



Vernonia's 15 Austin Edgar blocks a shot by Gaston's 30 Tyler Lewis in recent game at Gaston. Photo by Chase Allgood/News-Times.

Chalk Talk

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

We met with the building inspectors and city planner last week to make sure we get everything in order to proceed. We began pouring concrete at the new school site this week!

Meanwhile, back at the district...we have a budget to prepare for next year.

We are facing some cuts, though not as many as we thought we faced last December. The current K-12 budget forecast is for \$5.6 billion, which translates to needing to cut approximately \$433,000 from our current budget. To do this we have begun holding Budget Assistance Team (BAT) meetings involving administrators, staff, and community members from the district budget committee to discuss our options.

We need your help! The decisions we will be making will impact the education of our children. You can be part of this process!

Officially there are only three meetings that a budget committee member needs to attend: a budget committee meeting held as part of the May school board meeting (May 12), a second meeting to review the budget in detail (May 26 for about 90 minutes), and the last being the June

board meeting (June 9), which also acts as a budget hearing.



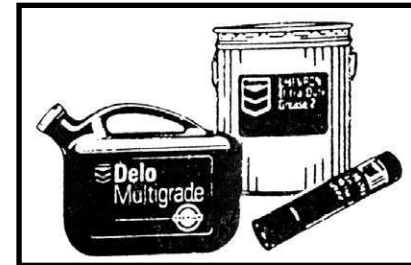
We are looking for three more budget committee members to represent the community. Please consider taking a few hours of your time to share your ideas. We are looking for input and have invited our community budget committee members to attend our BAT meetings where we will brainstorm and prioritize cost saving ideas.

By contributing only a few hours of your time, you will not only become more familiar with the way we finance our schools, but you can help make a difference in the future of our children.

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OSU announces 4-H scholarships opportunities

OSU Extension Service in Columbia County has announced their \$5,000 scholarship for 4-H youth attending Oregon State University in the fall.

The Columbia County 4-H Finance & Investment Scholarship is designed for youth who are interested in pursuing a degree at Oregon State University. This is a multi-year scholarship, of up to \$1,250 per year, for four years at OSU. Applicants must have participated in the Columbia County 4-H program and have some experience in the area of business and finance (examples: member of FBLA, high school personal finance or investments classes). Scholarship recipients must be attending Oregon State University and be majoring in Finance or a closely related field in either the College of Business or the Agricultural and Resource Economics Program.

Application and letters of recommendation must be received by April 1, 2011. For

questions about qualifying, call Jenny Rudolph, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Service, Columbia County at 503-397-3462.

For more information and a copy of the application, go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu>

[u/columbia/sites/default/files/Columbia_County_Scholarship_Application_2010.pdf](http://columbia/sites/default/files/Columbia_County_Scholarship_Application_2010.pdf); call or visit the OSU Extension Service office at: 505 N. Columbia River Highway, St. Helens.

Pet of the Month

Columbia Humane Society in St. Helens has a variety of wonderful pets available for adoption. Find the pet that's right for you in the shelter at 2084 Oregon Street. Phone 503-397-4353
Open Mon - Fri 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 am. to 5 pm.



JayJay is a wonderful 4-1/2 year old Australian shepherd mix. He is house trained and can be trusted indoors unsupervised. According to his previous owner JayJay gets along with most dogs but is not good with other fertile males. He prefers not to share his toys with other dogs but is not aggressive about it. JayJay loves people and being petted.

The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.

This Pet of the Month is Sponsored by:

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