

Students Present Senior Projects

By Scott Laird

Each year Vernonia High School seniors are provided with an opportunity to explore a career of their choice through the Career Related Learning Experience (CRLE). This project culminates in the form of a final "Senior Project" which demonstrates to the school and the community the student's academic competence.

The goals of the project are to combine reading, writing, doing, speaking, and thinking and devel-



Jackson Miller

ops skills in personal management, problem solving, communication, and interpersonal skills.

The Senior Project actually starts during the student's junior year when they write a required paper looking at three potential careers. From the three careers investigated the student chooses one career to explore further during their senior year.

Students work with a community mentor who has expertise in the project area. Mentors must verify that the student spent at least twenty hours on the project.

In addition, students must complete a Letter of Intent about their project, create a physical display showcasing their project, and make an oral presentation before a panel of community judges. Arena style presentations are also made the same day as the oral presentation.

During the oral presentation students discuss what they learned from their junior paper, show results of their project, and discuss what they learned while doing the project.

During arena style presentations this year, students were available with the physical display portion of their project to discuss what they learned and talk about their experience.

Samantha Morgan explored Veterinarian as a career by working with Vernonia Veterinarian Clinic staff including Dr. Fowler and Dr. Gold. Morgan says she wasn't sure about veterinary medicine as a career before this experience. "It was really fun and it really interests me." Morgan says she now intends to pursue

this as a career.

Nicki Thompson studied Pastry Chef and learned through hands-on experience by baking almond roca, dark chocolate truffles, caramel turtles, donuts, cupcakes and a birthday cake for her younger brother. Thompson says she really liked her experience and learned that "...it takes a lot of time and you have to be patient and you have to be steady with your hand." Thompson says she plans to attend culinary school.

Natalie Wallace applied for and was accepted for a Nursing Internship at Tuality Hospital. Wallace says she worked in the Progressive Care Unit for twenty-six hours over four days and learned that there was a lot more paper work and charting than she realized and that "...your patients always come first." Wallace says she is more interested in work that involves lab work and research but that nursing still might be an option for her.

Jackson Miller worked with VHS Band Instructor Rob Izzet while "Learning to Conduct." Miller says he learned that he is interested in pursuing a career in Music and "there is still so much I need to learn and know." Miller just found out he has been

accepted into the School of Music and Dance at the University of Oregon and says he would like to become a high school music teacher. Miller says he plays the trombone, trumpet, piano, guitar, "and a couple other instruments.

Kelsey Brown job shadowed the local Naturopath, Dr. Carol McIntyre. Brown says she learned about acupuncture, manipulations and natural supplements. "Ours bodies were built to naturally heal themselves," says Brown. Brown says she received acupuncture herself, "for the experience," and helped with inventory to learn more about the supplements. "I'm more interested in working with the pediatric population," says Brown. "I may see a naturopath myself and I've definitely adopted a lot of the practices into my own daily life."

Robin Elliot shadowed local pharmacist Phil Darrah to learn about being a Pharmacy Technician. Elliot has been involved in the Pharmacy Program at

VHS for the last two years and will be certified in May as a Technician. Elliot says she initially started the project with the idea that it might be a career for her, but learned that the job involves a lot of repetition "...



Robin Elliot

and I'm not sure I could do it of the rest of my life." Elliot says she sees working as a Pharmacy Tech as a way to help her pay her way through college and says she is very interested in a career in either Nutrition or Law.

Courtney Paden worked at the local Head Start and observed four children for intensity/activity level,



Katie Ellington

quality of mood, and sensitivity towards others and determined whether each child was an extrovert or introvert. Paden says she will be attending Western Oregon University next fall to study Child Psychology.

Nathan Owen job shadowed local Police Officer Shawn Carnahan. Owen says he learned a lot about the job while riding in the patrol car and says he plans to enter the police academy when he turns twenty-one. "It was really helpful to talk with Officer Carnahan about his job and get out there and see what it is really like."

Katie Ellington studied Interior Design and worked with her sister, Renee Harris as a mentor. "I fell in love with it right away because it is such a creative process and I am very creative," says Ellington. Ellington designed a Teacher's Lounge for the new Vernonia School after meeting with Superintendent Dr. Cox and also surveying all the teachers in the district. Ellington designed three rooms in one, that includes a work area, an eating area and a relaxing area. "The concept I was going for was modern, clean, simple and easy to maintain," says Ellington.

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VHS Winter Sports Wrap Up

Wrestling—The Loggers and head coach Chris Wolf finished a tremendous season that included a fifth place finish at the 2A State tournament, several tournament team victories, and the highlight of the season, a District Team Championship.

The Loggers won the District meet with 240 points, far ahead of second place Neah-Kah-Nie with 186.5. The Loggers had eighteen wrestlers who won medals including three individual champions, Quin Johansen, Jacob Stevens and Brett Benes and two additional qualifiers for the State Tournament, Shylo Dooley and Joe Benes.

District Medal Winners were: 120 lbs: Sammy Morgan – 5th place, Jeff Goodman – 6th place; 126 lbs: Tynystan Talantov – 4th place; 132 lbs: Shylo Dooley – 2nd place, Bill Organ – 5th place; 138 lbs: Bridger Steward –

6th place, 145 lbs: Quin Johansen – 1st place, Dillon Dethlefs – 5th place, 152 lbs: Joe Benes – 2nd place, Mikol Pihl – 4th place, Ethan Johnston – 5th place; 160 lbs: Jake Barnes – 3rd place, Jacob Levenseller – 4th place, Dylan Taylor – 6th place; 170 lbs: Dawson Shay – 3rd place, Kristian Wredstroem – 4th place, 182 lbs: Jacob Stevens – 1st place; 195 lbs: Brett Benes – 1st place.

At the State Tournament Dooley saw an early end to the tournament as he was eliminated after his first two matches. Dooley ended an otherwise outstanding career as a two-time District Champion four time State Qualifier.

Joe Benes, battling a broken hand throughout the tournament, fought back after losing his first match to take fourth place. Benes also ended an excellent career, winning one District Championship and also qualifying four times for State.

Johansen had a good series of matches at State finishing 3-1 and taking third place.

Jake Stevens won his first two matches by fall to earn a spot in the Championship match, where he lost a grueling bout, 10-7 and brought home the second place medal.

Brett Benes also won his first two matches by fall to make it into the finals, where he also lost a tough match 12-8 and finish second in the state.

At the Winter Sports Awards, Jacob Stevens was named Most Valuable Male Athlete and Samantha Morgan was named Most Valuable Female Athlete. Quin Johansen was named Most Improved and Jake Barnes and Joe Benes were named Most Inspirational.

Boys Basketball—It was obviously a great season for first year head coach David Weller and the Loggers who finished their year with a 24-5 overall record, a 13-3 league record, a 2A

Northwest League Championship and a berth in the State Playoffs for a second year in a row. The Loggers capped it off with a home win over Pilot Rock at the Logger Dome in the first round of the state playoffs to earn a trip to the final eight in Pendleton for the first time in 16 years. At the State Championships, in front of a large contingent of traveling Logger fans the boys won the 4th place trophy.

Seniors Craig Weller and Pavel Jiranek were named First Team All League and senior Austin Edgar and junior Austin Cutright were named Second Team All League. At the State Tournament Jiranek was named First Team All Tournament and Cutright was named Second Team All Tournament. Jiranek and Craig Weller were both named Third Team All State.

At the Winter Sports Awards, Austin Cutright was named Most Valuable Player, Pavel Jiranek was

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