Athletic Hall of Fame met on Thursday, January 21st and selected the group that will be inducted for this year. This year's Hall of Fame inductees are:

- Dick and Kathleen Gwin, 1954
- Peter Schmidlin, 1997
- Tim Grady, 1990
- Brian Anderson, 1996
- Gaylen Weigand, 1978
- Gerald Millis, 1951
- Bill Braun, 1954

An induction event will take place on Saturday, April 2nd at the Cedar Ridge Complex and is open to the public. The event will start at 6:00 pm with a no host bar and social time. Dinner will be at 6:30 and the induction

ceremony will follow. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$17.00. We are asking all people wishing to attend to please contact Vernonia High School at 503-429-1340 and let Kathi Fetch know they are planning on attending. We would like to have a head count so we can be prepared for the event.

Those that were nominated but did not get selected will be kept on file for further consideration in future years. This is the third year of the Hall of Fame and it will continue to be held annually in the coming years. We hope to see everyone support this group's induction at Cedar Ridge on April 2nd.

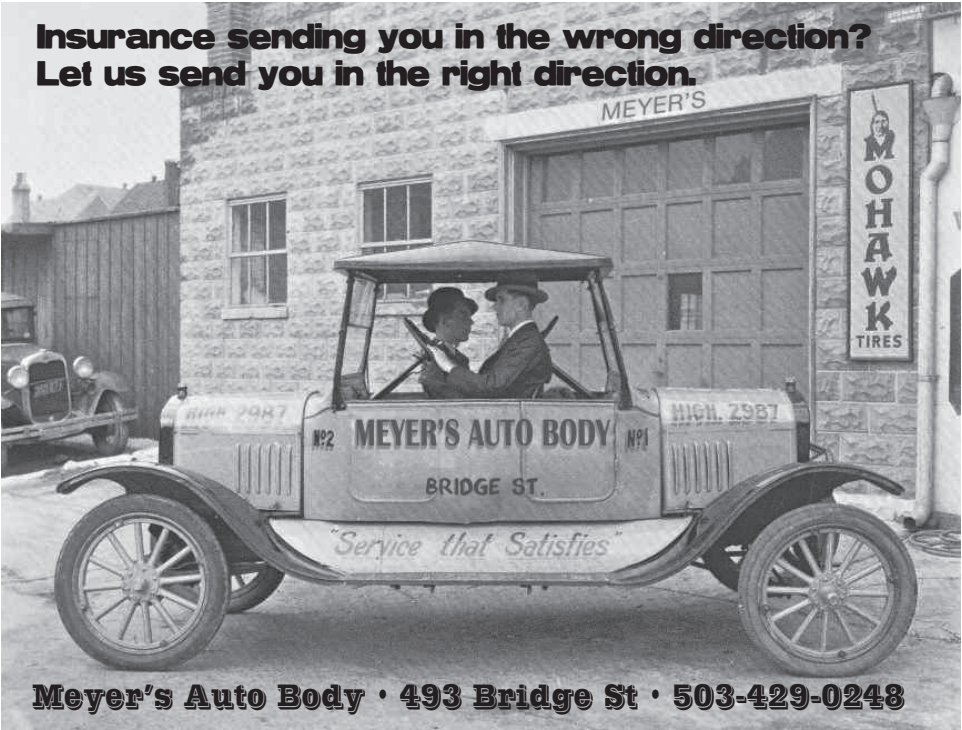
St. Patrick's Day

StPierreGraphics@aol.com

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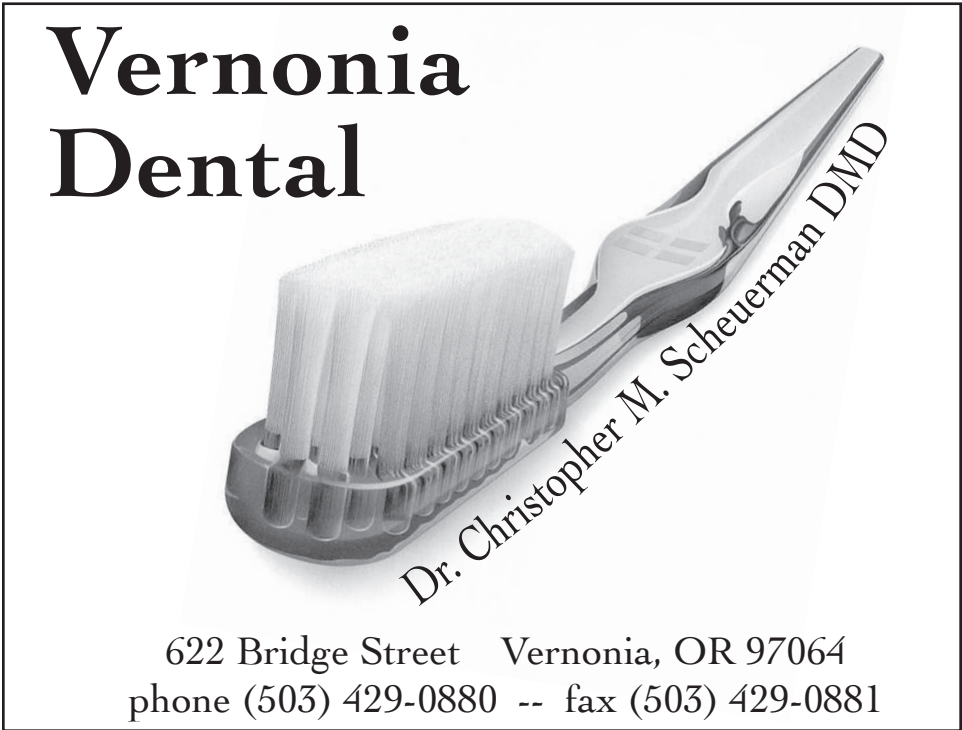
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CELTIC~CLOVER~CORNBEEF~DANCING~GOLD
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