



The 2001 STARS mentors from Vernonia High School are, from left, Waylon Buchan, Christy Benes, Bonnie Buchan, Elisabeth Brookins, Myriam Gendron-Herndon and Megan Serra-Marshall.

STARS expanded to three classrooms

STARS (Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex) mentors from Vernonia High School have completed another year of helping sixth grade students learn both why and how to say no to early sexual involvement. Working in three classrooms

this year, two at Washington Grade School and one at Mist, the six mentors – Christy Benes, Elisabeth Brookins, Bonnie Buchan, Waylon Buchan, Myriam Gendron-Herndon and Megan Serra-Marshall – led 75 sixth graders through exercises to help them learn how to be assertive in saying no without losing friends, a matter of great concern to middle schoolers.

The six mentors were chosen from among 14 Vernonia students who applied, a situation that both pleased and distressed Vernonia Coordinator Juanita Dennis.

"It was the first time we had more students apply than we could use," said Dennis, "and I thought that was wonderful. Then I realized I had to make decisions about who would or wouldn't be in the program."

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

After taking two full days of training, this year in St. Helens with students from all five high schools in Columbia County, the mentors split up in three teams to lead five sessions in each of the three sixth grade classrooms. Siblings Waylon and Bonnie Buchan composed one team; Benes and Serra-Marshall, who both live in Mist, teamed up at Mist School; Brookins and Gendron-Herndon were the third team.

Mentors throughout the state will all be invited to participate in a celebratory event later this spring.

Banks teachers honored

Presidential Award for Excellence

Tammy Schrader, a science teacher at Banks Elementary School, was named by President George W. Bush as a recipient of the 2000 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). She was selected from more than 600 finalists from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, United States Territories and U.S. Department of Defense schools.

Each year, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators recommends up to 216 teachers to receive the award. There are approximately 2 million science and mathematics teachers across the country eligible for the PAEMST honor.

The White House then recognizes the best of the nation's K-12 mathematics and science teachers with this highest honor. The awards are administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Each Awardee receives a \$7,500 educational grant for his or her school and a trip to Washington, D.C. Schrader was in the nation's capitol from March 6 through 10 to receive the award and participate in a variety of educational and celebratory events. She met with members of Congress and the administration, discussed the latest issues in mathematics and science teaching and had the opportunity to share expertise with colleagues.

The PAEMST, established in 1983, honors the nation's leading mathematics and science teachers in four categories: elementary mathematics, elementary science, secondary mathematics and secondary science.

Schrader's award was for her work in Elementary Science. She is a graduate of Pacific University.

Inspirational Teacher Award

Freshman honor students at Eastern Oregon University have selected twenty-six educators from throughout the country to receive EOU's 2000 Inspirational Teacher Award.

Students who achieved Dean's List standing during the fall term were asked to nominate a teacher who was inspirational to them on their road to higher education and academic excellence.

Andrea Herinckx, a 2000 graduate of Banks High School, nominated Pat Ball, a Social Studies, Government and Economics teacher at Banks High School, to receive one of the awards. Herinckx, an Agriculture and Business Management major at EOU, is the daughter of Bob and Donna Herinckx of Banks.

"We at Eastern believe it is important to recognize first-year students who demonstrate high academic excellence and the teachers who inspire them," said EOU President Phil Creighton. "Students who participate in this program have achieved success that is shared by less than five percent of EOU's incoming freshman."

In the Service

Crystal M. Kizer

Army National Guard Pvt. Crystal M. Kizer has graduated from the light-wheel vehicle mechanic advanced individual training (AIT) course at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the course, the student was trained to perform maintenance on vehicle power assisted brake systems, wheel vehicle suspension systems, wheel-hub assemblies, mechanical and hydraulic steering systems and wheel vehicle crane, hoist and winch assemblies.

Kizer is the daughter of Katherine V. Kizer of Banks.

Grey Dawn Gallery Spring Show

March 30th 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.*
March 31st 10:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Featuring:

Color Photography by Christopher Burkett
Ceramics by Jeff Patterson
Woodcarving & Miniature Oils by Esteban Tosoni
Black & White Photography by Dale Horchner
Watercolors by Ruth Brown
Oils by Joe Naspini
Woodworking by Hardwood Originals

*Artists will be present. Please join us, we look forward to seeing you.

Dan & Heidi Brown

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