

Schools Update: Winter Weather and School Closures

By Barb Carr

When winter weather hits, the Vernonia School District sometimes has tough decisions to make on whether school will be in session, on a 2-hour delay, or if a full closure is warranted. We'd like to share the following information regarding what actually goes into the decision of delaying the start of school or canceling school for the day.

Rob Curl, owner of Curl School Bus Services, provides the greatest input to the District on these matters and takes these decisions very seriously for the safety of our school children and our bus drivers.

Mr. Curl provided the following information on how he assesses the safety of our roads during questionable weather.

On days when road conditions are questionable Rob is out driving the bus routes by 4:15 am. He communicates with truck drivers all over the Vernonia, Mist and Birkenfeld communities getting firsthand reports of road conditions from one end of the district to the other. With the enhancement of technology, Rob monitors temperature gauges and radar to help assist in his recommendation. As most people do, he watches the temperature gauge in his truck. However, to take it a step further, Rob has infrared technology that shows him

the temperature on the surface of the road. The infrared temperature gauge has proved very advantageous on several occasions. Earlier in the fall the air temperature was below freezing but road temperatures were above 32 degrees. Buses ran on schedule this day, and there were no incidents of slippage.

Another tool Rob relies on is his cell phone antenna booster. It allows him to have access to the internet regardless of where he is driving. He is able to look at multiple radar systems with real time data and, thanks to Google Earth technology, he can look at individual routes to see where the moisture is tracking.

By 5:30 am Rob contacts Superintendent Miller and provides his recommendation. Together they make the decision to go on schedule, delay the start of, or cancel school altogether.

The most important factor in determining a delayed start or a full cancellation is the overall safety of our students and the forecast for the remainder of the day.

If conditions are forecasted to improve as the day goes on, likely a

delayed start will be the call. However, if conditions look to remain the same or become worse, a closure is in order.

Another factor that also must be considered is the condition of roads leading into Vernonia, and out of neighboring communities. Mr. Miller is monitoring conditions in these areas to ensure that staff are able to arrive safely to work. The safety of our students, staff and fellow community members out on the roads is our number one concern.

The VSD would like to thank Rob Curl for his dedication to the safety of our students and staff. His efforts help to make the best informed decision possible given the information at hand. Thanks to Rob and Curl School Bus Services!

VHS Winter Sports Report

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a major decision.

Nick Bennett, at 152, also finished 6th and had two wins by fall before losing his first match by a 4-2 decision and then having to forfeit his two remaining matches.

James Watson won two matches by fall at 170 pounds.

While the team didn't travel to the Oregon Classic on January 13-14 due to weather concerns, Lene Jacobsen went on her own and placed 3rd out of 16 wrestlers at 138 pounds. After losing her first match, Lene came back to win her next 4 straight matches. "An amazing effort," said head coach Barnes.

Vernonia will host Neah-Kah-Nie and Yamhill Carlton for a meet on January 26 and Warrenton and Riddle on February 7.

Boys Basketball – After defeating Faith Bible 76-25 on January 3, the Loggers fell to Knappa 61-53 at home on January 4 for their first Northwest League loss. The team bounced back with a 53-47 win over Nestucca on January 6.

The Loggers are currently in 2nd place with a 4-1 record in a very tough Northwest League that has 4 of the top

10 ranked teams state wide; the Loggers are ranked #10 in the state with a 9-2 record overall.

Several games that were cancelled due to weather have not yet been rescheduled, including important home match ups against currently ranked #3 Life Christian and #8 Columbia Christian, although a game against Gaston was rescheduled for Wednesday, January 18.

Girls Basketball – The Lady Loggers fell to Faith Bible in overtime 51-44 on January 3, ending Vernonia's 47 game win streak against Northwest League competition. The girls rebounded with two wins, defeating Knappa 59-36 at home on January 4 and then traveling to Nestucca for a 44-20 win.

The Lady Loggers currently sit in 2nd place in the Northwest League with a 6-1 record, although they will pick up a forfeit win over Delphian who is no longer competing this season.

The Lady Loggers have an 8-5 record overall and are ranked #12 in the state. A cancelled game against Columbia Christian has not yet been rescheduled.

VHS Hall of Fame Nominations Being Accepted

Vernonia High School Athletic Department is seeking nominations for the Vernonia High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Nominations can be for individuals, teams or community members. Nominations should be sent to: Vernonia HS, 1000 Missouri Ave., Vernonia, OR 97064, c/o Gordon Jarman, AD.

Nominations should include past recognition for state level achievements by athletes or teams. These accomplishments should be verifiable through newspaper clippings, pictures, post season records and not just opinions by those wishing to nominate a candidate. Post high

school accomplishments are acceptable to qualify for the VHS Hall of Fame. If a community member is being nominated their contributions to the athletic programs need to be listed.

In actuality applications are accepted at all times during the year with the selections being made in January and February. The induction ceremony will be scheduled in mid to late April. For a list of all requirements for qualifications to the various levels of the VHS Hall of Fame contact Gordon Jarman Athletic Director VHS, at the above address or through e-mail: gjarman@vernonia.k12.or.us.

Estate Planning Seminar

Saturday, January 21, 2017
10 am at Vernonia Christian Church
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OCEF Church Planters in Partnership with Financial Planning Ministry, a non-profit Christian Church organization, to present information on Trusts, Wills, and Advanced Directives.

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Vernonia Christian Church office:

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Look for more information in the
February 2 issue of Vernonia's Voice



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