

## Cross country runner seeks help for invitation costs

Vernonia High School cross-country runner Ashley Murray, one of several students selected to represent Oregon at the fifth-annual Parkroyal Down Under International Games in Australia, is seeking sponsors to help raise the more than \$3,000 needed for the trip.

Murray, who attends Vernonia Christian Academy, has been running competitively since her freshman year as part of the VHS track and field team. She joined the cross-country team in her junior year and won the District Championship.

In 2001, she won the 800 meter championship at the Track and Field District meet, then went to State, where she placed eighth in the 2A girls 800 meter dash.

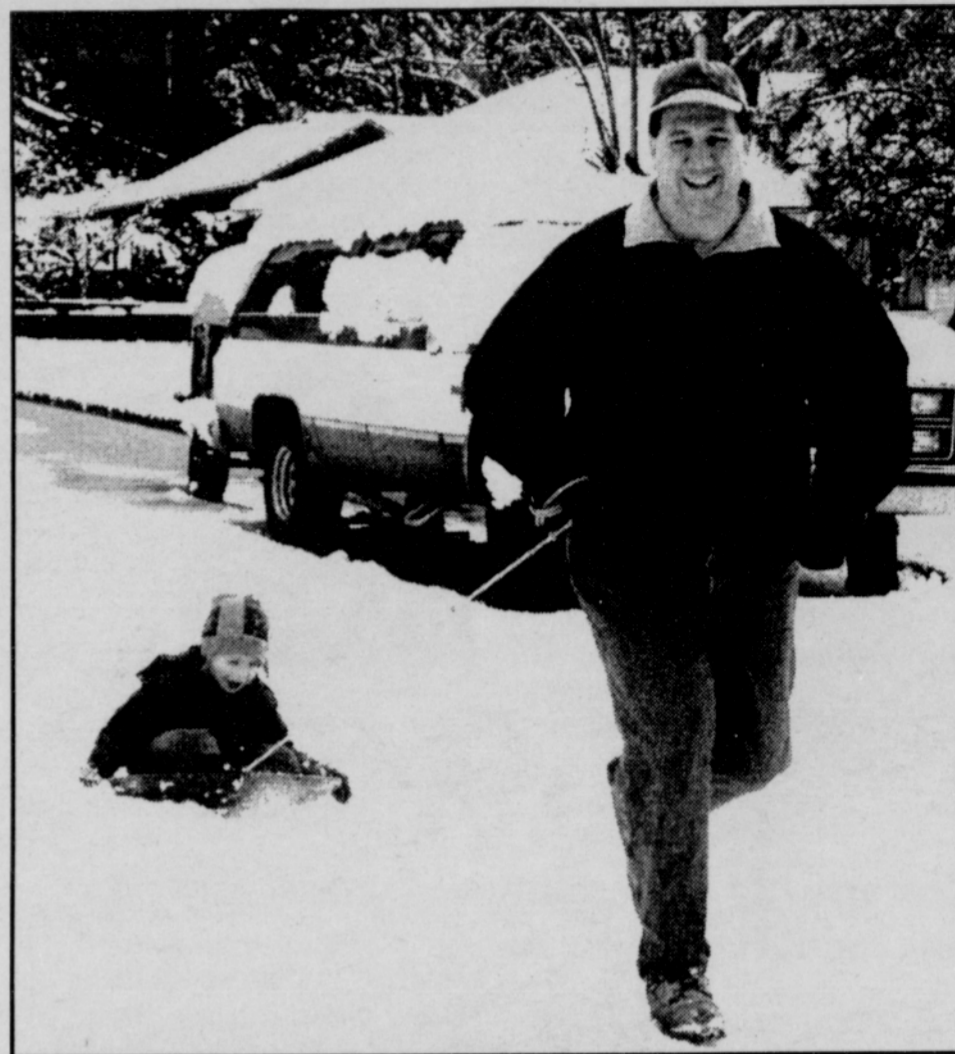
A stress fracture in her left shin made her sit out the first few cross-country races in this past season, but she went on to place third in both the All-League Championships and the District Championships. Following up at the State Cross County meet, Murray ran the 5K in 20 minutes, 52 seconds, winning seventh place and

qualifying for a place on the Oregon All-State team.

The one thing standing in the way of Murray's opportunity to attend the games in Australia is money. By February 23, she must raise a deposit of \$300; by March 1, another payment of \$500; and by June 1, the final payment of \$2,300 will be due.

Anyone interested in contributing to Murray's cause is asked to contact her at 503-429-5190. Any donation would be greatly appreciated and extremely helpful.

Vernonia High School senior Shawn Robertson has also been invited to the international meet this year. Another VHS runner, Jesse Walters, attended the event previously.



## 4-H horse judging contest results

Fifty-seven Columbia County 4-H members participated in the county's 2002 Horse Bowl contest on January 19. Top teams will compete at regional competition on March 9.

The top five medallion winners in individual placings were as follows:

Junior - Chelle Grabhorn, Jeff Stennick, Mackenzie Carr, Cali Hanna, Jourdan Keim.

Intermediate - Sarah Smithson, Lacey Osterman, Shawna Beardsley, Karissa Fairless, Jamie Hanna.

Senior - Jackie Sleeper,

Samantha Klein, Nichole Andrews, Brianna Atwood, Trigg Espelien.

The top five medallion winners in each category for the Horse Judging contest were:

Junior - Nicole Baker, Cali Hanna, Allee Lindahl, Mackenzie Carr, Jourdan Keim.

Intermediate - Amanda Curran, Whitney Johnson, Megan Jennings, Gina Cropp, Juliane Kalhar.

Senior - Nichole Andrews, Jessica Allison, Emily Sitnick, Nicole McNinch, Alexis Link.

## New website will help working students with taxes

The Oregon Department of Revenue has developed a website for working students who are employed and paying taxes through payroll withholding.

At [www.steps2cash.org](http://www.steps2cash.org), first time filers will learn what materials they need in order to complete their returns, how to make

sense of a W2, how to interpret Form 1099-INT, and how to complete a self-calculating Form 40S (short form) - and get their refund. They can also find definitions of tax terms.

The department is committed to community outreach and believes that teaching working students how to file their re-


turns is an investment in the state's future. "We want to give students the tools and motivation needed for lifelong tax compliance," said Rosemary Love, program coordinator.

More than 200 students were involved in the site's development.

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