

## Schools Update: SPROUTS

By Aaron Miller

SPROUTS is a new group of parents working to partner with the Vernonia Elementary Staff to positively impact the educational environment at school. This group of parents would like to invite all interested parties to join them in this work.

Some of the projects this group is working on include: setting up a "Class Parent" program to support teachers in the classroom, reviving the fall festival fundraiser for next year, and connecting parent volunteers with needed tasks.

The "Class Parent" program will designate one parent (or a group of parents) to coordinate volunteers for the teacher, assist in project/party planning, collecting donated items (snacks, wipes, sanitizer, etc.), and whatever else the teacher may need help with.

Their goal for orga-

nizing volunteers is to connect parents with a desire to help with certain tasks (copying, cutting out, reading with students, etc.) to a specific need at school. SPROUTS is also looking for support and involvement from community members who are not parents of children at school to help bridge the gap between school and community.

The group's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 pm in the Vernonia Schools Library. If you can't make it, or are solely interested in volunteering in the classrooms, helping at events, or making a donation and staying updated on current activities, let them know and they will get you signed up to help.

For more information please contact Katy Dennis at (360) 472-0046, or send them an email at vefsprouts@yahoo.com. VEF SPROUTS: "Planting seeds for a brighter future."

## VHS Fall Sports Report

*continued from page 8*

her best of the season. Pauline Sandweg was 15th overall, finishing 2nd for VHS and also ran her best of the year. Lena Jacobsen, Tessa Bomke, Cassie McFalls, McKenzie Willard and Katy Goodman rounded out the rest of the Vernonia runners. "Cassie really showed physical toughness and courage running the 3.1 miles with a pulled hamstring," said Brown. "She didn't have to run, but she chose to because she wanted the team to have a chance to go to state."

The boys team finished 11th, paced by Brett Jones, Jakob Handegard, Clay Sullivan, Jarod Shaw, Sean Coffee and Ben Fleck. According to Brown, "it was their best effort of the season."

"When you put this season into context—that at the start of the season 8 weeks ago, only a couple of them could run a mile without stopping, for them to rise to this level—it was a successful season. Four of our girl runners were at or below 25 minutes for 5K, and four of our

boys were right at 20 minutes and those are very respectable times," said Brown.

**Football** - After what appeared to be a promising start to their season the Loggers struggled this year, losing all four Northwest League games.

After back-to-back non-league wins over Warrenton and Oakridge, Vernonia lost their next six games. They were competitive in a 20-18 league loss to Nestucca, before closing out their season with a 50-6 loss to Knappa at home and a 46-6 loss at Neah-kah-Nie.

Head coach Reed Watson said the team struggled with injuries to key players and some health issues. "There were also some coaching errors and things I could have taught and instructed them better to help the players progress," said Watson. He also said he had some commitment issues from some of his players.

On the bright side Watson played a lot of young players and is excited about

what he thinks is a very talented freshman class, that gained a lot of experience this season. "I looked at one time in our last game and we had eight freshman on the field at the same time," said Watson. "We discovered that we have quite a few fighters on this team, but they are very young."

Watson noted the solid and steady play on the line of Brandon Johnson, Gavin Everett, and James Watson. Watson also said he was impressed by the fearless play of Kale Sullivan at cornerback and Jake Patton at linebacker. He also noted the play of freshman running back Josh Rice who led the team in touchdowns with nine and was far and away the leading tackler on the team on defense. "It wasn't a surprise; I knew how much skill he had and how much heart." Watson also commended the leadership shown by Everett during the difficult season. "He really stayed optimistic and upbeat, and played really hard with a great attitude."

## Roll Columbia Concerts a Success

*continued from front page*

with Seamons to bring together the musicians that performed on the album and also at the concert at the Old Church.

The Old Church is a magnificent small concert venue located in Southwest Portland adjacent to the Portland State University campus, with beautiful acoustics and wonderful sight lines.

