

Schools Update: The Season of Giving

By Arron Miller

As the season of giving is upon us I am reflecting on all the giving I am so fortunate to witness every day in the halls of our schools. Mixing 550 students and 90 staff members together each day can bring a lot of challenges, but more frequent than the challenges are incredibly compassionate acts of kindness that give me hope for our future.

Here are a few examples:

- A fifth grade self-manager helping take care of kindergarteners who need help with opening their milk.
- HS Leadership students leaving notes of kindness and recognition on other students' lockers.
- A staff member noticing a posi-

tive interaction between two students and providing a reward ticket to acknowledge that behavior.

- A Middle School teacher noticing a student who was down, checking in with them, and leaving them with a smile.
- Our Sprouts parent group soliciting classroom gifts for each teacher in the building.
- Former, retired teachers volunteering their time to read with children each week.
- A stream of students coming in to get a piece of candy at the DO, but also staying to chat with staff for a few minutes about their day. Positive Relationships are key to our kids' success!
- A student on the playground helping a hurt student to the office.

• A basketball player working with another player to develop a skill.

- Students saying "You can sit with us," in the cafeteria after noticing that someone was sad during lunch.
- Students saying to their teachers..... "I love you."

What gifts these are! We are so lucky to be in a profession where we get to witness the magic of youth, and the wonderful people they are, and are becoming. Thank you to the community for sharing your children with us each day. It is truly a gift that we appreciate!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any other School District happenings, please call at (503) 429-5891.

Vernonia, Ten Years After the Flood: Part 2 – The Recovery *continued from page 9*

Ten Years Later

Ten years after the flood, Vernonia's recovery is still not complete. During the recovery well over \$30 million dollars were spent to complete mitigation projects throughout the community.

The Senior Center and Vernonia Cares Food Bank are the final pieces to the Vernonia Flood Recovery story. While Vernonia Cares continues to operate in the American Legion Hall where they were flooded in 2007, the Senior Center was demolished at the same time as the schools, and has been without a permanent home. The Seniors leased the Vernonia Community Learning Center from the City to house their thrift store, and meet once a week at the American Legion Hall. The City of Vernonia has secured \$2 million in CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds and will break ground in the spring of 2018 on the new home for Vernonia Seniors and Vernonia Cares, a joint facility in the Rose Avenue Project that will complete Vernonia's recovery.

Meanwhile, each winter Vernonia residents continue to closely monitor river gauges on Rock Creek and the Nehalem River whenever heavy rains start to fall. While many Vernonia homes no longer sit below the flood levels of 2007, the businesses in the downtown corridor near Rock Creek remain vulnerable, as do a small number of residents. Vernonia Cares now has an elaborate evacuation plan in place, which was activated two years ago when high water surrounded their building during heavy rains on December 7-8, 2015, that caused landslides, blocked roads, and overflowed local rivers and streams. Flood waters again threatened homes and businesses, and slowly crept up across the sports fields at Spencer Park, briefly reaching Bridge Street, where, at the corner of Washington Avenue, a sign with a red line indicates the high water mark from 2007.

While the details of the long and complex recovery the Vernonia community navigated during the last ten years become cloudy and fade into memory, Vernonians are reminded daily of their immense rebuilding effort when they see the raised homes, the empty lots, and the new facilities they worked together to construct.

VHS Winter Sports Report *continued from page 16*

on the season so far and are currently ranked #12 in OSAA.

The Loggers posted a 64-57 win over non-league Portland Christian on December 7, and then kicked off league play with a solid 83-41 win over City Christian on December 12.

The Loggers fell at Knappa, the #2 ranked team in 2A, 69-48 on December 14, but rebounded with 61-49 win over Neah-Kah-Nie on December 16.

The Loggers will play in the St. Paul Tournament over the holiday break, with games against

Monroe on December 21 and Lost River on December 22. They return to league play with home games on January 3 against Faith Bible and Nestucca on January 5, and travel to OSAA #1 ranked Columbia Christian on January 9.

Girls Basketball – The Lady Loggers are off to a good start in Northwest League play this season, posting a 3-0 record and sitting in first place as they head into the holiday break. The girls have a 4-3 record overall and are currently ranked #12 in OSAA rankings.

After struggling early in the season with losses to Kennedy and Portland Christian the Lady Loggers have won three straight league games, defeating City Christian 43-23, Knappa 34-23, and Neah-Kah-Nie 45-17.

The Lady Loggers will also compete in the St. Paul Tournament over the holiday break, with match ups against Monroe on December 21 and Lost River on December 22. They return to league play with home games on January 3 against league rival and #2 ranked Faith Bible, and Nestucca on January 5. They travel to Columbia Christian on January 9.



Angel Memorials Headstones

Granite Markers & Monuments
971-344-3110

Locally owned in Vernonia
Serving NW Oregon
All Cemeteries Accepted
Order drawing at no charge online

www.angelmemorialsheadstones.com

— A Trusted Name in Funeral Service —

**Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt
Funeral Home & Crematory**



2308 Pacific Ave.,
Forest Grove
503-357-2161

741 Madison Ave.,
Vernonia
503-429-6611

Jeff & Kathryn Hoyt

Family Owned & Operated
— Formerly Prickett's Mortuary —
Forest Grove Memorial Chapel
503-357-3126

To sign the online guest book or to send a condolence to the family go to www.fuitenrosehoyt.com



Vernonia School Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next School Board Meeting is scheduled for January 11 at 6:00 pm in the Schools Library.

FOR SALE

2 Lots For Sale, 0.23 acres each
Columbia County tax account #22580 & #22584. \$32K each. Contact (503) 624-8665 or (503) 997-2262.

HELP WANTED

Certified Medical Assistants needed!
Full-time positions at Tillamook Medical Plaza, Vernonia, and Banks. Competitive wages and benefits. CMA and BLS certification preferred. Apply online at: AdventistHealth.org/trmc/

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

STORAGE. TOP

Need more room?

See us for the lowest prices **GUARANTEED!**
Debit/Credit now accepted

5x10 \$39	10x10 \$69	10x20 \$99	RV Storage \$149
-----------	------------	------------	------------------

Outside storage available
Totally fenced and gated
Padlocks available

58605 Nehalem Hwy South • P.O. Box 292
Vernonia, Oregon 97064
(503) 429-7867

10-5 Tue-Sat
12-4 Sun

NEW LOCATION



The BLACK BEAR
COFFEE COMPANY.
Just Suck It Up!

FRESH ROASTED COFFEE
ESPRESSO • BAKED GOODS

OPEN EVERY DAY AT 6:00 AM

825 BRIDGE STREET
503-429-0214