

Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk is a monthly column of information about Vernonia schools. It is written by various staff members. This column was written by Dr. Ken Cox, Superintendent.

Things are starting to happen!

Does it ever seem like you work and work and never accomplish anything? Then comes a magic day when everything falls together.

"If only I could be that efficient every day," you think. Here's what I discovered: The successful days only came as a result of many days of working toward completing the project. We've noticed this with the high school...it seems like we are going nowhere with its repairs, but that is about to change!

We hired a project manager who has been working feverishly to organize contractors for several projects in time for fall. By the time you read this, the old mods will have been demolished. On August 11, a crane will put the new donated modular classroom in place on the east end of WGS. The following

week we'll place asphalt around the new mod and behind WGS. We have permission to occupy the WGS locker rooms in time for football practice and the VHS locker rooms should be ready for occupancy by the start of school, though all the gym repairs will take until the end of September to complete.

We are doing all we can to save insurance funds for new schools. An example – through using donated sheetrock at the high school. We're also cooperating with the contractor doing the high school repairs to have volunteers help hang the sheetrock. However, we must make sure the building is safe, which means waiting until the sub floor is down first. Another community project we hope to begin very soon is the salvaging of the brick off the east wing of the high school that will be demolished. We hope to clean this brick and then use it somehow in the new schools or at least to enhance the look of what is left of the high school. Please watch the reader board, and your mail box for more in-

formation on how you can help.

We're working with the Oregon Solutions Team to create a monthly status report newsletter [that will be] mailed to all patrons in the district soon and posted on our website.

As you know, a number of town hall meetings have been scheduled and I encourage you to attend. We'll share our progress and want your feedback.

To you students out there...I hope you're enjoying summer. In my next message I will talk about the start of school. We will start the year off the same as last year with the first day (September 2) being on a short schedule and having only students in grades 1-6 and 9 attend.



Last soccer sign-ups on Aug. 12

Children from four to 10 years of age are welcome to sign up for Vernonia Soccer. The final opportunity to sign up will be Tuesday, August 12, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the

Vernonia Public Library.

If more information is needed, please contact Lisa Brewer at 503-429-4250 or Katie Poetter at 503-429-0700.

Site helps kids' pick healthy fish

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched a new Web site at www.epa.gov/fishadvisories/kids/ to help children and their parents choose the healthiest fish to eat, using interactive stories and games. The site has been selected as the August site of the month by kids.gov, the official kids' portal for the U.S. government.

"Our new Web site is a fun way for kids and parents to learn about the importance of fish in a healthy diet and how to choose the healthiest fish to

eat," said Benjamin H. Grumbles, EPA's assistant administrator for water.

Whether they catch their own fish or buy it at a store, children and their parents can use the Web site to learn how to select fish that are low in contaminants. The Web site includes stories focusing on different methods of obtaining fish, along with interactive games, to teach children ages 8-12 how to recognize common fish species and use fish advisories.

Vernonia Baseball team fifth at state

The Vernonia Senior National (7th and 8th grade) baseball team wound up their season with a fifth place finish at the Junior Baseball of Oregon (JBO) State Tournament. There are over 90 teams throughout the state that participate in JBO, and 12 teams made it to the double elimination State Tournament. Vernonia had finished league play with 19 wins, 0 losses and 1 tie, while their overall record for the season was 24-3-1.

In their opening game on Thursday, July 24, Vernonia stayed close, but a couple of base running and fielding errors allowed Sherwood to outlast the Loggers 7-4. Jake Titus

had a home run in the game, while Josh Butcher, Jackson Miller and Austin Cutright each had two hits.

In game two on Friday morning, the Loggers eliminated Mollalla with a 12-1 victory. Joe Benes and Miller combined to strike out 12 batters and allow only 3 hits in the game. TJ White hit a home run for the Loggers and Cole Harkson had two doubles, while Butcher and Brandon Orth each had two hits.

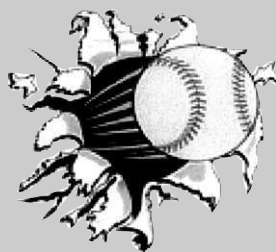
Wilson of Portland was the Loggers next opponent, on Friday afternoon, but Vernonia's offense proved to be too much as they cruised to an 18-8 victory. Benes and Orth teamed up on the mound for the win, while several players had outstanding hitting performances. Butcher, Miller, Benes, Orth and Dillon Smith had two hits

apiece, while White had three hits, including a double and another home run.

Saturday morning found the Loggers with tired arms facing a very strong hitting team in Lynch from Portland. The Loggers hung in there against eventual state-runner-up Lynch, but allowed 5 runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to lose 15-5. Miller and White each had two hits in the game.

Other players participating on the Senior National Team were Chris Curtis, Nathan Owen and Jake Bringman. It was a great season for the boys, who are already looking forward to being contributors to the Vernonia High School baseball program. The team sends many thanks to the parents and community members who supported the squad throughout the season!

**Come One, Come All,
Let's Raise
Money For
Vernonia Youth Baseball**



**3rd Annual Vernonia Youth
Summer Baseball Association
Golf Tournament Fundraiser**

Saturday, Aug. 5th, 9:30 AM • Vernonia Golf Club

4 Person Scramble

1st and 2nd Place Trophies

**• Longest Drive • Closest to Pin • Longest Putt
Great Raffle Prizes**

**\$60 per person cash or check - no credit cards
Price Includes Green Fee and Lunch.**

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**For info call:
Melissa 503-429-0969 or Brent 503-429-9352**

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2008 VERNONIA LOGGER FOOTBALL CAMP



August 13th - 15th

Grades 3 - 8 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. \$25.00

Grades 9 - 12 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. \$40.00

Forms available at the Vernonia School District Office