

# The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

May 4, 2006

## Nesting Time



Nesting ospreys have again chosen to raise a family on top of one of the light poles at the Vernonia High School football field.

## Several options explored for future school facilities

By Schann Nelson

After studying the needs of the Vernonia school district for the last several months, at their April 18th meeting, the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) began to look at the costs associated with several different scenarios. René Kroupa, Dull Olson Weekes Architects (DOWA) facilitator working with the committee, told the committee that asbestos abatement costs were not included in any of the projected cost estimates.

Kroupa told *The INDEPENDENT* that asbestos mitigation

costs about \$5 per square foot. This adds about \$300,000 for Washington Grade School (WGS) and nearly the same for the high school. If WGS is demolished, asbestos mitigation must be part of that process. However, costs may be reduced at the high school in conjunction with remodeling costs.

Early in the process, the LRPC reached a consensus that the location of the schools in the center of town continues to be the best option. There is a strong feeling, as there has been in every committee to study the problem that the schools serve as a community focus. In addition, the district's bonded debt capacity of \$38,054 million (as determined by Seattle-Northwest Securities Corporation) is insufficient.

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## Meet finalists for 47J district head

Finalists for the position of Superintendent in the Vernonia School District will be available to meet the public on Friday, May 5, 4-6:00 p.m. in the high school library. While one candidate is undergoing a second interview with the Board of Directors, the other candidates will be in the library.

Kenneth Cox will be interviewing at 4:00 p.m., Bruce Bradberry at 4:45 p.m. and Nate Underwood at 5:30 p.m.

## Burglar steals funds raised by Vernonia Cares

Over \$1,000 in cash was stolen from Vernonia Cares Food Bank on Tuesday evening, April 25, or early the next morning. A forced entry was used to access the office. The money stolen came from a concession booth operated by volunteers during the Oregon Trail Rally on Sunday, April 23.

"We assist about 200 people per month," Food bank director Sandy Welch said "This loss of funds will decrease Cares' ability to assist those people who need it the most. This theft literally takes food from hungry families."

Anyone with information which might lead to the apprehension of the thief or thieves is asked to contact the Vernonia Police Department at 503-429-7335.

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## Free health screens in Lions mobile unit

The Lions Mobile Screening Unit will be in Vernonia on Saturday, May 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Vision, hearing, glaucoma and diabetic screening tests will be performed.

The Unit will be on Bridge Street in the High School office parking lot.

For accurate test results, do not eat the morning before having the diabetic testing. All services are free so everyone who can should take advantage of the testing.

## Many attend Vernonia Council meeting

The City of Vernonia was awarded a plaque for their support of emergency medical services, and Vernonia Police Officer Mike Kay was recognized for outstanding service at the City Council meeting on May 1.

Scott Laird, of Metro West

Transportation, presented the plaque to the city with a statement of thanks for continued support of the service that is so vital to the community. Mayor Sally Harrison responded with a proclamation designating the week of May 14-20 as Emergency Medical Services Week.

**River Fest ~ May 6, 2006**  
**Duck Races ~ Youth Fishing**  
**Rafting ~ Kayaking ~ Canoeing**