

47J board hears latest new school cost

The December 10 Vernonia School Board meeting started with a presentation by Pam Weller, Wauna Federal Credit Union, of a check for \$2,455 to Cari Levenseller for the Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF). Vernonia Wauna employees thought up, designed, and then sold T-shirts with a Twilight movie theme. The employees decided they wanted the proceeds to go to the VEF to help toward new schools. T-shirts are still available at Wauna for \$15.00 each.

In Tom Ramsay's maintenance report, he told the board that there had been a break-in in the modular classrooms. Re-keying and new deadbolts would be installed and cameras put in behind the moduls. Ramsay also reported that three pipes broke due to the cold.

An update by Project Manager Steve Effros included information that he would be submitting a wetlands application (mitigation plans) soon, but that it may be months before a response is received.

BOORA gave an update on the architectural plans for new schools, telling the board that everything is still on schedule for students to move in by September 2011. Current cost esti-

mates, which have been reviewed by three different general contractors, set a price tag of \$28,836,582 for the buildings, and site (without sports fields).

Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox reported that employee volunteers' hours generated money from Intel in the amounts of \$470 (Washington Grade School), \$210 (high school) and \$1,600 (district employee hours).

The board voted, unani-

mously, to extend the Transportation Contract with Curl's Transportation to June 30, 2016, with changes to the maximum vehicle age, including language that the average age of all buses shall not exceed 12 years.

Athletic Director Gordon Jarman gave the board a fall sports report (see separate article, page 25).

The next board meeting will be held January 14 at the district office, starting at 6:00 p.m.



Left, Pam Weller from the Vernonia branch of Wauna Federal Credit Union hands a check to Cari Levenseller of funds raised by Wauna for the Vernonia Education Foundation.

Chalk Talk

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



Christmas break is here. Your children will be home for two weeks. It is our hope that you will have a wonderful holiday break and everyone will be safe and warm as you spend some additional time together as families.

Before students return to school again, another year will have passed into history. As we look to the new year we often take the time to consider some New Year's Resolutions and set some goals that we want to obtain for the year. Last October the school board did the same thing, they took some time at a retreat to set some goals for the future direction of the district. After some deliberation they came up with the following goal, which we will be focusing on as a district for the next few years rather than just one year:

- Demonstrate pride in our schools and community through effective communication and higher expectations.

The board felt that this goal encompasses the whole range of areas that we have been and want to continue to address as a district. In particular, we want to ensure that our students and staff work toward excellence and that everyone is doing the best they can. We also want to continue to improve communications between staff and parents. We have a great team and invite you as parents and grandparents to become part of a united effort to make our schools the best that they can be.

You will be hearing more in the months to come about the different programs and areas of focus that we as a district feel will help all our students do the best that they can.

We wish each of you an enjoyable holiday season and assure you that we will continue to do our best to make 2010 a year that will bring many positive changes to our community.

Eat out to help kids go to Costa Rica

Vernonia High School students are raising money for a trip to Costa Rica. You can help by picking up a flyer and eating at Panda Express, in Hillsboro, on Saturday, December 19, between Noon and 10:00 p.m.

Flyers are being distributed this week or are available at

both the high school and the district office. Take the flyer with you and present it when you order and 20 percent of your purchase price will be donated to the trip fund.

Panda Express is located at 2785 NW Town Center Dr., Hillsboro.

Wrestling: Welcome to the brotherhood

by Chris Barnes
VHS Wrestling Coach

Wrestling: Welcome to the Brotherhood

Camaraderie is the most perfect aspect of wrestling. It's wonderful. The simplicity of the sport lends itself to friendship and brotherhood like none other. Let's put wrestling into a basic perspective: Either I am going to beat you or you are going to beat me. It's a fight. We have a ring, a referee, and rules that we fight by. The ultimate goal is to beat your enemy into submission by forcing his back to the mat for two seconds. Wrestling is harsh, it's mean, and it's perfect. So perfect, once it's in your blood it becomes a passion that lasts a lifetime.

What a person puts on the mat determines how he or she will be measured. Win or lose doesn't matter. Did you wrestle or did you give up? That is the

real measure; there is no gray area. You earn my respect because you are willing to do this with me. If you want to be in the

brotherhood you must live by the code of the brotherhood; work hard, never complain, and

See Wrestling on page

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