

# VHS Senior Projects *continued from front page*

**Ben Skanes** worked with Ben Fousek at the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, learning about Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Ben worked to correct Upper Nehalem Watershed map data in five large areas, and produced an accurate data layer that the Watershed Council can use on their riparian restoration projects and culvert assessments. Ben says he created over 29,000 features during 27 hours of work. Ben says he learned that GIS work requires a strong programming background and the patience to do tedious tasks.

**Joud Khaled** is an exchange student from Palestine living with the Westlake family. Joud and all the other senior exchange students did not complete an entire Senior Project, but created a display board and gave a speech about their home country. Joud described some of the holy places in Jerusalem, talked about other important landmarks in her country, like Bethlehem, the

outfit, called a toub, worn by girls for ceremonies and dancing.

**Quentin Skanes** managed a blood drive at the Vernonia Schools on June 24 and helped collect 21 units of blood for the Red Cross with his project. Quentin says he did everything to coordinate the project from start to finish and that it was really fun. He worked to advertise the event, recruit volunteers, register people at the time of donation, and worked with the Red Cross to make sure things ran smoothly.



Quentin Skanes

**Brad Ely** built an automatic watering system that could be used in gardens or greenhouses. Brad purchased and built a kit that uses a motion sensor to determine whether soil is wet or dry and can open a relay and turn on a water valve if needed. Brad says he spent a lot of time researching and rewriting code to run the program and experienced several issues that kept his project from functioning correctly. He diligently worked with his mentor Leslie Seibert to try and overcome the obstacles.

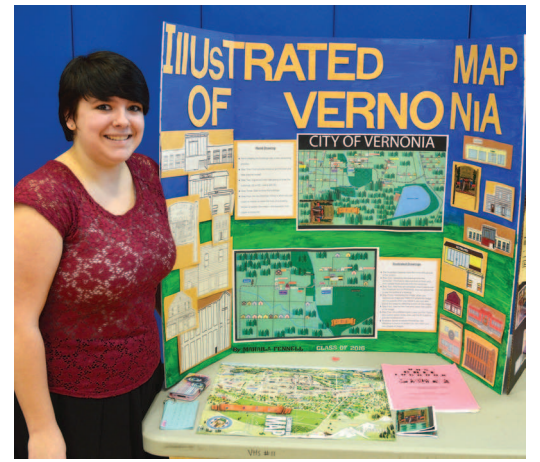
**Mariah Miller** baked treats that she sold at the Christmas in the Country Bazaar

to raise money for Rafael House, a domestic violence shelter for women and children in Portland. Mariah explained that Rafael House was founded in 1977. It is in a confidential location and has ten family rooms and one room for single women. They also offer transitional housing services.

**Alexis Scott** worked with family friend Kim Marshall and learned about cake baking and decorating. Alexis helped make the cake for her mother's wedding celebration and the cake for

her sister's Sweet Sixteen birthday party. She says she learned about different techniques for decorating and also some secrets for baking a good cake. She also learned that having deadlines is more stressful than when she is baking for fun.

**Haily Fennell** is working on creating an illustrated visitors map of Vernonia for the Chamber of Commerce to help boost tourism. Haily hand drew images of structures in the community and then used Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to color and enhance the images, as well as add additional features to her map.



Haily Fennell

Haily has not finished her map but says she intends to have it complete before graduation. Haily says she would like to work in the fields of digital art and digital design.

**Jared Medearis** combined his senior project with his Eagle Scout project and managed a cleanup at the covered play shed at Spencer Park. Jared worked with the City of Vernonia and organized work crews to clean and repaint the basketball court, remove weeds around the area, replace a section of fencing, clean the children's play structure and place new bark chips in the play area. Jared said he learned leadership skills, including how

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Joud Khaled

Dead Sea, Jericho, and the Old City of her hometown Nablus, famous for its arches and architecture. She also explained some foods and meals native to her country and displayed a traditional



## Consider all of the conditions before you drive this winter.

Winter weather in Oregon can make driving downright hazardous at times. But weather isn't the only condition that leads to safe winter driving. Here are a few things to consider before you hit the road.

**Weather conditions** Check a weather web site, such as [www.weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/pacnorthwest.php](http://www.weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/pacnorthwest.php), for driving conditions to help you decide when and if to hit the road, or across the mountains and into the city.

**Road conditions** Oregon Department of Transportation continually updates [www.tripcheck.org](http://www.tripcheck.org) with road and weather conditions, construction zones and road camera views.

**Your car's condition** How are your tires? Do you have chains? You should also be prepared

with emergency supplies, a full tank of gas and a charged cell phone so you can call 9-1-1 in an emergency. We hope you never need us, but if you do, we're here to help you arrive safely at your destination.

**Your own condition** Have you had enough rest? Or a few drinks? Honestly assess your own ability to drive safely before you get behind the wheel in winter's more challenging driving conditions.



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## Food for Fines Fundraiser

### Vernonia Public Library February 1-15, 2016

Bring non-perishable food or personal care items to the library and **\$1 in fines\*** will be forgiven from your account in exchange for each item.

**A few suggestions:**

- ☆ canned fruit & vegetables
- ☆ cereals ☆ rice ☆ beans
- ☆ protein rich foods
- ☆ personal care items
- ☆ baby diapers or wipes
- ☆ toilet paper

*All donations, including money paid on fines during this time period, will be donated to Vernonia Cares.*

*\*Fees for Lost or Damaged items can not be waived in exchange for donations.*

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