



THE INDEPENDENT

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A light snowfall didn't interfere with children's fun at the annual Vernonia Easter Egg Hunt.

School biomass boiler gets DOE grant of \$400K

At their April 8 meeting, the Vernonia School Board heard from new schools project manager Steve Effros that the new schools will be getting a biomass boiler. The district received a \$400,000 Department of Energy grant for the boiler.

Construction option resolution 10-04 was passed unanimously by the board. The resolution makes formal the board's

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Studded tire season again extended

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has extended the studded tire season a second time, through Saturday, April 17. Weather forecasts called for continued difficult driving conditions in some snow zones for this week, causing the extension.

Motorists should have studded tires removed from their vehicles by 12:01 a.m., Sunday, April 18. ODOT encourages drivers to not wait until the deadline if they are not driving in snowy conditions.

BJ the Clown at Vernonia Library tonight



B.J. the Clown returns to the Vernonia Library tonight, April 15, at 6:45 p.m. to help celebrate National Library Week. Bring your youngsters to the library and join the fun.

This event is sponsored by

Make Vernonia Shine
Saturday, April 17
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sustainability exhibits. Free lunch for volunteers at noon. Sign-up at the covered play area by Washington Grade School. (See related article, Page 8)

Town Hall scheduled for update on school

Vernonia Schools will hold a Town Hall on Thursday, April 29, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the latest information on the new schools project, including cost estimates.

The Town Hall will be held in the Vernonia High School cafeteria (the green building).

the Friends of the Library, with Vernonia Study Club providing cookies and juice following the program.

Darrold Mushatt receives kidney transplant

Community-wide efforts to raise funds for a kidney transplant for Vernonia resident Darrold Mushatt finally paid off. On Easter Sunday, Mushatt received the kidney transplant that he desperately needed.

Local performers, businesses and individuals donated time, talents, services, foods, crafts and anything else they could, to help raise the \$8,000 Mushatt needed before the transplant. Help came from nearby communities as well. Jessikah Barrios, a student at Forest Grove High School, chose as her Senior Project to become a conduit for funds from Washington County residents. With her dedicated efforts, Barrios raised \$4,200, including a \$2,000 donation from a man (who asked to remain anonymous) who had previously received a kidney transplant and wanted to help.

At 9:00 a.m. on Easter morning, about two weeks after he



One day after arriving home from the hospital, Darrold Mushatt's smile reveals how he is feeling.

was placed on the transplant list, Mushatt was surprised to get the call for which he had been hoping. Mushatt said he never expected to get the call on Easter morning. He and his wife, Teresa, left their four children in the care of family members and headed for Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital. Just 3-1/2 hours later, at 12:30 p.m., Mushatt was out of surgery.

The surgery went well and after two days in the intensive care unit he was moved to a private room. Just one week after receiving the transplanted kidney, he was back home in Vernonia with his wife, daughters Nola and Cora, sons Darrold and Conner, and the family's three dogs. Eight days after the successful surgery Mushatt said that the "new" kidney still has yet to fully awaken, but that is common with kidney transplants and he is thrilled with his progress so far.

He has to go in for testing

three days a week for the next two weeks. He will always need to take anti-rejection drugs which, he said, "...sure beats dialysis three time a week."

Mushatt credited his wife with his current health and seemingly quick recovery, saying, "She's been my stronghold. She makes sure I take my medicine," he added with a smile, "She's put up with a lot (from me) and she has done a lot to keep me healthy."

He praised Jessikah Barrios, saying "It was a great Senior Project. I hope more seniors follow in her footsteps and make their Senior Projects community projects." Mushatt also said he was, "Extremely thankful not only to Jessikah, but to everyone, including the little boy who put his only dime in a collection can, because it took every penny."

The last thing he wanted to say was, "Thank you all so very much."