

Schools Update: More About Superintendent Retirement

Dr. Ken Cox

I recently noticed on Facebook that my retirement has raised some questions in the community so I thought I would clarify what's happening and some background.

In the last couple of years, as we neared the completion of the school, I have chosen to be optimistic about the new school and the number of students that would come to Vernonia as a result. Unfortunately, the numbers

haven't materialized yet and as our enrollment numbers have dropped so has our operating funding from the state, resulting in the need to make some rather drastic changes.

Our district, with only about 550 students enrolled, can no longer support a full-time superintendent. Because of this, and in order to help balance the budget, I have chosen to retire and only work half time. This will not only save the district half of my salary but the district will not have to pay anything to

PERS on my salary as well.

Our district is not alone in finding that the funding from Salem does not meet the needs of K-12 education in the state. There are a number of districts who are making staffing reductions and cutting days to help balance their budgets. We have had to make cuts for the past few years and as we approached the budget this year there wasn't much left to cut.

The District Budget Committee, in their May 23rd meeting, approved

a budget which reduces days to balance the budget without any teacher reductions (other than a resignation and a retirement). There will be a public hearing on the 2013-14 Budget as part of our regular board meeting on Thursday, June 13th, which will be held on the stage in the new schools. Everyone is invited to attend. There will also be a demonstration by the Vernonia Loggerbots, our robotics club, prior to the meeting at 5:45 PM.

VHS Spring Sports Awards

Golf

Justin Ragsdale Most Improved

Baseball

Austin Cutright First Team All League, Most Valuable
Tim Jennings Second Team All League
Ethan Johnston Second Team All League
Ronnie Maldonado Honorable Mention All League
Ruben Fabers Most Improved
Anton Kelm Most Inspirational

Equestrian

Sheyenne Pedersen Most Valuable
Makayla McCord Most Inspirational
Sarah Wagner Most Improved

Track and Field

Nathan Flack Most Valuable
Samantha Lindauer Most Valuable
Mckenzie Titus Most Improved
Daniel Rice Most Improved

Softball

Sara Smith First Team All League Most Valuable
Samantha Wallace First Team All League Most Inspirational
Stephanie Castro First Team All League
Kassidy Fetch First team All League
Riplee Burch Honorable Mention All League
Ashley Hernandez Most Improved

2012-2013 Principal's Awards

Best Overall Senior Project

Janae Easlon

Top Community Service Hours

Kendrick Leaverton

McEntire Math Award

Samantha Wallace

Alvilda Hearing English Award

Janae Easlon

John Phillips Sousa Award

Rowan Cheney

Presidential Scholars (3.5 & above Cumulative GPA)

Ashlee Archer
Austin Best-Cutright
Savannah Brown
Rowan Cheney
Janae Easlon
Samantha Lindauer
Deziree Roberts
Lane Sullivan
Ellyssa Szlavich
Samantha Wallace

Marine Corp Distinguished Athlete

Nathan Fleck
Sara McMahon

Marine Corp Scholastic Athlete

Dezi Roberts

Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete

Samantha Wallace
Tim Jennings

Albert Brunzman Memorial Award-Athletic Sportsmanship

Ethan Johnston

Most Inspirational Underclassman

Meghan Sullivan

Terry Smith Memorial Most Inspirational Senior Athlete

Samantha Lindauer

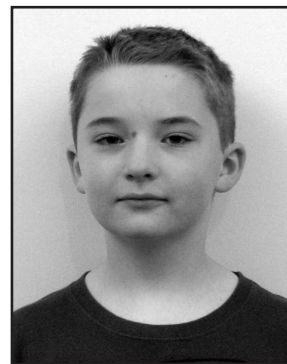
Outstanding Athlete

Autstin Cutright

Vernonia's Voice is published on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Our next issue will be June 20.

Vernonia Students of the Month

May 2013



Cody Hathcoat, Grade 3

Cody is a very conscientious young man. Not only does he do his best on all of his academic school work, he also makes every effort to always follow the school rules (Be Safe, Responsible, and Respectful); whether he thinks an adult is watching or not. He is a Self-Manager and is very dependable. Cody says his favorite subject is math. In his spare time he likes to play video games and help take care of his dogs, Honey and Joey.

Cheyenne Kemper, Grade 8

Cheyenne is a good academic student who always does what is asked of her. Cheyenne says her favorite subjects in school are art and music. She plays the saxophone in the band and also ran track and played volleyball. She is in the Middle School Leadership Class. In her free time she plays the electric guitar, likes to draw and takes care of her chocolate lab, Denali.



Janae Easlon Grade 12



Janae is an Honor Student and a member of the National Honor Society. For her senior project she helped re-start the school newspaper, The Timberline. She has been a Teaching Assistant for English, does statistics for the boys basketball teams, and was the Senior Class Secretary. She was part of "Walk and Talk" a mentoring program for young girls and has been a councilor at Camp Wilkerson. She says her favorite subject is literature and any social science classes taught by Mr. Baker. In her free time she works at Subway, and enjoys watching movies and hanging out with family. Next year she will attend Western Washington University to study Journalism.

Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet

Blackie is a handsome, longhaired black/white neutered male cat. He is approx. 1 year old and was a former stray that a caring couple took in until they could bring him to the shelter. Blackie is a chatty guy that loves to talk and follow you around. He does ok with some dogs but would do best in a home with no other cats. His

"Blackie"



adoption fee was fully sponsored by the individuals that took him in and so we are now looking for just the right family to take him home with no adoption fee. He is neutered, vaccinated, de-wormed, flea treated, microchipped and qualifies for a free vet check. He gets to go home with a cardboard carrier and a take home adoption packet as well. If you are looking for a sociable guy that loves to talk, Blackie is your cat! Come into the shelter and fill out an application for him today.

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Sponsored by State Senator Betsy Johnson