

Schools Update: Impact of NOT Passing the Bond

By Aaron Miller

There has been much discussion and information provided about what facility improvements will occur if the Vernonia School District's (VSD) bond passes in November. There have also been many questions about the impact on the VSD if the bond does not pass.

Approximately 80% of any school district's budget covers staffing costs. While a passed Bond is not able to pay for staff and daily operations in the building, it will refinance the District's debt, freeing up over \$400,000 annually in general fund dollars that can be used for staff and daily operations.

If the bond is defeated, the District will have to pay these debt payments completely from the general fund, impacting staff and daily operations. The following adjustments would be potential options for balancing the budget under this scenario:

- Cutting days of school: Approximate savings = \$26,650/day; 15 days of school would need to be cut to balance the budget.
- Cutting Teaching Positions: Approximate savings = \$86,550/teacher (Salary/Benefits/Payroll Costs/etc.) 4.7 Teachers would need to be cut to balance the budget
- Cutting Instructional Assistants: Approximate savings = \$44,700/assistant (Salary/Benefits/Payroll Costs/etc.); 9 Instructional Assistants would need to be cut to balance the budget

In addition to the monetary costs of the District's debt, there are several "Losses of Productivity" that must be accounted for as well. Having been in recovery mode for almost 10 years, countless hours have been spent working to rebuild our schools, and pay off the debt incurred that allowed our students to enter this building on time.

While these efforts have been effective they have come with costs. These costs of raising funds to address our situation have taken time away from our mission to support student learning. Some of these costs include:

- Administrative work hours to raise funds, and try to find alternative sources of money that will provide funding to cover our construction debt.
- Time spent by the VSD Board and Vernonia Education Foundation Board to do the same.
- Cuts in staffing have increased workloads and forced several employees to cover multiple roles at school.
- A decrease in funding for supplies, field trips and other classroom needs.

The VSD will meet its financial obligations, and live within a balanced budget, as dictated by law. Some combination of these cuts will be necessary in next year's budget if the Bond does not pass.

Your Horoscope for October 2016



By Stacey Lynn

I feel like a broken record. There will be more tests, trials and events to help us grow our souls and to work on how we choose to respond to hardship.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) You may be too logical to be romantic this month. Assert yourself, stand out, lead and have the ability to manage your professional situation. Expect challenges related to rivalries and competition. Financially you do well, but pay attention to home and property. Relax, approach things methodically without rushing or useless overload.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) This is a crazy month for you. The first half, you are happy, sexy and get noticed. After the 18th you may feel alone, blocked, misunderstood or frustrated. Don't be surprised if there are financial difficulties or misunderstandings regarding money. Work behind the scenes the first half of the month and there will be success in the second half. Health is better after the 18th.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) From the 5th - 24th your love life sees challenges, forced changes or conflicts. Even if things seem to end poorly, this will be to your benefit later on. You are going through a time of luck and popularity. Your head is full of grand projects and you find the support to make things happen. General health is better than it has been.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) You are in for a passionate month. If you are a woman, you may want to refine your strong approach. Career chances of success are high, even if your income isn't great, it shows signs of improving. You have a lot of energy, but do not neglect your health. Chronic and contagious illnesses lurk in the shadows. Control your energy and impulses.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) It is a great time for romantic travel, spiritual journeys beside your loved one or discovering new facets of yourself. You enjoy popularity and attract cerebral people. Finances are good as long as you keep your books clear and honest. You may be feeling restless or have sleeping issues. Tendencies toward addictions might be heightened.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Love may be linked to travel or loving someone from afar. Money is certainly a priority. You are active in group projects or collective events on the horizon. The second half of the month is good for career opportunities. Mentally things could be better. Protect, take care of yourself and get plenty of rest.

Aries (March 21 - April 19) October finds you happier, healthier and full of love. Your loved ones are your universe. You need affection and you have the ability to offer it in return. Any frustrations improve after the 18th. First half of the month brings extra money and collaborations in all forms. Avoid excess and don't take chances.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) This is a good time to take advantage of anything that will improve your love life. Things will be more sober after the 18th. The work load is big but you fulfill all tasks well. Team work is important to success. Health could give you trouble. It is either full blown or you decide to take measures to solve old issues. Do it now!

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) The second half of the month is a great time for couples. Professionally you will be in the right place at the right time. Financially, avoid carelessness, speculation or rushing. It will cost you. A risk of accidents is possible, so show restraint. Avoid doing business with friends and having unpleasant discussions about money with your partner.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Beware of Love/Hate relationships. You know the one. Partnerships, collaborations or contracts may generate stress, but you are lucky in real-estate and long term investments in the first part of the month. Prolonged stress weakens your immune system and opens pathways to illnesses. Relax, move and step back from demanding situations.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Love could be found in travel. Leos are quite lucky this month. Words either written or spoken are very powerful. At work, underlings may cause you trouble. Money is not an issue this month for Leos, but health is. Treat known illnesses and do your best to not catch new ones. Avoid over-exhaustion and excesses of all kinds.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) From the 7th - 24th Virgo relationships blossom. This month promises professional achievement. Success will attract material earnings. Manage your finances wisely and honestly. You're in good shape and have a lot of energy, but stress or hurry may bring about accidents or other issues.

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