

# 47J Board announces new school site

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 stuck here (current site), in Scappoose or Banks." To the question, "Can we build schools without a bond?" County Commissioner and Vernonia citizen, Tony Hyde, responded, "No," without elaboration.

When the time for a vote came, a motion was made to select the Boot Site. The motion passed with board member Ernie Smith casting the lone vote against the site. Language in the motion made it clear that the Boot Site is "the first choice for a location for new schools." If that site does not ultimately

work out, for any reason, the board made it clear that they will look at all the possible sites again.

The board awarded a contract to BOORA Architects for architectural services for the new schools, based on a recommendation from the committee that reviewed the architectural firms who applied. BOORA Architects will prepare a comprehensive program document defining the needs and objectives of the proposed replacement K-12 school facility, including schedules and budgets.

In other business, the board:

- heard that Tom Ramsey was hired as the new Maintenance Supervisor, to replace John Lewis who is retiring in April;

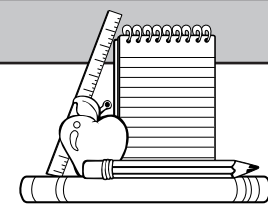
- adopted the 2009-10 school calendar;

- adopted the budget calendar for meetings, appointed Penny Johnson to the Budget Committee. and announced that there are still openings on the committee for interested community members.

Spring Break is March 23-27. The next meeting of the board will be April 9, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office.

## 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 you may have heard, the Vernonia School Board selected the area north of Spencer Park as their first choice for the siting of the new schools. This decision marks a significant step forward for our District.

I spoke to one patron of the district last weekend who had not been in our schools prior to the recent discussions because he and his wife do not have children in our schools. He shared some interesting insights with me and I believe that we need to have more of those conversations. I personally believe that new schools will benefit the community in many ways that we haven't even thought of yet, but we need you, as community members, not just parents with kids in school, to tell us what you want out of our schools.

For new schools in Vernonia to become a reality we need your help! We need input from you on how you want the schools to look, how they will function as a part of the community, how they can foster economic growth for the rest of the community. The bottom line is 'What do you want out of your schools?'

You can get more information about what is happening and share your comments and opinion with us on our website. You can post comments in the 'Looking Forward' section of [www.vernoniaschools.org](http://www.vernoniaschools.org).

We want to hear from you! Please let your voice be heard!

# Dixon raising money to be Ambassador



Jacob Dixon, Vernonia, has been accepted to participate as a People to People Student Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand beginning June 27. This is a 20-day exchange program that consists of meetings with government officials, interactions with students, and educational activities. Dixon will stay with a host family during this visit.

The program was founded by President Eisenhower in 1956. He believed that if people from different cultures could

come together in peace and friendship, so eventually would nations.

Dixon, son of Russ and Gina Lende, will be working to raise money for his tuition for the trip. He will mow lawns, clean up yards, pick up donated cans and hold a garage sale on March 28 and 29 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 61151 Stoney Point Road, Vernonia. To have Dixon pick up cans, or to donate towards his tuition, call him at 503-429-2142.

## Registration now open for new Make Parenting a Pleasure group

Make Parenting a Pleasure! is the name of a parenting education group starting in Vernonia beginning Monday, March 30, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Vernonia Head Start Center

on California Ave.

Snacks and childcare will be provided while parents of children under age 8, and soon to be parents, learn effective parenting skills and gain child development knowledge.

This program is being provided by Community Action Team, Inc. Sign-ups are requested, as space is limited. Cost will be on a sliding fee scale. Call 503-556-3736 to register.

# Sign up now to learn how to take a child fishing

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will hold a "Learn to take a child fishing" Adult Basic Angling Class on Saturday, April 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The class will be held at the Oregon 4-H Conference and Education Center property, eight miles from downtown Salem, in the Eola

Hills of Polk County.

This class is open to anyone 18 years or older interested in learning basic angling skills with an emphasis on taking youth on a successful fishing trip.

"If you're someone who wants to share the love of fishing with young people and their families, but do not have the skills or are a little rusty...this program is for you," said Shahab Farzanegan, ODFW aquatic and angling education coordinator. Youth leaders,

classroom teachers and fishing club members are encouraged to participate.

Saturday's training will introduce participants to basic fishing skills, water safety, field trip considerations and the catch, care and preparation of fish. They also will get some hands on fishing time with trained instructors. No fishing license is required and all fishing is catch and release.

Pre-registration for the class is required by April 8. The registration fee is \$20 and includes

lunch. Space is limited.

To register, or for more information, call Darlene Sprecher at 503-947-6025 or e-mail [Darlene.m.sprecher@state.or.us](mailto:Darlene.m.sprecher@state.or.us).

## 47J seeks four to help decide on budget

Vernonia School District 47J is seeking budget committee members to fill four openings. Budget committee members help determine the use of available funds for district purposes.

Budget committee members serve three-year terms and meet two to three times during the Spring budget process. Applications are available at the district office, 475 Bridge St.



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