

Schools Update: Bond Projects Get Started

By Aaron Miller
District Superintendent

It is an exciting time in the Vernonia School District as projects from the 2017 Bond are beginning to be addressed. The upgrades, repairs, and additions will further enhance the wonderful facility our students have for their educational needs. Thank you again for supporting our youth!

One of the first completed projects is adding storage to our building. Trophy cases now line our main hallway, and the rich history of Vernonia Schools' success is on display. In addition to the many athletic awards, there are also academics and automotive awards touting past accomplishments.

Placing these trophy cases has also enabled us to have the permanent space available to once again display class graduation pictures. These will begin being hung sometime before Spring Break.

Work at Mist Grade School is



also moving forward. A roofing contract has been awarded with a new roof and gutters slated to be in place prior to Spring Break.

Another area of improvement involved enhancing our technology for large events in both gymnasiums and our cafeteria. A contract has been awarded to place new speaker systems in each of our gyms, and the commons.

In addition, the commons will be outfitted with a high-powered digital

projector and large, theater style screen. These improvements will enhance our ability to provide quality presentations for large groups in this area, benefitting our students, staff, and community.

Our Sprouts parent group in Vernonia Elementary, and the students and volunteers at Mist Grade School are both working to put together proposals for new playground equipment through Bond funding. Students, staff, and volunteers will determine what kinds of

equipment are desired, and then will develop a site plan for where it should be installed. We are very excited about our students being involved in this process.

The next steps for Bond work are many. Long range projects through the Bond include adding classrooms, constructing a new welding shop, and installing a new track and football field. Because these projects are slated for the summer of 2019, the District has not yet begun detailed planning of these projects. Once this detailed planning begins, likely sometime before the end of March, we will invite the public to hear, and provide input, on these initial plans. Once our community meetings begin we hope you can join us. If you have any questions regarding Bond projects, or anything else school related, please contact Superintendent Miller at (503) 429-5891. You can also visit with the Superintendent at his next community meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 at the Black Iron Grill from 6:30-7:30 am.

Vernonia Boys and Girls Basketball Head to Playoffs

Both the Vernonia boys and girls basketball teams finished their regular seasons in third place in the Northwest League, and are scheduled to compete in the league playoffs on Thursday, February 15.

The Logger boys, led by senior Clay Sullivan who is concluding his outstanding Vernonia career, finished the regular season with a 14-4 record in league play, a 17-7 record over all, and ranked #11 in OSAA 2A. They will face off against second place Columbia Christian at 7:00 pm at Columbia Christian, who are 24-1 on the season, are ranked #2 in OSAA, and have

already defeated the Loggers twice this season. The winner of that game will advance to the League finals at Forest Grove High School against first place Knappa on Saturday, February 17 at 7:00 pm. The loser will play the fourth place finisher in the league at 3:30 for the final spot in the opening round of the State Playoffs beginning February 23.

The Lady Loggers ended league play with an 11-3 record and a 12-8 record overall. They will play at second place City Christian at 6:00 pm. The winner of that game will advance to the League finals at Forest

Grove against first place Faith Bible on February 17 at 5:00 pm. The loser will play the fourth place finisher in the league at 2:00 for the final spot in the opening round of the State Playoffs.

The Logger boys ended their season with four straight wins, including a 42-31 win at Nestucca, a 71-60 away victory over Gaston, and home wins over Life Christian 65-32, and Delphian 77-40.

The Lady Loggers concluded their season with five straight wins, including away wins over Nestucca 28-21 and Gaston 24-22.

Wauna Credit Union Spreading Charity and Goodwill with Donation to Backpack Program

Clatskanie-based financial cooperative, Wauna Credit Union (Wauna CU), was honored by Long Beach Mayor Jerry Phillips with the Mayor's Award, having raised \$13,135 throughout 2017 for local Backpack Programs. The Credit Union's goal for the year was \$12,000.

Backpack Programs assist children in need by providing weekend meals. These programs are completely reliant on volunteers and the goodwill of others, like the employees at Wauna CU. Wauna CU staff is responsible for giving \$7,646 of the total donation.

"I am truly grateful for the outpouring of support we received from employees and the community in our fundraising efforts. It was my pleasure

to facilitate the fundraising on behalf of Wauna CU and the Backpack Program for the last two years. The employee donations alone show you how caring our employees are and how passionate they are about ending childhood hunger. I am thankful that Wauna CU gives us the opportunity to give back to our communities in such a powerful way," said Wauna CU Executive Assistant Jenifer Katon.

Hoping to raise the awareness of food insecurity in rural areas while supporting local Backpack Programs, Wauna CU has amplified charity initiatives over the past few years.

"The local charity sponsorship is an employee and member sponsored

program that aligns with the credit union philosophy of 'People Helping People.' Our employees are passionate about making a difference in our local communities and in 2017 employees voted to support the Backpack Programs," said Wauna CU CEO and President Robert Blumburg, before adding, "We raised over \$13,000 that has provided 200 new backpacks, more than 12,000 meals, and more than 24,000 snacks to local children. We are very happy to have contributed."

If you would like to learn more about Backpack Programs in your area, you can get started by contacting your local school's office for additional resources.

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