

## Mark Brown Citizenship Award

A very special presentation occurred on May 30, 2018 during the annual Principal Awards assembly at Vernonia High School. The following is the script from the presentation:

"We, the leadership class of 2017-2018, would like to recognize a very important person to us all. For the past year we spent a lot of time trying to find a way to show our appreciation and gratitude for this person who has done so much for us and our school. And we decided to institute a yearly citizenship award in his name. Mark Brown, we appreciate you and everything you do for our school and community. We believe this is a very small way we can thank you. This is a SURPRISE to Mark, he had no idea this was happening, let's give him a round of applause for everything he does for us!

Mark Brown has been a dedi-



cated Vernonia School District employee since August 2006. He tirelessly works to make the school district facilities run smoothly. His hard work provides a sense of great pride to the student body and to our community. Mark is a devoted pastor, youth mentor, and a caring and respected com-

munity member who does not hesitate to help anyone in need.

This award is given to a senior who has shown examples of leadership, selflessness, and responsible actions throughout their school and community. Vernonia School District staff nominated the seniors and this year's recipient was a unanimous vote. The Award Criteria is as follows: The student must be a senior on track to graduate; demonstrate selfless and responsible behavior; have at least 50 hours of community service; contribute to the community through extracurricular and non-school activities; show great examples of leadership; and be a positive role model."

The Mark Brown Citizenship Award is a perpetual award that will be managed by the leadership class every year. The first recipient is Haley Lindsay. Congratulations to both Mark and Haley!

## Sustainability Day

Students at the Vernonia Schools recently took part in a Sustainability Day and spent time cleaning up the school grounds.



## Saying Goodbye: Two of VHS's Favorite Teachers Are Retiring

Two of Vernonia's most popular and dedicated teachers are ending their careers at the conclusion of this school year.

Linda Allen and Randy Shockey will both retire from teaching after long and distinguished careers at Vernonia Schools.

Allen has taught high school and middle school art and high school yoga for the last 11 years. Allen says she may continue teaching some art classes in her community (she lives in Forest Grove). She will serve as the President of the Board of Directors for the Valley Art Association, a volunteer run, nonprofit gallery in Forest Grove. She also says she wants to work on her own art. "I'll have more time to do that, for a change," says Allen. "I've already bought some art supplies, so I'm ready to get started on that." Allen adds that she also plans to spend some time gardening and attending live music events.

Allen was instrumental in helping start the annual Junior Salmon Auction, a collaboration with com-



munity arts group Hands On Art, which raises money to help purchase art supplies for the school and community art projects.

"I'm going to miss it here – it's been a huge part of my life," says Allen about leaving Vernonia High School. "We've made a lot of art over the years here. I've had a lot of talented art students over the years. It's been really phenomenal to watch my art students grow and find out they can make art they can be proud of."

Randy Shockey has been teaching a variety

of classes at Vernonia Schools for the past 21 years. Originally a math teacher, Shockey added an engineering class and then took over the shop classes.

Shockey says he may do some substitute teaching. He said he and his wife, a nurse who also retired this year, already have a few cruises booked — one to the Caribbean and a transpacific cruise from Los Angeles to Singapore. He also said they plan do some camping and a lot of relaxing.

"I've really enjoyed teaching in a small school and a small community," said Shockey about his time in Vernonia. "These are pretty good kids and it's been a pleasure to work here. This will be a big change for me, but it's going to be a good change."

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