

Congratulations Class of 2007!



Scholarship Recipients

Vernonia Lions Club	Kevin Johnston	\$1000	Izaak Walton League	Erin Gehrke	\$250
	Amber Abney	\$1000	Mist/Berkenfeld Helping Circle	Kevin Johnston	\$750
	Brittney Lindauer	\$1000	VHS Alumni	Brent Thompson	\$1000
Natal Grange	Danielle Robb	\$500	Wauna Federal Credit Union	Erin Gehrke	\$1000
Micky Bruers Memorial	Amber Abney	\$300	Karen Pitt-Kilgore Memorial	Nandi VanMeter	\$700
Vernonia Boosters	Brent Thompson	\$500	Holce Logging	Brent Thompson	\$3000
	Brittney Lindauer	\$500		Brittney Lindauer	\$2000
	Kevin Johnston	\$500		Christina Sohler	\$2000
	Danielle Robb	\$500		Nandi VanMeter	\$1000
PEO	Brittney Lindauer	\$500		Danielle Robb	\$1000
	Julianna Pelster	\$500		Jessica Espinoza	\$1000
Gene Weller Memorial	Kevin Johnston	\$500	Zack Rumboltz Memorial	Nicole Franz	\$4000
Vernonia Education Assoc.	Brent Thompson	\$800		Jessica Leach	\$1000
	Willie Hansen	\$500		Willie Hansen	\$1000
Windermeere	Brittney Lindauer	\$500		Brittney Lindauer	\$500
WOEC, Sam Hearing	Brittney Lindauer	\$500		Kevin Johnston	\$500
	Erin Gehrke	\$500		Jeff Paleck	\$500
VOLTA	Colton DeWitt	\$1250		Megan Farmer	\$500
	Travis Baker	\$1250			

Do you know about VernoniaClassmates.com?

By Evangeline Doyle

And -- do you know the man behind the tattoo? And what a tattoo! A one-of-a-kind, I'm sure of that. He launched VernoniaClassmates.com – a free online service available to all past classmates that went to school in Vernonia (K-12). Give up?

For the 300 members that are currently enrolled (classes from 1945 – 2006), the answer is obvious – former VHS grad, Kelly Smith is the man behind the site, and the tattoo. The site began as a tool to help organize and plan “That 70’s Thing” reunion, July of 2005. It worked so well that Kelly decided to expand the scope to include all class years.

For those of you who don’t know Kelly, his family moved to Vernonia his 6th-grade year. Prior to that Kelly visited Vernonia every summer, attending Jamboree visiting his Grandma Ruth Steers, aunts, uncles and cousins. Though Kelly has since moved away, he still has family here, and obviously has a passion for keeping us alumni in touch. As for the tattoo, this is a recent addition – which begs the question, “Is Kelly homesick?”

Kelly also runs an automotive enthusiast web site, with similar functions – but for nearly 6,000 members, making him more than familiar with the tools to make this work. He’s always looking for ways to improve the VernoniaClassmates.com site; recently Kelly moved the site to a new hosting company, which enables the pages to load much faster than



before. He’s also updated the registration process so members can enter their real names in addition to their username.

Unlike commercial sites, this site is absolutely FREE to join and does not force pop-up ads or other obtrusive advertising on you. Kelly feels that all former Vernonia classmates should be able to keep in touch with each other, without having to pay an annual fee for unrestricted reading and writing privileges. The site can be used to network with other classmates, plan class reunions, share photos – or a good laugh. It’s capable of both forum-based discussions – like, “what was your favorite high school memory?” and “PMs,” or private messaging.

It’s always fun to reminisce about growing up in Vernonia and to hear about people’s lives post-graduation. So come on classmates, step up to your keyboard and type in VernoniaClassmates.com. Send Kelly a message asking about that tattoo – I dare you!

Similar commercial services cost approximately \$40 per year to join. At 300 members strong, Kelly has already saved our virtual Vernonia community a collective \$12,000. Pretty impressive Mr. Smith.