

## Free activities at Dec. 6 Youth Day

Looking for something to do with the kids this weekend? There will be a Youth Day on December 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at XXX Archery, 25108 Alston Road in Rainier.

All equipment will be provided free for children 17 and under to participate with air guns, archery and arrow building.

There will be free hot dogs and beverages.

This event is sponsored by Columbia County OHA (Oregon Hunters Association) and XXX Archery. For more information call Dustin Stansbury at 503-556-1322 or Ken Smith at 503-543-3549.

## Tickets on sale now for coronation

A Night Under The Stars is the theme of the coronation celebration to be held Saturday, January 3, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in St. Helens.

Mackenzie Carr, of Vernonia, will be crowned 2009 Miss Northwest Professional Rodeo Association (NPRA), and the 2009 Columbia County Fair and Rodeo Court – Queen Katie VanWinkle, Princess Kailee Murdock and Princess Leilani Schmidt – will also be

crowned at the celebration.

The evening will include dinner, silent and live auctions and entertainment, in addition to the coronation ceremonies. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$12, or purchased at the door for \$18. For information or to purchase tickets, contact Jean McPherson at 503-481-3384 or ccrodeo@hotmail.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the Prudential Northwest office in Scappoose.

## Chalk Talk

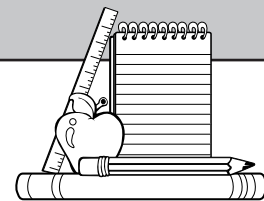
*Chalk Talk is a monthly column of information about Vernonia schools. It is written by various staff members. This column was provided by Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox.*

As many of you are aware, while the financial crisis may have originated on Wall Street it has spread across the nation and is hitting us here in Vernonia. The school district was recently informed by the Oregon Department of Education that we will see a cut this year somewhere in the neighborhood of \$130,000. This comes in addition to our increasing concern over a low projected ending fund balance, due to lower than expected tax revenues and other items that have impacted our budget.

In order to save as much as possible I have met with the administrators and have stopped all

expenditures that are not absolutely necessary to finish out the school year. We are also concerned about our budget for next year in light of the gloomy economic forecast for the 2009-2011 biennium for the state. We will be reviewing our current staffing levels and looking for other changes that could lead to additional savings next year.

At this critical time we need your input in the form of suggestions and ideas on not only where we can save but how we can do better with what we have. Please take the time to share with us your concerns and ideas. I am available by phone at 503-429-5891 and by email at ken.cox@vernonia.k12.or.us or you can just stop by (475 Bridge St.) and we can visit.



## Vernonia now has a homeschool co-op

Vernonia has a homeschool cooperative that wants to invite new families to join in the fun. This co-op meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Vernonia Christian Church from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

This is a safe, enjoyable environment where parents and kids can make connections with peers and experience programs such as art literacy, hands-on science and large group play – not to mention crafts and creative writing exer-

cises. Parents are strongly encouraged to join in and volunteer. The biggest focus of this cooperative is fun and enrichment for the kids! Drop in, or contact Katie Poetter at 503-429-0700, or Susan Ely at 503-429-5709.

## Vernonia High fall sports report gives highlights from season

*by Athletic Director Gordon Jarman, Vernonia High School*

Vernonia's 2008 fall sports teams had a variety of successes, including the re-emergence of the cheer leading squad coached by Cassandra Ashby, the second year in a row for the football team to qualify for the state play-offs, a top finish in the district cross country meet to qualify that runner to the state meet, and a new coach to lead the volleyball team this year.

The cheerleading squad had been practicing all summer and during the fall to develop some exciting routines. They wowed the crowd with their performances. On many occasions they tossed teammates high in the air and caught them as part of their routines. The team went to almost every football game and were very supportive of the Loggers. For their first year, the girls did an excellent job and next year may enter some cheer competitions.

The cross country team under the direction of Mr. James Brookins competed well, but did not have as many participants as it has in the past. That did not bode well for them having the success they have en-

joyed in previous years. The team had some outstanding individuals, including all league stand out Timothy Pillow. Timothy, a foreign exchange student, has been outstanding on both the cross country team and as a scholar. Timothy qualified for the state meet this year and led the Loggers all season with his effort on the course.

The Lady Loggers volleyball team struggled in the win-loss column this year, but played some very exciting volleyball. They were in every match and competed very hard. The girls gave it everything they had and just came up short in a few games. The Lady Loggers

were led by new head coach Brooke Vanmeter, who was assisted by Theresa Williams.

Under the new coaches' tutelage, two girls made all league. Senior leader Trisha Levenseller was an honorable mention athlete and Sophomore Kaitlyn Carr, an outstanding defensive player and athlete at the net, was also named an honorable mention player.

In football, six athletes made all league first team. This was

partly due to the fact the Loggers finished second in the league and competed in the state play-offs for the second year in a row. But it is also a result of the hard work these young men put out in their quest for athletic excellence. On the line, Taylor Smith and Levi Timmerman received first team honors. Alex Lende was a first team defensive back, while seniors Byron Schorzman and Blake Moeller were first team

quarterback and first team receiver, respectively. Rounding out the Logger selections at all league was outstanding junior running back Trevor Gwin. The Loggers were second in the conference despite their 3 and 7 record and, in their state play-off game with Willamina, came up just short of victory, eliminating them from further competition. The team had twelve seniors this year and they will be hard to replace.

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