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and Julius Haake also show potential. "We need them to come through for us if we are going to achieve our potential as a team," says Brown.

Baseball-First year head coach Joe Walters has his squad in the middle of the pack with a 3-4 record in District I and a 5-7 record overall after losing a close game to Portland Lutheran, 6-5, losing 2 of 3 games to Gaston and previously taking 2 of 3 games from Nestucca.

Walters is getting some great technical assistance from assistant coach Jim Krahn, who played minor league baseball at one time. "He is a treasure chest of knowledge," says Walters. "It's amazing how much that man knows about baseball."

Walters and Krahn have a nice mix of players this year, with some experienced seniors leading the way and several freshman seeing significant playing time.

Senior Tim Jennings and freshman Bailey Morrison are the starting pitchers, with seniors Ronnie Maldonado and Bo Clark and freshman Brett Elliot also seeing time on the mound. "Jennings and Morrison have kept us in a lot of games early in the season," says Walters. "They throw a lot of strikes." In a loss against Gaston Jennings worked five innings, giving up 7 hits and 5 runs, just 2 of them earned, while striking out

8.

Clark is the starting catcher with Elliot as his back-up.

Senior Jared Whitton is the starting first baseman with senior John Dass at second, Morrison starts at shortstop and Elliot has taken over starting duties at third base. In the outfield senior Adonis Hopkins is solid in center field, Maldonado starts in left and a handful of players are competing for playing time in right field.

Offensively Walters says his whole team is really starting to hit the ball well. Walters noted Dass as having really improved and has moved up in the lineup.

Walters also has a large contingent of foreign exchange students on his squad. "I'm really glad to see them coming out and giving it a try because none of them has ever played a lick of baseball before," says Walters. Most impressive has been Sam Hout, a naturally gifted athlete who played hockey in his native Canada. Hout has earned some playing time in right field, where he can catch and throw, and has also practiced at first base. Hout impressed Walters with his willingness to learn and even got a single in his first ever at-bat in a game.

The Loggers have an upcoming doubleheader against Portland Lutheran and then a series against Faith Bible with a home game on April 22.

Loggerbots Complete Season

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At the Oregon City District Event the Loggerbots finished sixteenth out of thirty-five teams. At the Oregon State University event the Loggerbots finished fifteenth out of thirty teams.

The Loggerbots compete against teams from all size schools in the Pacific Northwest Region. At the end of the season, with points combined from all three events the Loggerbots participated in, the team was ranked 47th overall out

of 153 teams.

This is the third year the Loggerbots have competed in the FIRST Robotics competition. The team is made up of Vernonia High School and Middle School students under the direction of Eric Urban. A team of community members and parents act as mentors for the team, helping the students learn about fabrication, mechanics, computer programing and other skills.

Schools Update: Instructional Assistant Positions

By Aaron Miller

As we start planning our budget for next year we are finding out that we may have a number of openings for part-time and substitute Instructional Assistant (IA) positions. We will be advertising these when they become available, but we wanted to make sure that any potential candidates are aware of some of the requirements that the district is under before we can hire individuals in these positions.

A few of the many tasks performed by Instructional Assistants include helping students with their class work, monitoring students during lunch and recess, working with individual students or small groups to build specific skills in a given subject area, and supporting teachers as they prepare for classroom instruction. There are a wide variety of skills involved in carrying out these tasks, and our Instructional Assistants do a fantastic job of meeting their many daily responsibilities.

Under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, and because Vernonia Elementary School (VES) receives federal funding, ALL of its Instructional Assistants MUST be, and ARE, "Highly Qualified" (HQ). Any new Instructional Assistants hired at VES must be HQ at the time they are hired. By definition an Instructional Assistant is deemed

"highly qualified" by meeting one of three standards: 1) by holding an associate's or bachelor's degree from an accredited higher education institution, 2) earning at least 30 college credits, or 3) passing an approved academic skills and pedagogy (teaching) test.

In order to help prepare our Instructional Assistants (and potential Instructional Assistants) our district uses the Work Keys Assessment promoted by the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). This assessment can be administered in about 2-3 hours right here in Vernonia. The district has study materials that are available for checkout at the main office of the new school building to help potential candidates prepare for the assessment. If you are interested in becoming 'highly qualified' in order to be eligible for employment as an Instructional Assistant in the Vernonia School District contact the office for details on how to obtain study materials and set up an appointment, 503-429-1333.

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Our next issue will be out May 1st.

Vernonia Students of the Month

March 2014

Larissa Vandehey Grade 5



Larissa is known as a go-getter who loves learning and takes pride in her work. "She is an amazing young lady," says her teacher Mrs. Campbell. "She is like a sponge and just soaks it all up." She completes all of her assignments on time and also helps in class; she has memorized her classmates last names in alphabetical order and can file their completed work in minutes. Larissa says her favorite subjects are math and spelling. She plays basketball and likes to play on the computer and hang out with friends.

Lizzie Barnes Grade 8

Lizzie is a new student to the Vernonia School this year; previously she was home schooled. Her teachers all think she is a really nice and sweet student and all-around good kid. Lizzie says her favorite subjects are language arts, art and social studies. She says she really loves animals and likes walking and spending time with her four big dogs: brothers, Odie and Toby who are a Mastiff, Bulldog, and Lab mix; Sammy, a girl, who is German shepherd, Lab, and Shar-Pei mix; and a new puppy, Titan who is Bulldog, Golden Retriever and Boxer mix.



Laura Rice Grade 12

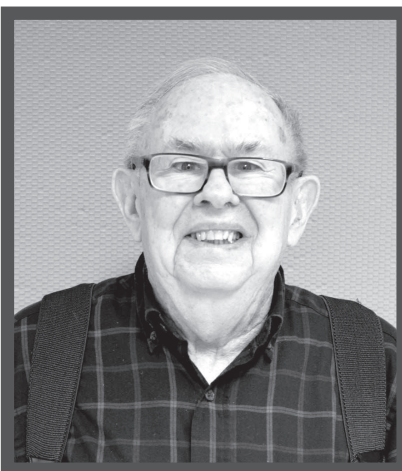
Laura is the Student Body President at VHS. She says the class she enjoys the most this year is her art class. She is singing in the school choir club and plays flute in the band. She ran cross country this past season. Outside of school she performs with the Vernonia Ballet and also teaches ballet three times a week. She also works on service projects through her youth group. In her free time she loves to paint, play piano and write stories.



Sponsored by State Representative Brad Witt

Vernonia School District Volunteer of the Month March 2014

Dewey Deweber



Vernonia School District's Volunteer of the Month for March 2014 is Dewey Deweber. Dewey, (who is proud of the fact that he is 83 years old!) has been volunteering at the Vernonia School District for several years. Over the years, he has put in over one thousand hours of volunteer time. This year alone he has over 400 hours. Dewey helps in Mrs. Eagleson's Kindergarten/1st grade class on a weekly basis. He listens to kids read, assists in classroom activities, hands out papers and what-

ever else Mrs. Eagleson needs help with. The kids love having Mr. Deweber volunteering in their class because he is so kind hearted, sweet and caring. Dewey is a perfect example of what volunteerism is all about and our students are very fortunate to have him as a local volunteer! Thank you Mr. Deweber!