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# The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

April 15, 2004



## Vernonia Easter Egg Hunt — Hawkins Park 2004



*Finding brightly colored Easter eggs was only part of the fun for youngsters at the Vernonia Easter Egg Hunt. They also enjoyed the pygmy goats,*



*bunnies, chicks and, of course, a visit with the big Easter rabbit who was handing out bags of goodies.*

## 47J Board may borrow to build

In a surprising series of discussions at their April 8 meeting, the Vernonia School District Board of Directors appeared ready to incur significant debt for the first time in fifty years. The board will have a workshop tonight, April 15th, at 6:00 p.m. in the district office to determine whether or not to proceed.

Because the newest building in the district was constructed in 1951, Superintendent Mike Funderburg told the board, they must consider the guiding principles and budget goals which specify that the district "will maintain safe and healthy physical facilities." Maintenance supervisor John Lewis

has told the board that the existing facilities are beyond repair, and Funderburg reminded them of efforts to mitigate mold, caused by years of neglect and simple old age, in the Washington Grade School (WGS) basement. Board chairman Jim Krahn said that maintenance and upgrade of the facilities should have been conducted over the years in a systematic way, adding, "The age of these buildings is ludicrous!"

Since the failure of a bond measure in 2001 and Funderburg's arrival in June of 2002, the board has been considering ways to get students out of the basement at WGS, provide modern food service facilities

and increase gym space. Over this period the board appears to have reached a consensus that, if a way could be found to finance it, a free standing building containing a gym, food service and classroom space would best meet the district's needs.

With that in mind, Funderburg presented the board with an opportunity to build that requires fast action in order to capitalize on the available resources. At the Small Schools Summit in Pendleton last month, Funderburg and Krahn engaged in a series of discussions with representatives of the Scio School District. Scio  
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## Exciting weekend of ProRally racing on tap

Teams from across North America will convene in Hillsboro to start the Oregon Trail SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) ProRally, April 24-25, where competitors will face the challenge of Northwest forestry roads. The service area for the event, which is round two of the SCCA ProRally Championship, is at Washington Grade School in Vernonia.

Unlike circuit racing, a Performance Rally takes place on gravel roads, and the course is unknown to competitors until they face the roads at speed. Variable road conditions, changing weather and the race against the clock must all be taken into account by rally teams as they hurtle their finely tuned racing machines through day and night.

SCCA Performance Rally vehicles are production-based cars and trucks from manufacturers around the world. They compete both for the overall victory and for wins within a class structure that groups together vehicles with similar

performance.

Racing takes place on "special stages," using back roads closed by local authorities for the event. "Transits" connect the "special stage" sections together and are driven at normal highway speeds, with teams fully subject to all traffic laws.

Each vehicle carries a driver and a co-driver/navigator. Using a detailed route book and a sophisticated rally computer, the co-driver keeps the team on-course and advises the driver of any hazards ahead. This role is as critical as the driver's skill, since the team is traveling at full racing speeds over roads they have never before seen, in any type of weather.

The first car will start Saturday at 10 a.m. from Hillsboro Stadium and head west, or "transit" to the first stage in the Tillamook State Forest. Cars are not expected to reach Vernonia until about 7:45 Saturday night.

Car buffs will be able to take a good look at the cars Sunday

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## "Make Vernonia Shine" on April 24

Mark your calendar to join friends and neighbors on Saturday, April 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., for the annual city-wide Make Vernonia Shine day.

The day will begin with registration at Providence Family Health clinic and end with a free lunch for all workers at the Scout Cabin.

The focus of this year's ef-

orts will be on litter pick up throughout town, plus clean up at the welcome sign and on the Linear Trail, beginning at Anderson Park. There will also be yard work at Pioneer Museum and work at Vernonia Lake.

Groups or individuals who would like to work on a particular area, or suggest a site, should call Vernonia Pride at 503-429-5201.

★ ★ NOTICE ★ ★

**The Vernonia solid waste transfer station will close at 12 Noon on Saturday, April 24.**

**Power outages scheduled for Saturday  
Details on page 4**