



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. Postage Paid
Vernonia, OR 97064
Permit No. 37

FREE

THE INDEPENDENT

Vol. 27, No. 9

The Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley for Over 27 years

May 2, 2012



At the 2011 Camp 18 Logging Exhibition and competition, Robbie Van Dyke (facing camera) and Kyle Hilger are shown during Cross-cut Bucking, while Dwayne Dethlefs supplies the WD-40. See related article on page 13.

New school fundraising efforts continue

Fund raising efforts for the new Vernonia school are slated to continue through 2013, but the school is set to open in September of 2012. The timing difference between the opening of the school and fund raising efforts, though known for years, has become more apparent. While classrooms, cafeteria, and the "small" gymnasium will be completed by this June, some elements will be delayed, possibly until after the school opens.

Though the so called "small" gymnasium is longer than the current high school gymnasium, and will have the floor from the current gym, bleachers may not be in place. School games could still take place, but the audience may find themselves sitting on folding chairs for a while.

The "big" gymnasium and the wrestling room may be closed off, by the simple means

of locked doors, until completed. The district hopes to continue work on these areas starting in July, but funding is needed to continue these and some other areas.

The list and estimated cost of delayed portions of the projects include items that have been purchased, but need to be installed:

- blinds and shades in classrooms – \$65,000
- concession door and small gymnasium scoreboard – \$9,000
- inside light shelves – \$10,000
- final lift of parking lot asphalt paving – \$ 85,000
- work on the big gym and wrestling room includes installing wood paneling, painting ceilings and walls, plus installation of wood floor, wood paneling basketball hoop, and bleachers – \$91,000.

Items that remain to be pur-

chased and installed include:

- sound system and stage curtain – \$92,000
- bleachers for both gymnasiums – \$119,000
- projector screens and mounts – \$23,000
- science classroom fume hood – \$18,000
- solar panels for roof – \$300,000.

Some final landscaping on the new wetlands has been postponed until 2013 with an estimated cost of \$150,000.

All of these projects offer donation and volunteer opportunities. If interested in helping, contact the district office.

Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox said, "There is no way the school won't open on time. We already have a donation of \$21,000 needed to install the lockers and may have a donation for the stage curtain."

The shop classroom, though, **See New on page 12**

More County candidates speak on county needs

Columbia County voters will decide who should represent them on the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, in the May 15 primary election, when two positions are up for election. The two open seats are Position 1 and Position 3, currently held by Earl Fisher and Tony Hyde, respectively.

If one candidate for each position gets a majority, or 50% plus one, of the ballots cast, that candidate is elected in the primary and will not have to run again in the general election. If no candidate gets a majority, the top two candidates for each position will go on to a runoff in the November general election.

The Independent interviewed the candidates, asking the same questions of each one. Here are the questions and the candidates' responses. Responses are in alphabetical order, separated by the position they are seeking.

The candidates for position 1 are Earl Fisher, Wayne Mayo, Brady Preheim, Terry Luttrell, and Colleen DeShazer (see April 18 issue for information about these candidates).

The candidates for position 3 are Tammy Maygra, Jim Gibson, Tony Hyde, and Reginald

Ward.

Following the questions and answers, there is additional information about each Position 3 candidate.

Position 3 Candidates

1. How do you propose to provide county services with less money (bad economy, loss of county payments, etc.)?

Gibson – We need to prioritize what is critical and what we can live without. Public safety is a biggy and county roads are another. They eat up a lot of re-

See Candidates on page 5

Vernonia Health Fair

The Vernonia Health Fair will be held May 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria (green building). The Fair is sharing space with the Firefighter's Pancake Feed.

There will be vision and hearing tests, bloodmobile, glucose, cholesterol and bone density testing, other health related information, plus a drug take-back from Noon to 2:00 p.m.

VHS Band going to State

The Vernonia High School Band is taking their skills to state competition this year. The band will perform May 10 at 11:45 a.m. The awards will be presented between 1:15 and 1:30 p.m.

The competition will be at Oregon State University's LaSells Stewart Center, located at 875 SW 26th, Corvallis. Spectators are welcome, but there is an admission charge.

See page 12 for information on band performance in Vernonia on May 5.

Vernonia Firefighter's Pancake Feed

Vernonia Volunteer Firefighter's 5th annual Pancake Feed will be held May 5, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, in the school cafeteria (green building). The Health Fair is sharing the space.

The menu includes pancakes, biscuits and gravy, ham, eggs, fruit, and beverages. Adults – \$7, kids and seniors – \$5, families – \$25. There will be free fire truck rides, plus a fire wood raffle.