



**SOUSA MEDLEY—** WGS Advanced Band (7th and 8th grades) under the direction of Ward Nelson brings an evening's entertainment at Spring Concert, Art and Craft Show to an end with a medley of John Phillip Sousa marches.

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vernonia

freedom



25¢

Thursday May 21, 1981

Vol. 3 No. 28

Serving the Nehalem Valley



**ROAD WORK—** As promised by the State Highway Department, Bridge St. from the Nehalem River Bridge to the Fire Hall, is being widened by six feet. The job is expected to reach completion near June 1.

## St. Mary's plans auction

On May 30, 1981, a historical landmark will go on the auction block. The old St. Mary's Church in Vernonia, which was built in 1924, will be a major item up for bid.

Through the generous donations of the parishioners, business community and friends of the parish, the first annual St. Mary's auction will contain an unusual collection of interesting articles. For example, Singer treadle machines, handmade quilts, English surveyor's outfit, lineman's climbing gear, along with furniture, appliances, cameras, stereos, firewood and a pair of peacocks.

The open auction will be held in the church parking lot. The silent auction and buffet lunch will be held in the Church Hall, located at 960 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia. The auction will begin at 10 am. For further information please call 429-8841.

## Vernonians in Special Olympics

The 1981 Special Olympics track and field meet was held this past weekend May 15 and 16 at the University of Oregon's

Hayward field. There were approximately 1600 participants from throughout Oregon. The students competed according to age and prior times from the district meet.

Rainier High School sent three Vernonia students with the following results:

Jack Andrus-First 200 meter Eighth 50 meters.

Diana Duarte-Third mile, Fifth 200 meters.

Rick Luttrell-First 400 meter relay. First 50 meters. Second 200 meters.

Rainier High School students would like to thank Sam's Food Store and Vernonia Market Place for donating drinks and snacks.

The team's coaches are Linda Webster and Dana Hyde.

## 47J budget faces drastic funding cuts

Included in the last two week's editions of the *Vernonia Freedom* have been the official notices of the public hearing for the Vernonia School District 1981-82 budget. The district budget committee completed their review and approval of the budget on April 30. The public hearing will be held at 8 pm on Friday, May 22. At that time any citizen may attend to present their own opinions or ask

questions.

The budget committee was faced with the common problems confronting all Oregon school districts this year - that of continuing the operation of a viable educational program with drastically curtailed state and federal revenues. The net result is a shift from governmental support to an increased local property tax. In spite of double digit inflation escalation, the

budget committee has held the local district expenditures for the next school year to a 1.02 percent increase. Several maintenance projects scheduled this year have been delayed, no new programs were authorized, some cuts were made in athletic programs with elimination totally of freshman basketball and equipment and supply items in all areas receiving severe scrutiny.

One of the severe revenue problems faced by the committee was catastrophic reductions in State Basic School Support. The district will receive \$25,155 less for the current year than expected, eroding current cash balances and faces a further actual reduction in state support of over \$227,000 for next year. When this is coupled with almost total elimination of federal revenue sharing funds, school lunch support and drastic cuts in special education funds, the local district loses approximately one-half of its revenues other than local property taxes.

The district will be forced to subsidize the lunch program and special education classes at a much higher level than ever

before as a result of this change in philosophy of returning control and responsibility to the local districts. To recover part of this loss, lunch prices will be markedly increased for students next year. Individual student meal prices, it is anticipated, will nearly double. In addition, students will be assessed a part of the cost for classes such as Driver Education and for transportation in Portland Community College classes.

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## Awards assembly time changed

The VHS Principal's Award Assembly previously scheduled for 1 pm May 26 has been rescheduled to 9 am May 26.

## JAMBOREE PRINCESSES



This year's Jamboree Court includes Holly Holm (top left), Melody Sauer (bottom left) and Tawna Arnold (right). All three girls are juniors at VHS.

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