

VHS Students Present Senior Projects

On January 9, 2013 the Vernonia High School Senior class presented their Career Related Learning Experience (CRLE) Senior Projects to the school and the community.

The Senior Project is an opportunity for students to demonstrate skills they have learned throughout high school. Each student is required to spend



Ashlee Archer spent time working with an Intensive Care Nurse for her Senior Project.

and document twenty hours of time on the project, and work with a mentor to gain knowledge and experience in a real life work environment.

Students initially write a letter of intent about what they hope to accomplish and learn through their project. Students then spend time working with a mentor they have chosen to complete a job shadow and gain firsthand experience about the career they are learning about.

Students are then required to create a visual display and present them in an arena style open house. The projects are completed during an evening of formal oral presentations in small groups which are judged by panels of community members.

During the arena style presenta-

tions students had an opportunity to informally explain their projects to visitors and talk about their learning experience. *Vernonia's Voice* visited with many of the students and interviewed several of them about their CRLE's.

Tanika Cradit did a teaching internship with Miss Eagleson, spending three full days and six partial days with her kindergarten class at the Vernonia School. Cradit created a theme for her project, "Let Imaginations Be Free," and used that theme to create activities and projects that she completed with her students. She used her projects to help the students with their small motor skills, to learn to follow directions and to use their imaginations.

Ashlee Archer spent time observing the work of an intensive care nurse at the Portland Veterans Hospital. Archer had the opportunity to observe an emergency code that involved chest compressions while in the unit. She was also able to observe an open heart surgery procedure. She says she learned that the human aspect of nursing is very important. Archer said she is very interested in pursuing nursing as a career and would like to work in the intensive care environment.

Jonathon Anderson explored career fields that involved physical fitness and well-being. He learned about being a personal trainer, a nutritionist and physical therapist from his mentor Teresa Williams and created a booklet for underclass athletes to help them with their training.

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Wyden Holds Town Hall at Vernonia Schools

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D) spoke at a Town Hall Meeting at the Vernonia School on Monday January 14, 2013.

Wyden opened the meeting by recognizing several Korean War Veterans in the audience. Wyden announced that he was a sponsor of U.S. Senate Resolution 602 which commemorates 2013 as the "Year of the Korean War Veteran." Wyden presented the veterans with a plaque of the resolution and honored their service. The veterans received a standing ovation from the crowd.



Wyden spent the remainder of the meeting answering questions from the audience. Vernonia High School students were invited to attend the Town Hall and were in attendance. Wyden focused much of his attention during the meeting on the students, specifically trying to engage them during the ninety minute meeting.

VHS Student Body President Samantha Wallace asked Wyden about what can be done to change the high cost of a college education. Wyden responded that access to college is very important and that he supports funding for Pell Grants. He also said college needs to be about value and said he has introduced legislation called "The Student Right to Know Before You Go Act" which tells prospective students about graduation rates, debt levels and most importantly, what a student would be likely to earn in salary if they received a degree from particular school.

Gun control and school safety was the subject of several questions

from the audience. When asked about whether he would support a ban on assault weapons, Wyden explained that he and his wife are the parents



of three children under the age of six and that the horror for the parents of the children murdered in Connecticut is unimaginable. Wyden also confided that he had a brother who was a schizophrenic who caused his family much anxiety over whether he was capable of hurting himself or others. Wyden stated that he wrote the "Career Criminal Law" which mandates stiff penalties for those with a prior criminal record who commit a subsequent crime with a gun. He has also worked to fill in the gaps in the mental health system. Wyden says he believes that, in light of recent events involving gun violence, that our country needs to do more to protect its citizens. Wyden says he would like to be part of a bipartisan effort to get more "gun sense" into the debate to provide practical and effective measures but also takes into account rights and responsibilities. Wyden said he felt strongly about personal responsibility and would start

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Spencer Health and Wellness Opens at Vernonia Schools

The new school based health center is now open at the Vernonia School.

The clinic, which opened on January 11, 2013, has a name, Spencer Health and Wellness. It will provide primary care visits for illness and injury, prescriptions, sports physicals, and immunizations and promote preventive care and wellness. There will be a reception area, private exam/counseling room, a lab area, bathroom, and confidential and secure record keeping area. Mental Health services will also be provided at the clinic through a contract the School District has arranged independently with a professional mental health counselor available.

In addition to primary care treatment, the clinic will offer screening services that include blood pressure, vision, hearing and scoliosis

as well as minor dental screenings and preventive treatment. The clinic will have the capacity to write prescriptions and administer over the counter and prescription medications.

The clinic will also provide reproductive health services including pap exams, pelvic exams, testicular exams, pregnancy testing and counseling and Sexually Transmitted Disease/ Sexually Transmitted Infections (STD/STI) treatment and prevention including condom availability for STD/pregnancy prevention use.

The clinic operation is being overseen by the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County. Medical oversight is provided by Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). The clinic will initially be open to patients on Tuesday's and Friday's from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM. More days could be added in the

future if needed.

Tera Roberts, a Family Nurse Practitioner who holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree will be the care provider. Roberts is part of the OHSU staff and faculty.

Although the clinic is not fully functioning, the doors are open and patients may be seen. "All of our equipment is pretty much here," said Roberts on the opening day. A grand opening will be held sometime in February.

Roberts says the clinic is still waiting for a refrigerator to be delivered and is unable to store and give vaccinations until that arrives.

The 7:30 AM start time allows students to be seen and not miss any class time. It will also help accommodate parents who want to be with their child when they are seen by the provider.

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