

# Band Instructor Izzett Leaving Vernonia

Vernonia Band instructor Rob Izzett announced on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> that he will be leaving the Vernonia School District to accept a position in Klamath Falls. Izzett was responsible for rebuilding the Vernonia music program and led the VHS Band to first place in the State Contest in 2012.

On Wednesday evening during the annual Awards Ceremony, three of Izzett's students, Sarah Wagner, Jennifer Reid and Nicole Glass made the following presentation to Izzett:

*"Mr. Izzett has done so much for this school.*

*For seven years Mr. Izzett has taught at this school. He took the mess of a band program that we had and turned it around. Mr. Izzett stepped onto a sinking ship, because he felt somewhere deep down, there was something here.*

*In his fifth year of directing in Vernonia, he accomplished something*

*that hadn't been done in years. He took the band to the State contest. We all put our trust in him and with his leadership the band placed fifth. That day we proved he had made the right decision by coming to the school.*

*The next year we were excited. We knew we could only get better from the year previous. We worked hard, our fearless leader powering through a broken hip. That year at State he limped on stage with the best of them. Perhaps he had literally "broken a leg" for luck, because that year we brought home the big blue trophy, first place.*

*This past year, after losing so much of our band to graduating seniors, Mr. Izzett simply sat us down and we talked.*

*"It's up to you guys, what you want to do," he told us. "If you want to go to State, you'll have to work for it. It is all your decision."*

*So we worked hard, and he*



**Rob Izzett conducting his final performance with the VHS Band.**

*pushed us. Against what the whole band believed, we made it to State again, for the third year. Three must have been our lucky, because that is how we placed.*

*Mr. Izzett has done so much for our school. For some of you, he may*

*seem like just the band teacher. But to those who have stuck with him for long enough know he is so much more. He knows when one of us is having a bad day or a hard time with something. He is understanding and always willing to help. He knows his musician's skill levels and is able to push them forward without pushing them over the edge.*

*Mr. Izzett has added a sense of school pride that wasn't there before. In many ways he is much more than a teacher. And for that, Mr. Izzett, we the members of the band, and the students of Vernonia High School, would like to thank you."*

On Thursday evening May 30<sup>th</sup>, Izzett led his final performance with the Middle School Band in their annual spring concert. On June 1st he conducted his final performance with the VHS Band at the Class of 2013 Graduation Ceremony.

# Fleck Wins Second State Championship *continued from front page*

the 4x100 relay and also broke the school record in the triple jump. Senior Rowan Cheney picked up a medal in the 4x400.

"I thought the kids did great, really exceeding everyone's expectations," said Brown. "It was really a great season, especially for the girls team, and to cap it off with such an incredible performance at historic Hayward Field will make it memorable for a long time to come."

The previous week the team competed in the District Track and Field Meet on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Portland Christian's track and came home with several district champions. This was the state qualifying meet, where the top 2 in each event go on to the state track meet.

There were several big stories and outstanding performances for the Loggers at the District meet. Nathan Fleck set a new district meet record in the 800 meters at 2:00.

Samantha Lindauer won the district in the 3K, leading her race from start to finish.

Lane Sullivan won the district long jump after going into the



**Nathan Fleck receives his gold medal from Logger head coach Byron Brown. Photo courtesy of Hannah Fleck.**



**Dezi Roberts took 6th place in the High Jump at State. Photo courtesy of Silje Jacobsen.**

meet ranked fourth in the district.

Meghan Sullivan is district champ in the 100 meter dash. Sullivan and Maina Martin finished 1-2 in the event. According to Logger head coach Byron Brown, Sullivan and Martin just kept getting faster at every track meet.

Other state qualifiers for the Loggers—Drew Cheney who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Men's 3K; Dezi Roberts in the girls in high jump

and triple jump, the girls 4 x 100 relay (Meghan Sullivan, Sammy Lindauer, Dezi Roberts and Maina Martin); and the girls 4x400 relay (Rowan Cheney, Meghan Sullivan, Maina Martin and Samantha Lindauer) who ran a season best at the district meet.

The girls team finished with a very strong 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall, outdistancing all other NWL teams, running up 124 points. "This was maybe the best performance by a VHS girls team ever at a district meet," said head coach Brown.

"Almost everyone achieved a season's best performance at the meet, always one of our main goals. We got a lot of compliments from the other league coaches and parents about our competitors and the impressive showing of our team. We are building a solid reputation in track, even without the facilities of our competition. The keys to our success is in getting our top athletes to commit to track and getting large numbers of our kids to come out for the team. It allows us to compete in events that we never previously competed in and gives us the depth necessary to be a top team."

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