

VHS Receives Donation

Mary DeVaney presented a check for \$10,000 to the Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF) Alumni Scholarship Fund at the 1961 class reunion, held at the Vernonia Golf Club on August 19. The donation is in memory of her late husband Jim DeVaney, a 1961 graduate of VHS.

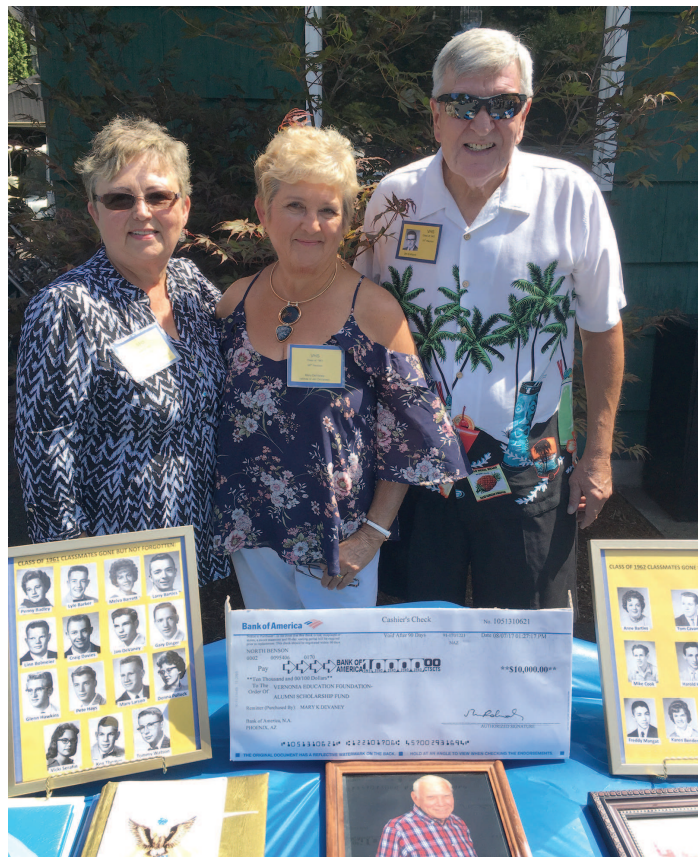
VHS Alumni Jim Eckland shared

ed to transfer to VHS. I understand he was not doing well at Hillsboro. In Vernonia, he lived with his Uncle and Aunt Ben and Ann Westerberg up Rock Creek just beyond the McDonalds. Ann was the high school secretary at that time. Although Jim was a year ahead of me in school, my perspective was he was not a real serious student and probably barely squeaked by in order to graduate in 1961.

After a few years of a failed marriage and heavy drinking, Jim somehow found Mary and completely turned his life around. He became quite successful and invested wisely. I believe Mary was a big factor!

I understand just before he passed away in early March of this year, he told Mary he wanted to "do something nice for the students of VHS," I assume as a form of payback and to assist a few deserving students to further their education beyond high school. Kathy and I had dinner with Jim and Mary about three years ago in Yuma. Soon after that he contributed \$100 to the

Sports Initiative. I believe the VEF newsletter mailed out last November (our last one!) somehow inspired Jim to assist with scholarships."



Kathy and Jim Eckland with Mary DeVaney (center)

the following thoughts on Jim DeVaney:

"Jim transferred to VHS from Hillsboro at the beginning of his junior year. I'm not completely clear as to why he decid-

Adams Named to Eastern Oregon University Spring 2017 Dean's List

Makayla Adams, a graduate of Vernonia High School who will be a junior at Eastern Oregon University (EOU), was one of 458 EOU students who qualified for the spring Dean's List. These students maintained a GPA of 3.5 or higher while completing at least 12 hours of graded coursework during the term.

Schools Update: Gratitude

By Aaron Miller

Once again, Thank You! The passing of the bond and the lifting of the school's debt is such a tremendous relief for the Vernonia School District, and we are so thankful to our community for making this happen.

Celebrating the passage of the bond over the summer and reflecting on the entire, decade-long recovery effort, I have felt an intense pride in our community and for our kids. We have taken a natural disaster, turned it into an opportunity and moved ourselves forward. We all have a lot to be proud of, as we continue to develop Vernonia's future.

Now, as our school and community recovery continues to inch closer to completion, our friends and family in Texas are faced with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and similar recovery issues. While the flood waters are present, all these

people are hoping for is that the water will go away.

But once it does go away, what is left in its wake is devastation and a decade or more of recovery efforts. Our hearts go out to all who have been affected by this recent disaster, as we can certainly empathize with their plight.

As we start another year of school in our dry building above the flood waters, I am hopeful that we will all take a few moments to reflect on our own community's past, to remember the immediate and intense help that was provided for us by others, to be thankful for everyone who has helped move us beyond our own natural disaster and to determine how we can begin paying back some of what was bestowed upon us.

Thank you again for your part in our recovery, and thank you in advance for finding ways to pass it forward to others in need in the future.

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Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District
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35285 Millard Road St. Helens, OR 97051
(503)-799-6968
info@cleancolumbiacounty.info
and check us out on Facebook!

VERNONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Everyone is welcome in our vibrant & active community!

Sunday
Worship Service
11:00 am

- Youth and Adult Sunday School
- Evening Youth Groups
- 4th-6th Grade Junior & Senior High
- Home Study Groups
- Outdoor Ministry
- Christian Bow Hunters of America
- Annual Sportsman's Banquet

Pastor Sam Hough
410 North St.
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