The concert opened with Seamons explaining the project and introducing author Greg Vandy who recently released his newest book, "26 Songs in 30 Days: Woody Guthrie's Columbia River Songs & the Planned Promise Land in the Pacific Northwest." Vandy gave a brief history of Guthrie's involvement with the BPA and Murlin's quest to rediscover all 26 songs and have them recorded.

Murlin performed with his band Fine Company and played three songs, including the iconic Pastures of Plenty, probably Guthrie's best known song from the collection.

Jon Neufeld and Darrin Craig played next. Neufeld produced the upcoming album for Seamons and Murlin, and is a fixture in the Portland Bluegrass music scene with his band Jackstraw.

Craig, whose haunting vocals were a highlight of the concert along with Neufeld's exquisite guitar work, is the lead singer in Jackstraw, who have been playing together in Portland for over 20 years.

Timberbound ended the first set with three songs including an enthusiastic rendition of Oregon Trail. The band included Seamons on banjo and vocals, Kate Sandgren on vocals, Gavin Duffy on guitar, and Hunter on fiddle.

Following an intermission Caitlin Belem Romtvedt and her father David Romtvedt performed. The Romtvedt's hail from rural Wyoming but have spent summers in Port Townsend, Washington teaching fiddle. They have a background in world music and specialize in music from the Basque Country in Europe. They are second cousins to Vernonia resident Brady Romdvedt who had not seen David since he was five years old and met cousin Caitlin for the first time at the concert.

The Romtvedts joined guitarist George Rezendes for two songs in his set. Rezendes, originally from Brooklyn, built Toolshed Soundlabs in Port

Townsend where he now lives. He recruited world renowned mandolin player David Grisman, a recent Port Townsend transplant, to play on the Roll Columbia album.

The audience for the second show received a special treat when vocalist Annalisa Tornfelt & the Tornfelt Sisters performed an unannounced version of the previously unrecorded and humorous Elecktricity And All. Tornfelt is part of the band Black Prairie, along with Neufeld and several members of The Decemberists.

Hunter and Seamons were the final act and their set featured Seamons joining Hunter for a guitar duo with Hunter providing powerful vocals. They also performed their version of Pastures of Plenty.

All the musicians came together on stage for the finale, a rousing version of Roll On, Columbia.

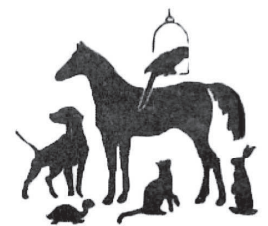
The Roll Columbia album will include all of the musicians featured in the concert along with Grisman and his wife Tracy, Peter Buck, formerly of R.E.M., and northwest musicians Michael Hurley, Tony Furtado, Martha

Scanlon, and Kate Power & Steve Einhorn. Renowned artist Eric Sandgren, the father of Timberbound vocalist Kate Sandgren will provide the cover art work for the album.

To learn more about the Roll Columbia project go to [www.benjoemusic.com](http://www.benjoemusic.com).

### Vernonia Veterinary Clinic

Small and Large Animals



Open

Mon, Wed & Saturday  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Call for Appointments  
(503) 429-1612

Or 24 hr. Emergency Number (503) 397-6470  
700 Weed Ave. Vernonia, OR



**VERNONIA**  
CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC, INC.

VernoniaChiro.com

Joseph Dombek, DC  
(971) 248-4055

Now Accepting New Patients  
610 Bridge Street • Vernonia, OR 97064



- Kitchen & Bathroom Remodels • Finish Carpentry
- Ceramic Tile Work • Custom Home Construction
- Additions • Commercial Tenant Improvements

Jim Morrison, Jr.  
General Contractor  
CCB# 112057

Ph: (503) 429-0154  
MorrisonRemodeling@hughes.net  
Vernonia, OR 97064

• Licensed • Bonded • Insured

### Baseline Pawn, Inc.

Christmas Layaway available  
\$500 Cash in minutes with collateral  
We buy/sell/pawn on gold & silver  
Renew loans by mail



2245 Baseline St., Cornelius  
(Across from Fred Meyer)

503-530-8119  
State Licensed PB-0388

Open  
everyday  
at 10 a.m.