

# “Project Based Learning” Class Makes Presentation to Community Groups

Students at Vernonia High School have been participating this school year in a Project Based Learning (PBL) class which has the students learning work techniques while developing and implementing a real world project.

This year the class, under the direction of instructor Jim Krahn, applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) through their Community 101 program, which is to be used as a learning tool for the students.

\$1,000 of the grant can be used in the students' own school and the PBL class has chosen to bring a

speaker to the school for an anti-bullying program.

The PBL class will use the rest of the funding to identify issues within the community, research local non-profits, accept and review grant applications, and award grants to local groups for work within the community.

After creating a survey and collating the results earlier this year, the PBL class has identified several key issues of concern among students and community members which they will focus on, including Suicide Prevention, Bullying, and Children in Poverty.

Members of the class, including Vivianna

Bustamonte, William Scheuerman, Mackenzie Fassold, Gaven Everett, Courtney Barklow, and Ben Shulte recently met with community leaders representing numerous local non-profits and community groups to present the opportunity and solicit project ideas and grant applications.

The community leaders included Jennifer Butcher with Head Start, Shannon Romtvedt and Cicci Bell representing the Vernonia Library and Friends of the Library, Tobie Finzel wearing many hats and representing Vernonia Cares, the Senior Center, the

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## VHS Seniors Present Projects *continued from front page*

at Tuality Hospital and said she had an “amazing experience.” She says she is interested in pursuing a career in biology.

**Jessie Williams** – Jessie job shadowed local chiropractor Dr. Joseph Dombek. Jessie learned about different types of patients a chiropractor might see and the different ailments they might seek treat-



Jessie Williams

ment for. Jessie says that working with Dr. Dombek helped her decide that she really does want to go into the chiropractic field.

**Tristan Adams** – Tristan had the unique opportunity to shadow a Physical Therapist after he was injured playing basketball. Tristan would stay after his own therapy appointments and work on a rehab plan for other patients. He had a chance to help develop an exercise routine and witness the progress of someone else as they were able to heal. He says he might be interested in pursuing this as a career in the future.

**Payton Wolf** – Payton learned about diagnostic imaging at Tuality Hospital. She worked in five different departments during her project. Payton says she plans to attend Linn-Benton Community College and study diagnostic imaging, specializing in ultrasound technology.

**Autumn Sorenson** – Autumn spent her project working to help the homeless in several different activities. She spent some time at a homeless shelter, spent a day building homes with Habitat for Humanity, and spent some time with Community Action Team at their office in St. Helens. She says she hopes to volunteer and work helping the homeless again in the future.

**Pearl Cook** – Pearl learned about being a professional photographer. She worked with Heather Graham and did a mock photo shoot with Graham's daughter, and then learned about editing the photos for the best results. Pearl says she hopes to become a teacher, but is

looking into taking some photography classes in college and might like to have a side business taking photographs.

**Cassidy Whitton** – Cassidy learned about being a lawyer. She spent time with former VHS student Souvanny Miller who is currently enrolled at Lewis and Clark College where she is studying law. Cassidy had the opportunity to observe several court cases and also had a chance to sit in on several college classes with Miller. She says she learned a lot about the different types of law and also a lot about the theories. She hopes to go on to law school after she gets a business degree in college.



Cassidy Whitton

**Cheyenne Farr-Smith** – Cheyenne planned and coordinated the “Christmas in the Country Bazaar” this year with the help of her mother. She said she learned it's not as easy as she thought, having grown up around it for so many years. Cheyenne says she is interested in interior design, but has also become interested in becoming a sign-language interpreter.

**August Johnson** – August job shadowed his mother Julie Krengielski who is a professional glass blower. August says

he learned about being an artist as well as about owning your own business. He learned it takes a special talent to be an artist but likes the idea of being self-employed.

**Jake Butcher** – Jake worked with fellow senior Justin Fletcher to restore Fletcher's automobile, a Subaru station wagon. They received advice from True Value business owner Craig Tolonen. Butcher says they replaced the tires, tinted the windows and painted the body. He says he learned a lot of useful skills that he hopes he can put to use in his future.

**Vivianna Bustamonte** – Vivianna created a program she called Little Misses and Mistresses, which matched up volunteer mentors with younger students in the school. “I wanted to find people who would remind kids who needed help at home what it meant to be kind, respectful and generous,” says Vivianna. The mentors met with the younger students once a week and helped the kids with school work and also did social activities. The mentors and students will continue to meet through the rest of the school year. Vivianna said her biggest challenge was making sure everyone stayed in communication with each other.



Vivianna Bustamonte

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