

## 47J cuts cost of new schools

Vernonia School District 47J and BOORA (architects) held another in a series of town halls on the new schools project. This time, the district served hot dogs, salad and watermelon.

Over 100 people were in the audience to hear Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox tell them, "a couple of weeks ago we sat down to see how to make our ideas better and cheaper." That process pared the cost of the new schools down by \$11 million, to \$36 million. The previous projections had been \$48 to \$50 million. Some of the cost savings were in looking at what was included in the 'soft costs'; items like computers and servers, and kitchen equipment. Some of these items do not need to be purchased but can be taken from the current schools.

Other changes to the plan include reducing the square footage in the building by condensing some areas, putting up a shop and art barn on the site of an existing barn on the property, and not including the cost of ball fields. The district plans to use the existing ball fields at the Bridge Street site and phase in new fields. Some corporations have previously offered to donate fields, so that may be part of the phase-in.

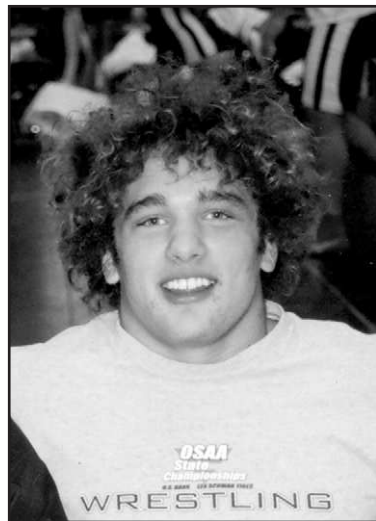
Comments from the audience were incorporated in the plan. For example; the Shop/Art Barn was being called the Shop/Art Loft in the presentation, but the name was changed after the audience expressed a preference for Barn instead of Loft.

Another Town Hall is expected to be scheduled for later in August.

## Gwin in S. Africa for three weeks

Trever Gwin, of Vernonia, was chosen by the Oregon Wrestling Association to take a cultural exchange trip to South Africa that started July 31. He is scheduled to return August 13 and is staying with host families during his trip. He already fought and won a wrestling match in an open championship and will be bringing home a gold medal from that match.

Gwin was originally scheduled to go to Japan until that trip was cancelled due to the Swine flu epidemic. He automatically qualifies to go to Japan next year.



## Youth Program 2009 set to start

Youth Program 2009 is for children aged 4 to 12 years of age. With the theme of "Physical Fitness", the program will be held August 10-13, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Scout Cabin in Hawkins Park, Vernonia.

There will be songs, stories, crafts, science time, snacks, and games. Parents are welcome. This program is brought to Vernonia by Friends Helping Friends Missions, the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the local Seventh-day Adventist Church.

For more information con-

tact Director Jim Klingler at 360-903-3160.

## Get a clean car to help the band

There will be a Vernonia Schools Band Car Wash on Saturday, August 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Vernonia High School parking lot.

You can help the band and get a clean vehicle at the same time.

## Chalk Talk

*Chalk Talk is a column of information about Vernonia schools. This column was provided by "Vote Yes For Schools Measure" Vernonia School Bond Committee.*

### VERNONIANS: Pass the Bond, Not the Buck!

Every month from June thru November you will see an article on the school bond issue produced by the Vernonia School Bond Committee – a group of your neighbors and friends working to make sure you have all the information you need to vote YES in November – YES for our children and grandchildren and YES for the future and prosperity of our entire community.

**This month our interview is with our very own Ax Man, Mike Pihl.**

**Question: Why is a new school campus important to you personally?**

Answer: I have young kids and grandkids that will go to the new school and even if I did not, I would support the bond because it makes a solid community.

**Question: As a business owner, how do you think new schools will impact Vernonia?**

Answer: When we have the new school built, it will keep responsible family people in Vernonia which make for good employees for our businesses.

**Question: As a property owner, a school bond will increase your annual taxes by about \$1.90 per thousand of assessed value. In a weak economy, why are you in support of higher taxes?**

Answer: My answer to this question is my slogan "NO SCHOOL/NO VERNONIA" it's that simple!

**Question: As a resident and taxpayer who will help pay the school bond bill, do you think it is necessary to build a super energy efficient, "green" building?**

Answer: Energy efficient only makes dollar sense. What I know about the "green" building is that it is the wave of the future. So to answer your question, YES!

**Question: What do you think will happen to Vernonia if this bond does not pass?**

Answer: I believe many parents of school age children will leave the district because they believe that their children deserve to be educated in a safe building that the children can be proud of. It is a subject that has been brought up at my house and I love Vernonia so PLEASE VOTE YES!



## Want to go back to college? Here's how

Earlier this summer, the State of Oregon launched a toll-free Adult Learner College Line (1-877-848-4669) and website (www.OregonOpportunities.gov) for Oregonians interested in returning to college, or enrolling for the first time. Funded through a \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the Adult Learner Line is geared to helping Oregonians ages 25 and older who are interested in going to college, but need some help and direction on how to enroll, seek financial aid, and generally navigate the process.

"All of Oregon's public and private nonprofit colleges and universities are involved in this initiative, and are working collaboratively to reduce the barriers that often hinder prospective students from enrolling in a community college or a 4-year college or university," said Joe Holliday, assistant vice chancellor for the Oregon University System. "As more Oregonians are making employment transitions in the current economy, going back to college is a good option for re-training and re-tooling one's skills."

Oregonians can access the Adult Learner College Line Monday-Friday, between 9:00

a.m. and 9:00 p.m., at 1-877-848-4669, to speak with a specialist about enrolling in college in Oregon, how to get financial aid, transfer credits, or get specific information on programs for returning or first-time students, childcare options, and other areas. On-line users can have live chats with counselors, email specific questions, and access information on colleges, programs, and ca-

reers at www.OregonOpportunities.gov.

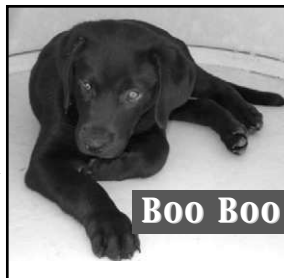
The Adult Learner College Line and website are supplemented by other Oregon-based resources, such as the Oregon Student Assistance Commission's financial aid website, www.GetCollegeFunds.org, which helps Oregonians understand the types of aid available, how to apply, and other information.

## Pet of the Month

*Columbia Humane Society in St. Helens has a variety of wonderful pets available for adoption. Find the pet that's right for you in the shelter at 2084 Oregon Street. Phone 503-397-4353*

*Open Mon - Fri 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 am. to 5 p.m.*

Boo Boo is an 11 week old male lab puppy. He is a very sweet & quiet little guy who seems to have encountered some form of abuse in his short life, as he doesn't like the back of his neck touched in any kind of rough or playful way. He is looking for a super loving home that can assure he will



never fall victim to this sort of treatment again. As with all puppies, Boo Boo will need constant attention and a lot of training to become the family member that you want him to be.

*The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.*

*This Adopt a Pet is Sponsored by:*

**Senator Betsy Johnson**