

School board hears construction update

At the January 13 Vernonia School Board meeting, the board was presented with a copy of the financial audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. The district's books and procedures were so clear and concise that the auditors did not even include a Management Letter, that would outline areas of concern or the need for improvement.

Since January is School Board Appreciation Month, the board was treated to dinner and received a number of presents from students, demonstrating their appreciation.

New school Project Manager Steve Effros reported to the board that construction is on schedule and that P&C Construction is scheduled to start pouring concrete at the beginning of March.

Fundraising efforts for the new school continue to add up, with new contributions announced by Providence Medical Group in the amount of \$10,000 and three \$50,000 donations (names not yet available) reported.

Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox received approval from the board for his suggestion that

the district's mission statement be reviewed in the near future.

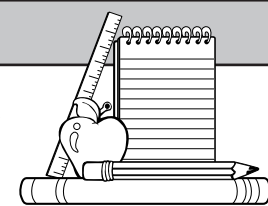
In other business, the board:

- Approved 17 policy updates; and
- approved the Education Service District local plan for 2011-12.

The next meeting, on February 10, will be held earlier than usual to accommodate a Town Hall meeting. The board will meet in the cafeteria (green building) from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., before the Town Hall, which starts at 6:30 p.m. in the same location.

Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk is a column of information about Vernonia schools. This column was provided by Grade School Principal Aaron Miller.



**Vernonia School District 47J
Town Hall Meeting –
Educational Programs
Thursday, February 10,
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

The Vernonia School District will be holding an Educational Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, February 8, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the district cafeteria. This Town Hall Meeting will be an opportunity for parents and community members to become more familiar with the programs and projects staff are working on with students to provide a comprehensive, well-rounded, effective education for students in Vernonia.

While planning is still underway, we are planning for a number of breakout sessions, including updates on the Vernonia Rural Sustainability Center, the Title I reading programs at WGS, our District-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support Program, Career Education offerings, Scholarships application information, and more. During these sessions, information will be provided by staff, but there will also be ample opportunity for questions to be asked and answered. People attending the meeting will be able to move from station to station, to learn more about the topics that interest them the most.

Babysitting for children of all ages, and activities for school age children (K-12) will be provided by District staff and Vernonia High School leadership students. Coffee and tea will also be served.

While there has been a great deal of discussion about our new school facilities, there has not been a great deal of communication on the great things that are happening in Vernonia's schools. This is a great opportunity for parents and the community to find out more information about the programs that are in place to help our youth grow and succeed.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Agriculture scholarships are available

The Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation (OAEF) has announced that applications are available for two scholarship programs for the upcoming 2011-2012 academic year.

Oregon Farm Bureau Memorial Scholarships (OFBMS), with 10-12 awards annually, are open to any Oregon high school graduate preparing for an agriculture or forestry-related career. Students attending institutions outside of Oregon are also eligible. The goal of the OFB Memorial Scholarship program is to "Support students that will have a positive impact on production agriculture and other agriculture-related fields".

The deadline for applications is March 1, 2011.

The Oregon Farm Bureau Associate Member Scholarship, funded by COUNTRY Financial, one award of \$1000, is open to any Oregon High School graduate/resident with an associate membership (non-farming/non-voting), or a dependent child of an associate member, in Oregon Farm Bureau preparing to continue his/her education through a junior college, or a four-year college or university with intent to seek a bachelor's degree. Students attending institutions outside of Oregon are also eligible. Employees of Oregon Farm Bureau and COUNTRY

Financial and their immediate families are not eligible for this scholarship. The goal of the COUNTRY Financial Oregon Farm Bureau Associate member Scholarship is to "Help future community and business leaders obtain a baccalaureate education with the aim of strengthening understanding, cooperation, and mutual respect among rural, urban, and suburban Oregonians."

Scholarship procedures, applications and additional information are available on the Oregon Farm Bureau website. (<http://www.oregonfb.org/programs/scholarships.shtml>)

Student works sought for anthology

*A single stream, A string,
a line, A bit of water,
Small, so fine.
But then the hearts, Of
many lives, Turned a dying
river To one that
thrives.*

– Claire Brown, Grade 4

"Honoring Our Rivers – A Student Anthology," a Willamette Partnership project, is designed to stimulate awareness of an important but fragile resource, our Watersheds – the waters, land, plants, animals, and habitats that make up our beautiful and fragile river systems.

The project is also designed to provide an opportunity for students to have their original literary, artistic, and scientific works published alongside in-

vited artists and writers such as Ursula LeGuin, Barry Lopez and Kathleen Dean Moore. Moore, the author of *Wild Comfort*, recently remarked, "Congratulations to Honoring Our Rivers! What could be more important for the world than inviting young people to pay loving attention to its wonders and wounds? Reading their delight- and sorrow-filled stories reminds us grownups why we have to work so hard to save a beautiful future, and why we

must succeed."

All students, from kindergarten through college, are eligible to submit their original works between now and February 25, 2011. Literary submissions can include fiction, poetry or essays. Artwork, including black and white photography, sketches or drawings, is encouraged either as a separate submission or as an aid in clarifying and supporting written

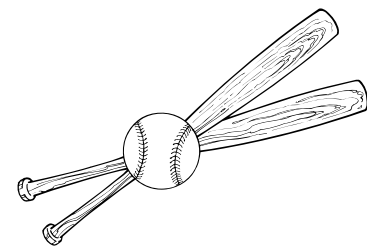
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Ball teams sign-ups scheduled

Baseball, t-ball and softball sign-ups will take place on Wednesday, February 2, and Wednesday, February 16, both from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Room 6 at Washington Grade School.

For more information, call Brooke Morrison (baseball) at 503-429-0560, Melissa Za-

vales (t-ball) at 503-429-2710 or Katie Poetter (softball) at 503-429-0700.



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