

Schools Update: School Finance

By Superintendent Aaron Miller

In 29 years of working in schools, I have heard a positive budget message from the State of Oregon twice. This year, however, there is great potential there will be a third.

Oregon's support of K-12 public schools has been woeful, leading to some of the shortest school years, lowest spending per student, and highest class sizes in the nation. While the proposed basic State School Fund budget does not adequately move the dial forward to fund Oregon K-12 schools, and address these issues, the proposed Student Success Act legislation would.

The proposed Student Success Act would generate almost \$2 billion dedicated solely for K-12 public education, taxing large corporations while providing income tax relief for individ-

ual Oregonians. These funds would then supplement the State School Fund to specifically address early childhood education, decreasing class sizes, increasing the number of days Oregon students are in school, and addressing the social and emotional needs of our most trauma-impacted students.

For the Vernonia School District (VSD) specifically this would mean an increase in our budget of several hundred thousand dollars, depending on the final version of the bill. With this level of funding, the VSD will be considering the following options:

- Add several days of school to our calendar (a standard year is usually 180 days, and Vernonia students currently attend school 159 days per year).
- Hire another teacher at each school (VES, VMS, and VHS) to decrease class sizes and increase the number of avail-

able electives.

- Continue to bolster our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to offer our students more options to prepare them for their futures.

I encourage you to participate in the process and contact your legislators. Let them know how important our children are, how important a strong educational system is for them as individuals, and how important a quality K-12 education system is for our state as a whole.

One action in place to try and impact this decision state-wide is a planned May 8 "statewide teacher walk-out day." On this day, many school districts in the state will be closing their doors as their entire teaching staffs plan to descend on Salem in support of adequate K-12 school funding.

Teachers in Vernonia had decisions to make on whether to support this

movement and determined that closing school for a day was not in the best interest of their students, so they are showing support for the funding initiative in a different way. From 8:00-8:15 am, teachers will gather in front of our school, declaring their support for adequate funding while students are in short assemblies with their respective schools. This action will allow our teachers' voices to be heard, but will have minimal impact on our students' education and day at school.

The VSD is working hard to provide as many options as possible for its students to thrive, and be successful. The increased funding within the Student Success Act to address the budget shortfalls in our instructional programming would be a big step toward adequately providing the educational opportunities our children need and deserve.

VHS Spring Sports Report *continued from page 12*

Starr McKinnis, McKenzie Pickering, and Hannah Creutz placed 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th, respectively. All had PRs with Whiteman running 15.29. Whiteman also placed 5th in the 200 meters. Ely took 2nd in the 800 meters with a PR of 2:43. In the 1,500 meters Sadie Gump finished 3rd with a PR of 5:39 and Emma Hahn took 6th.

At the Portland Christian Invitation, which featured 24 schools, the Logger boys finished 15th and the girls finished 18th.

Field event highlights for the boys included Martin who took 6th in the high jump, Carreon's 7th place finish in the shot put with a PR of 37'7", and Zik-

mund and Sullivan finishing 5th and 9th in the javelin.

On the track, Handegard took 6th in the 800 meters with a PR of 2:08.97, which ranks him 2nd in the league, and Martin finished 7th in the 300 hurdles with a PR of 45.95, the best time in the league this season. Sullivan ran a PR of 55.96 in the 400 meters.

For the girls, Gump took 6th in the 3,000 meters with a PR 12.29, the 2nd best league time this season. McKinnis took 5th in the discus with a PR throw of 97'9", which ranks her 3rd in the league. Abby Coleman had a PR of 86'7" in the javelin and her triple jump of 27'4" was also a PR.

Vernonia was scheduled to host its first home track meet in decades on May 2. The District Meet will be held on May 10-11 at Portland Christian.

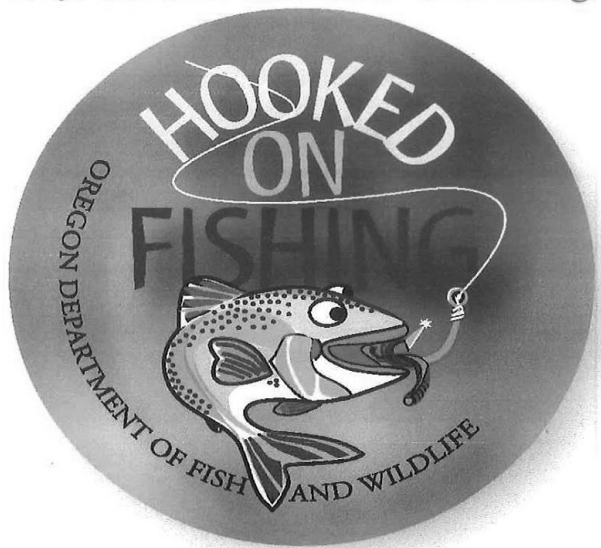
Baseball – The Loggers got their first win of the season, a 3-2 win over Portland Christian on April 18.

The Loggers are 1-15 on the season in Special District 1 play after falling to Gaston 14-0 on April 30.

The Loggers will end their season with a home doubleheader against Gaston on May 3.

Vernonia School Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next School Board Meeting is scheduled for May 9 at 6:00 pm in the Schools Library.

Hey, Kids, Get Hooked On Fishing!



ODFW to Host Family Fishing Event at Vernonia Lake

When: Saturday, May 4th 2019

Time: 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Where: Off Hwy 47 in Vernonia

Instruction, equipment and bait are provided.

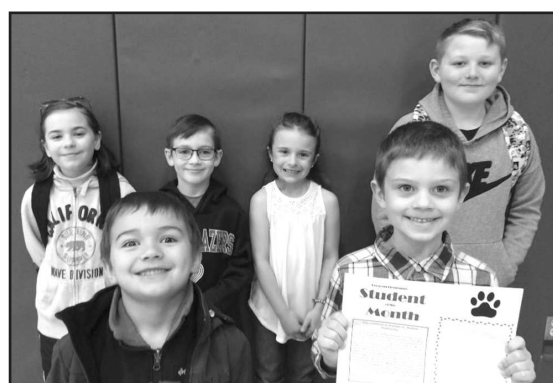
Under Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, anglers ages 11 and under can fish for free while those 12-17 will need to have a juvenile angling license. All fishing regulations continue to apply during this event.



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife / www.dfw.state.or.us

Vernonia Students of the Month

March 2019



Elementary School

Front Row: Sterling Taylor (K), Drew Stahlnecker (1st)
Back Row: Luna Scott (3rd), Henry Vance (2nd), Adelene Stewart (2nd), Dilyn Lardy (5th) Not Pictured: Gideon May-Fitch (K), Wyatt Mullins (4th)

Kaiden Van Lom Grade 6

Kaiden is known as a responsible student who tries hard, comes prepared for class, is conscientious about getting his work done, and doing the best he can. He says he likes math, art, and physical ed. He plays baseball and likes to draw in his spare time.



Sean Coffey Grade 12

Sean says he loves math and is currently taking calculus II at PCC in order to challenge himself. Sean participated in three sports – cross country, basketball, and baseball. He plays clarinet in the band and has also been part of the robotics program at school. After graduation Sean hopes to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Sponsored by Senator Betsy Johnson