

# 47J announces a Town Hall on May 28

The first meeting of the Vernonia School District Budget Committee, to discuss the 2009-10 Fiscal Year budget, was held May 14, prior to the regular school board meeting.

After presenting the budget message and an overview of a potentially dismal fiscal year, Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox explained that, until the state presents a final dollar amount for schools, the district can discuss reductions and expenditures only in general terms. Some possible reductions that have been identified by the Budget Assistance Team (BAT) include reducing staff, books and supplies in all program areas, cutting five more school

days, and eliminating outdoor school. There may also be an increase in Pay to Play fees for athletics. The Budget Assistance Team includes some district staff, two budget committee members and two school board members.

More information will be available at the next Budget Committee meeting on May 28 at 6:00 p.m. A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for June 11 at 6:00 p.m.

District residents who attended the May 14 board meeting to hear about the various potential uses of space in Vernonia's new schools were disappointed to find that the architects postponed the presenta-

tion. Dr. Cox announced that there will be a presentation on Thursday, May 28, during a Town Hall meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

The board approved 10 revised policies and a new policy on nondiscrimination. Dr. Cox reported that some of the equipment for a new policy on Video Surveillance had been installed, but that the cameras cannot be used until rules and regulations have been developed regarding how the equipment and records will be handled. The board approved the policy contingent on development of the rules.

## Women's shelter seeks time or donations

Columbia County Women's Resource Center is closing its shelter, The Starting Place, for three weeks in order to repair and clean the building and grounds. Work will start on Monday, June 1 and continue until Friday, June 19. The shelter will accept clients again on Monday, June 22.

This summer the shelter will be celebrating its 10th year of service. One of the major repairs the shelter is anticipating is the replacement of all the floors. This added another week to their usual 2-week clo-

sure. In order to clean, repair and maintain our 26-bed facility and the grounds, the shelter is looking for help from the community. If you, your family, your organization, church, or friends can donate a few hours during the two-week shutdown, please call their office at 503-397-7110. Every kind of help imaginable is needed: gardening, painting walls, scrubbing cupboards, airing mattresses, cleaning light fixtures, repairing picnic tables, etc.

As with most other non-prof-

it organizations, funding is shrinking in these unstable economic times. Any help from the community with donations of cleaning supplies, paint supplies, money for new bedding, etc., will be very much appreciated. Help with supplies for the clean-up and repair projects will free up funds that can be better used to help clients in more direct ways.

For more information, please call 503-397-7110.

## Sign up now for Art Day Camp

Celebrate Oregon's sesquicentennial with Art in the Woods Youth Music and Art Day Camp brought to you by Vernonia Hands on Art. The camp will be held July 27 to 31 at the Scout Cabin in Hawkins Park.

All youth who have completed first grade through high school are invited to attend. Classes in Art, Singing, Recorder, and Folk Dancing will be offered, with the theme of 150 years of Crafts, Arts, and Music in Oregon. Teens will be able to select from classes in Chamber Music, Art, Drama, and Singing. The instructors are talented artists and musicians who have experience working with young people.

The public is invited to attend the final musical presentation on Friday evening. Cost is

\$75, or \$20 per class for teens. Financial aid is available, as well as lower rates for multiple children in families and for teens who assist at camp. Applications are available at the Vernonia School offices and at the library.

For more information, please call Rachel at 503-708-8980, Shellee at 503-329-5895, or Carol at 503-429-0437.

**Mariolino's**

COME ON IN FOR  
BREAKFAST, LUNCH  
OR DINNER

**And Please Drive Carefully**



**Memorial Day Weekend**

721 Madison Ave., Vernonia • 503-429-5018

## 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 Grade School Principal Aaron Miller.



In the past, students at Washington Grade School (WGS) in need of extra reading help from our federal Title I reading program have had to "qualify" for these services by being the furthest behind in their age group. While Title I has been able to help many of these students develop their reading skills, other students were not able to get this much needed help, because they weren't far enough behind to be "targeted for assistance." That will all be changing as WGS works to implement its Title I reading program "School-Wide."

While employees funded by a Title I Targeted Assisted program are by law able to help only those students who qualify for services, employees funded by a Title I School-Wide Program (SWP) are able to help all students develop their reading and literacy skills.

The WGS Title I School-Wide Program Development Team (SWPDT) has been meeting every two weeks since late October to prepare the Oregon Department of Education application and program plan to change WGS' Title I program from a Targeted Assisted School (TAS) to a School-Wide Program. The SWPDT, consists of four teachers, three parents, an instructional assistant, and the principal.

The SWPDT has taken information regarding student achievement, building organization, curriculum and instruction, family/community involvement data, and our school strengths and weaknesses, as well as information gained from visiting other schools' Title I programs, and has developed a plan to improve the way our Title I program provides reading intervention services for all of our students.

Being able to meet the needs of all learners by utilizing our Title I staff more effectively through the SWP, and providing instruction to students that is closer to their level of reading skill development, should be a great help and resource for our students.

If you have any questions regarding the specifics of this plan, please contact Debbie Stahlnecker, or Aaron Miller at WGS, 503-429-7941.

## Class of 2009 asks for help their party

The Vernonia High School Class of 2009 will be celebrating graduation with a Safe & Sober All-Night Grad-Party at the Scout Cabin.

The class has raised money for the grad party through a number of fundraisers, and has received greatly appreciated donations from Vernonia Sentry, Black Bear Coffee, Vernonia True Value, Dairy Queen and others.

Donations are still needed to help purchase food and prizes. This is your last opportunity to

give to the Class of 2009.

All contributions should be sent before June 1, to Vernonia High School, Attn: Senior Grad

Night, 299 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR 97064. Call Kathi Fetch at 503-429-3521 with any questions. The class of 2009 thanks you.

**SADDLE BAGS**  
\$24.95

**10% off All Consignment**

# SPRING RIDER SALE

## DOUBLE C TACK

**15% off**  
New Saddles





**503-429-TACK (8225)**  
**1103 Bridge St, Vernonia**

**Open Sun. 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Mon. to Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**RESCUE**  
Making pest control smarter™  
**Yellow Jacket Trap**  
\$5.95

Fly Masks \$14.95 to \$29.95  
Fly Spray \$9.95 to \$22.95

**\$2.00 off All Wormers**  
**With this ad Exp. 5-31-09**