

## 47J gets more money from FEMA

The Vernonia School District Board of Directors meeting on July 9 started with board nominations for chair and vice-chair. Jim Krahn was unanimously voted in as Chairperson and Cari Levenseller got the board's nod for Vice-Chairperson.

The board approved hiring K&L Gates as bond counsel. The district will pay K&L Gates approximately \$15,000 for their services, but payment is contingent on the bond passing.

Superintendent Ken Cox told the board that FEMA has approved the district's request to pay for an additional 18 months of rental on the modular classrooms. FEMA has already paid \$60,000 and will pay up to about \$180,000 more.

Board member Tim Bamberg asked Cox to reconsider a budget decision that will cut the hours of two employees by 30 minutes, having the effect of reducing their hours to where they lose medical benefits.

## Oregon State Fair bigger than ever

Once again, the 2009 Oregon State Fair will be too BIG to miss! On the heels of last year's Fair – which boasted an attendance of 365,000 people – and with a number of fun new events to celebrate Oregon's 150th birthday, organizers are expecting a BIGGER turn-out in 2009.

"We can think of no better place to celebrate Oregon than the State Fair, which embodies everything that makes our state so great," says Connie Bradley, Acting Fair Director. "We invite everyone to come celebrate Oregon's 150th birthday in grand style, and to rediscover the State Fair, which is among the best values Oregon has to offer, from August 28-September 7.

The 2009 Fair will be an 11-day birthday party as Oregon celebrates 150 years of statehood. With 185 acres of fairgrounds, an expected attendance of 385,000, and with over 9,000 things to do, see and taste, that's a BIG party.

There will be special pro-

gramming each day of the Fair to celebrate the sesquicentennial. Opening night kicks off with internationally renowned Pink Martini and the debut of "Oregon! Oregon! 2009" – a rollicking Stan Freberg/Thomas Lauderdale musical with an all-star Oregonian cast.

Also on August 28 (5-8 p.m.) is "Celebration Oregon," the only all-Oregon Wine Competition and Awards Ceremony, plus wine tasting with 50 wineries and ten Oregon chefs. The \$45 admittance fee includes a free "Oregon! Oregon! 2009" ticket (limited to first 500).

Other sesquicentennial birthday events include a bike parade, antique car display and USO-style variety show. And towering over the festivities will be a new 55-foot tower, made from recycled steel, recreating the old State Fair Flame from 50 years ago, now lit with renewable energy sources.

The Oregon State Fair remains one of the best values in

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These employees will be affected in this manner because of their negotiated contract language.

- adopted new textbooks for math and health/wellness classes at the K-5 level,
- approved compensation of \$170 per day for substitute teachers,
- heard that Vernonia Sentry donated \$10,000 to the Oregon Solutions project and the district will received \$10,000 in grant funds from the Ford Family Foundation,
- after an executive session to discuss real estate negotiations, the board approved a motion authorizing Cox to negotiate for property as discussed.

There will be a Town Hall with BOORA (the district's architects) on July 30, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

The next board meeting will be August 13, at the district office, starting at 6:00 p.m.

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## Chalk Talk

*Chalk Talk is a monthly column of information about Vernonia schools. It is written by various staff members. The first portion of this column was written by Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox. The portion after "Athletic Update" headline was written by VHS Athletic Director Gordon Jarman.*

Are you curious about the status of our new schools? Have you been visiting with other community members about what they might look like? Do you have any student athletes in your family? If you answered yes to any of the above, here is some information you need.

You can find some of the answers to your questions about the new schools in both newspapers and we will also be placing much of that information on our website. In addition, BOORA Architects have gathered enough information to come up with a concept design. They will be sharing the ideas that they and the school staff have developed at a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, July 30, at 7 p.m. in the VHS Cafeteria.

At this meeting BOORA will be sharing the first artist renderings of the design, a detailed description of some of the energy saving technology we are considering, and a look at what some of our students produced as they participated in the University of Oregon's Classroom of the Future design competition.

We invite everyone to come and join us for some food (hot dogs, chili, chips and watermelon), friendship and lots of information. We want to keep you informed! Please come and get your questions answered, or at least get them asked so we can find the answers if we don't have them.

### Athletic Update

There have been two major changes in athletic policy handed down by the Oregon Schools Activities Association (OSAA) that will go into effect for the upcoming season of 2009-2010.

The first major change deals with academic eligibility. In addition to an athlete passing at least five classes to be eligible, they must also be making satisfactory progress toward graduation.

### Midget team to go to playoffs

The Vernonia Midget Baseball team, playing on the Midget National West team, had an undefeated season and won their July 8 playoff game, 8-5, against the number one team from the East, McMinnville.

They will play in the state tournament, July 16-19, held in Eugene's Bethel Park.

To graduate from VHS a student must have earned 25.5 credits by graduation day. To be making satisfactory progress an athlete must have earned 6.5 credits prior to the athlete's 10th grade year, 10.5 credits prior to their 11th grade year, and 18 credits prior to their 12th grade year.

Students can enroll in summer school to make up lost work and credits. However, this has to be done before the athlete participates in the upcoming sports season. All incoming freshmen are excused from this requirement for the first semester, after that however they must be making satisfactory progress toward graduation.

The second with the establishment of a Dead Week. Dead Week is set aside for athletes to take one more family vacation before the athletic season gets into full swing. This year Dead Week is August 1st through August 8th and this means that no coach, volunteer coach, administrator or any other high school personnel may work with any student athlete during this time and no school facilities may be used by student athletes.

Physicals are being offered once again by the local Providence health clinic for those student athletes that are planning on turning out for sports for next year. Any student that has not had a physical in the past two years needs to get one before they may participate. Any incoming freshman and any junior need to get their physicals before the season begins. These are available to any student athlete that does not have insurance to cover athletic physicals or their insurance does not cover well child care. They can pick up the OSAA physical forms at VHS and they need to sign up for the appointments with Barb Carr at the school district office. These will take place August 11 but please do not wait until the last minute and sign up well ahead of time.



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