

47J Board hears of bond support

The November 12 Vernonia School Board meeting was held in the Vernonia Middle School cafeteria with about 70 people in attendance. Seven people spoke during the public comment period. Shelley Cota, Amy Cieloha, Scott Laird, Kala Cota, Kinnell Steward, Leslie O'Leary and Glenda Delemos all appeared to be reading prepared statements that were in support of, and expressed thanks for, the passage of bond measure 5-197.

Steve Effros of BOORA, the district's architectural firm, told the board that the schematic design of the new school has been completed and some potential areas for cost savings have been found. The board also heard that the Oregon Solutions project has now shifted to fundraising.

Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox introduced John Donovan, of the Metropolitan Group, to the board. The Metropolitan Group has been retained by the dis-

trict to direct the efforts for raising the estimated \$24 million needed to build the new schools. "We are what we consider a social change organization, we want to make a difference in the world. We are proud to have been selected for this project." Donovan said, adding that this (fundraising) process will take a number of years.

In other business,

- Curl's Transportation has proposed a five-year contract extension that will allow them to obtain a bus that can carry two wheelchairs at a time. They are currently having to make two runs to pick up these students. Cox and board members Cari Levenseller and Tammy Jennings will negotiate with Curl's on the proposal.

- the board approved Rob Izzett's attendance at a band clinic in SeaTac, Washington.

The next board meeting will be December 10, starting at 6:00 p.m., at the District Office.

Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk is a column of information about Vernonia schools. This column was provided by Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox.

Once again I would like to express a big THANK YOU to all of you who supported the bond. I would especially like to thank Sharon Bernal and the other members of the bond committee who put so much effort into helping us achieve this success.

I also want to recognize those of you who voted against the bond, for whatever reason. You have your reasons, and I want to assure you that we will continue to provide information and hope you will remain engaged as we move forward. Please don't hesitate to ask questions and we will do our best to get you answers.

We also heard from some concerned parents that we did not inform them in advance about our celebratory assembly on Wednesday. We did not do so because we did not want to seem presumptuous as to the outcome of the vote. We always seek to keep parents informed, and will try to do better in the future.

The big question many of you now have is, "What's next?" Well, now we really get to go to work. The district is working with the Metropolitan Group, a Portland firm, to help us craft a plan that will get us the rest of the funds needed to

build our schools. We are coordinating our efforts with the continued support of the Oregon Solutions Team. Together, with your continued support, we will make new schools a reality.

The final issue that I would like to share is in relation to the H1N1 flu that seems to be going through our region. At the direction of the Columbia County Community Health and the national Center for Disease Control we have determined that we will not close school because of the flu. The only factor that could change this decision would be if we did not have enough teachers to hold classes.

We are continuing to be proactive in how we deal with sick children by sending them home if they are not well at school. We also ask that if your child does get sick, that you keep them home for one full day after their fever goes away without the help of medication. Please take a few moments to check the information available through the H1N1 link on our website.

As always, please feel free to call, email, or stop by the office. I am interested in your ideas and how we can get the best school for your investment.



Wrestling: It's a seven step program

by Chris Barnes
Vernonia High School
Wrestling Coach

Wrestling is a tough sport, so tough. I believe wrestlers are the hardest working athletes. I can't put words to what wrestlers go through physically and mentally. If you haven't been through it yourself, it is very difficult to imagine the physical and mental stresses. It sounds terrible, and in ways it is, but the rewards are great.

I have had many parents speak to me about the success

level of their kid. Usually it's in regard to "why does my kid lose so much?" or "why doesn't my kid try harder to win?" Patiently I try to explain that their wrestler is doing what he has to do, you can't rush that. I say "let's just get him to stop being pinned and then we'll be ready to think about winning." The wrestler needs patience, love, and understanding. What you can do is believe in your kid; ultimately it's his or her choice anyway.

There are a series of accomplishments in wrestling that

every wrestler must journey through. Every wrestler. It's a humble path of humility, pain, and perseverance; and it starts with a decision that says "no, I won't let you pin me anymore!" Every wrestler travels at his own rate, and once the first accomplishment is reached the rest come much more quickly:

1. YOU CAN'T PIN ME: this is when a kid really starts to wrestle. When the wrestler chooses this mindset it signals confidence and self worth. Believe me when I say that 9

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Upcoming fundraisers help Close Up

At the Vernonia Christmas Bazaar on December 5 and 6, the 8th grade Close Up kids will have Christmas trees for sale. Instead of making a trip out of town for a tree, stop by and purchase a fresh cut tree to support a great group of kids for an opportunity of a lifetime trip to Washington, D.C. Trees will also be pre-sold by the group – if you are interested you can contact Close Up advisor Ashley Rogers at Vernonia Middle School by email to arogers@vernonia.k12.or.us. Place your order today as

Christmas is just around the corner!

The kids will also have beautiful themed baskets to raffle – "Movie/Game Night", "Food & Dining" and "Gardening/Spa". If you have a new item you might like to donate to a basket, please contact Susan Wagner at 503-805-6886 or smwagner@pcisys.net. Raffle tickets will be selling for \$2.00 each or three tickets for \$5.00.

Coming up in January watch for Family Fun Night with a spaghetti feed and Bingo for the entire family! "New" donat-

ed items that are appropriate for BINGO prizes and cash donations, as well, are being accepted for this fundraiser. If you would like to make a donation for either event, please contact Ashley, Susan or Kinnell Steward at 503-819-0143 or mtskys@verizon.net. Stay tuned for more details of this fun event coming up!

Close Up is a weeklong program that gives students the opportunity to experience their government in action and gain the skills, knowledge, and con-

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Get rid of old tires and help kids

Don't miss the opportunity to get rid of those old tires and help Banks Christian Academy students raise money for a trip to Washington D.C.

Bring your tires to Jim's Thriftway, Saturday, November 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or

Sunday, November 22, from Noon to 3 p.m. Regular sized tires cost \$3, tires with wheels will be accepted for \$5, tractor and semi tires (35" or less) for \$6 and even car batteries for \$1.



Pick an ornament from a tree at WGS or US Bank... Purchase the item requested. Wrap it and return it to the tree with the ornament attached, by 12-17-09.

All holiday gifts will be delivered to WGS, Mist, VMS & VHS on Friday, December 18th

For info call: Amy Cieloha 503-429-0745
or Nicole Larke at 503-429-6271

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