



# THE INDEPENDENT

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The Vernonia High School Wrestling Team at Clatskanie.

Photo by Chris Barnes

## Logger wrestlers dominate at Clatskanie tournament

The VHS wrestling team showed great depth at the Clatskanie tournament, claiming the team title by more than 125 points over the second place team. The Vernonia team showed superior experience and technique throughout the day and is looking very tough overall. The wrestlers claimed six individual titles: Shylo Doo-ley at 125 LBS, Dillon Dethlefs at 135 LBS, Calvin Barnes at 145 LBS, Cody Cowles at 152 LBS, Brett Benes at 189 LBS, and Alax Barber at 285 LBS.

While posting champions in six of 14 weight classes is a staggering result, equally impressive is posting second place finishes in six of the 14 weights classes. The Loggers wrapped up the day with several third and fourth place finishes as well. These results are not unusual for the VHS Wrestling team; they have been doing this all season.

Vernonia Wrestling has done very well as a team this season. "In wrestling, team results are a reflection of the depth of the squad. We always hear about the guys who take first place, but the guys who help bring

home team titles are the ones who go unrecognized. We have kids who are winning matches in tournaments and pushing our guys in the practice room, and you may never hear their names," said Coach Barnes about the success of the team this season. "Wrestling celebrates the underdog and the unknown soldier as well as the medal winners." The coaching staff believes that everyone on the team is equally important. Anyone can succeed at wrestling if he or she is willing to do the work.

Led by head Coach James Brookins, Assistant Coaches Wolf and Barnes, and several volunteer coaches, the team has depth in the coaching staff as well. As coaches, they have experience in the light, middle, and heavy weight class divisions so they are able to tailor techniques to meet the needs of the wrestlers based on their size. Most teams don't have this luxury and end up being strong in some weight classes and weak in others.

Based on the depth and experience of the team, they expect the success to continue

into future seasons.

Team results to date this season are first at the Banks dual meet tournament, fourth at Harrisburg, first at Amity, second at Gervais, first at Neah-Kah-Nie, and first at Clatskanie.

VHS Wrestling will host two home meets this season; Friday, January 22, at 5:00 p.m. and Thursday, February 4, at 5:00 p.m. Plan to come out and enjoy the competition.

## Ballots can be left in area drop sites

Drop sites for the January 26 Special Election are as follows:

- Vernonia Library, 701 Weed Ave., during regular library hours through January 25; from Noon to 8:00 p.m. on January 26.

- Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District, 12525 Highway 202, through January 25 during office hours; from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on January 26.

There will also be a drive-by drop box in the lower (back) parking lot at the Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand St, St. Helens.



Sandra McLean unveiled a portrait of her late husband, Judge Rod McLean, at the Vernonia City Council. The picture will hang in Court/Council Chamber. See full story on page 5.

## Allen Alley will speak at GOP meeting

Allen Alley, Republican candidate for Governor in the May Primary Election, will be speaking at the monthly Columbia County Republican MeetUp gathering on Friday, January 29, at the Village Inn, 535 S. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens. The meeting will be held from 6:30 p.m. to about 8:30 p.m. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to order food or

drinks.

Over 30 years Alley has built an experience base that spans multiple disciplines from engineering to marketing, venture capital, entrepreneurship, and public service, as well as being the Republican candidate for Oregon Treasurer in 2008.

For more information contact Fred Yauney at fyauney@yahoo.com or 503-543-6271.

## Sen. Wyden has Town Hall in Vernonia

Senator Ron Wyden came to Vernonia on January 13 to hold a Town Hall. Over a hundred people were in the audience at the high school gymnasium, about half of them students. In a procedural change, instead of just raising hands to ask questions, a form was filled out and a ticket given to the questioner. There were two tickets, student and community. After his introductory comments, Wyden alternated taking questions (drawn from the tickets) from each group.

Student questions ranged from, "What do you plan to do about the deficit?" to "What would success be in Afghanistan?" To the Afghanistan question Wyden responded,

See Town Hall, page 4

## Town Hall Cancelled

The January 21 Vernonia School District Town Hall has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled for February.

**CORRECTION:** The photo of a house fire on Page 1 of *The INDEPENDENT's* January 7 issue should have been credited to Doug Harrod. We sincerely regret the omission.