

## Youths help with food baskets and toy drive

Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids has partnered with Warrenton Grade School for the annual holiday toy drive.

Last year, Healthy Kids provided gifts to 265 children.

There are several ways for the community to get involved. Bring a cash donation or unwrapped toy to the grade school, 820 S.W. Cedar Ave., or stop by the school to pick up an "adopt-a-family" form.

Warrenton Fire Department is the place to go if you want to donate nonperishable food for holiday baskets. The fire department has forms to fill out for those who'd like to receive baskets.

Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids and Warrenton Grade School joined forces with Walmart to supply a complete Thanksgiving meal

## We're losing war on preserving vets' stories

The United States is losing an estimated 362 World War II veterans every day, according to a recent estimate by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The few remaining -- about 558,000 WWII veterans -- will soon be gone, taking with them their stories of life during the war. Veterans' Legacies, a nonprofit group based in Oregon, wants to capture personal accounts of WWII veterans and preserve and share them in a free online database available to the public.

Gary Mortensen, co-founder of Veterans' Legacies, and Mark Browning, executive director, recently expanded their efforts to collect the stories of Oregon's WWII veterans.

### A GROWING URGENCY

In response to the growing urgency of the situation, Mortensen and Browning



Photo by Debbie Morrow

Fifth-grade members of Warrenton Youth Basketball gave up a day off Tuesday to help put together Thanksgiving meal boxes.

to 97 families of students.

The Warrenton Youth Boys Basketball Team helped put

the boxes together Tuesday morning and families picked them up later in the day.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If your school or organization is interested, contact the executive director at [info@veteranslegacies.com](mailto:info@veteranslegacies.com).

looked for ways to increase the ability to research and interview surviving veterans and their families.

In September, the organization launched Mighty Endeavor, an initiative that leverages educators, students, volunteers and service organizations across the state.

"The goal of the Mighty Endeavor is to have Oregon successfully collect history about every WWII veteran who enlisted from the state," Mortensen said.

### WORKING WITH STUDENTS

The men formed a partnership with OregonASK, a

group whose expertise includes curriculum development, educational training and enrichment opportunities for students.

Together they created a curriculum to guide efforts in the classroom, in an after-school program or by a family member of a veteran.

Mark McKinney, a Social Studies teacher at Yamhill Carlton High School, was one of the first to adopt the program.

"The students are learning history in a unique way," McKinney said. "They are engaged on a level that develops a wide variety of skills, from interpersonal communications to research to technology."

McKinney has gotten calls from parents wanting to know more about the project because their children are genuinely excited about the history they're learning.

## Foundation begins 'sponsor-a-locker' drive

Warrenton High School has begun a "Sponsor a Locker" fund-raiser that will honor favorite coaches, graduates, teams or classmates.

It will cost \$31,000 to replace the lockers in the boys and girls locker rooms, according to a flier from Warrenton Schools Foundation, a nonprofit group that raises money to support athletic and educational programs at the high school.

"Currently, our lockers are not functional for our

PE and student athletes," according to the flier.

"Our goal is to raise the money to purchase the lockers by winter break. It is a great way to support our Warriors."

To sponsor a locker, send a \$100 donation and the desired marker plate inscription to Warrenton Schools Foundation, P.O. Box 663, Warrenton OR 97146.

For more information, contact Warrenton High School Principal Rod Heyen at 503-861-3317.

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