

VHS teachers honored during 3rd quarter Renaissance Assembly

Vernonia High School's third quarter Renaissance Assembly on May 9 was, as usual, a treat, showing off the skills and talents of our community's youth. The program has grown significantly and is now recognizing over 90 students for their academic achievements, the greatest number of students to be honored to date. Carrying forward the week-long theme of teacher appreciation, "They Move, They Groove, They Teach", the student body leadership also honored teachers with a series of musical tributes.

Beginning with an hysterical pantomime from an era long before teacher Joe Batty graduated from high school, Casey Waltz spoofed to the tune of "Some Day I'm going to Murder the Bugler." Swing dancing by Jennifer Bernardi and Eric Patterson, with Melissa Devlaeminck and Myriam Gendron, introduced the teachers who graduated from high school in the fifties. Sixties graduates

were entertained by Jake Brock, Shawn Hillyer, Aaron Hunt and Alex Kinney performing "Wild Thing" in enthusiastic, impromptu, electric music style. Disco styling of the seventies was exhibited by a quartet of mysteriously resurrected dancers in boots, bright colors and amazing hair. A fashion show of styles from the 80s and 90s, ending the tribute to teachers, featured Casey Waltz, Heather Forster, Jaki King, Jennifer Bernardi, Eric Patterson, Christy Benes (who can make fuschia pants and gold shoes a fashion statement) Lynn Becker and Shawn Robertson. As emcee Meghan Peura said, "It takes a lot to wear spandex."

The crowd was also entertained by a game where a student victim attempted to match individual teachers with some favorite thing of theirs from high school. Teachers stood in line while students tried to figure out, for example, who was a cheerleader, who won the

Twist contest, or played soccer, or whose favorite TV show was Charlie's Angels, or whose favorite song was Rebel Rouser.

On the more serious side, student body officers for the 2001-2002 year were inducted. Student Body President Megan Peura will be assisted by Vice President Jennifer Bernardi, Secretary Rose Peets, Treasurer Brittney Kerns, Foreign Exchange Representative Heather Forster, Sergeant at Arms Nicole Potter, Fire Marshall Brandon Peura and Student Body Manager Kendall Graham.

Melissa Devlaeminck and Jake Corey received awards for perfect attendance and Dana Hyde was thanked by the Junior Class for her work as their advisor. Eric Weller was the winner of the \$150 gift certificate to Washington Square.

The following students received Renaissance t-shirts for academic achievement, improvement or perfect attendance:

Freshmen - Malorie Baker,

Megan Baker, Taryn Braseth, Myles Brock, Benjamin Brookins, Kari Budge, Melissa Cole, Jessica Connelly, Rene Ellington, Carrick Flynn, Cory Glatt, Melissa Grebenc, Carnin Hall, Sheana Hawes, Melanie Howes, Joseph Howley, Julie Johnson, Paul Johnston, Maryl Kunkel, James Malles, Alex Moeller, Caitlyn Morrow, Kendall Nelson, Justin Peters, Bodeine Rumbolz, Amanda Swamer, Katy Taylor, Katherine Traylor and Elisabeth Warthen.

Sophomores - Rachael Bentzen, Christopher Driver, Heather Forster, Kendall Graham, Katrina Hall, Charli Hansen, Stephanie Hein, Shawn Hillyer, Michael Jenkins., Sarah Johnston, Jaki King, Alexander Kinney, Jennifer Kinney, Rachael Lee, Jordan Love, Joe Rea, Jeremy Ruby, Brandy Snow,

Emilee Suess, Jessica Thornburg and Eric Weller.

Juniors - Jennifer Bernardi, Krystyn Brucken, Jared Busch, Miranda Casteel, Karmen Colby, Brandon Dennis, Cassian Flynn, Jerimie Harms, Alexandria Hayes, Jessica Jackson, Alisha Jundt, Corey Kennedy, Kelly Kofstad, Bobby Lokken, J.J. Malnerich, Megan Patterson, Nicole Potter, Katie Prpich, Brass Sears, Chris Serafin and Jason Vaughn.

Seniors - Christy Benes, Genevieve Blais, Elizabeth Brookins, Bonnie Buchan, Alisia R. Buffum, Luc Cescon, Melissa Devlaeminck, Myriam Gendron, Beth Green, Kayla Hennessey, Anthony Morrow, Eric Patterson, Abrah Pond, Kelly Roberts, Steffen Schulze, Tiffany Sexton, Amy Spry, Blaine Vandehey and Chris Woodall.

Homeowners can help prevent wildfire devastation

The number of people moving to previously uninhabited, forest and rural areas will continue to increase in the future. Dry summer weather also brings increased danger from wildfire to homes that interface with forests or wild lands. Every year since 1985, more than 300 homes have been destroyed by wildfires, including dozens in the northwest. Many of these homes could have been saved, had simple precautions been taken before wildfire struck.

The following information can assist homeowners in making the necessary decisions that could prevent or reduce losses due to a wildfire.

Up to 80 percent of home losses to wildfire could have been prevented, had common sense precautions been taken. To see how well your home is safeguarded, check through the following list:

1. Roofing is made of non-combustible material. Steel or tile materials are best.
2. Trees have been trimmed away from the roof. Dead or dying limbs have been removed from trees.
3. Plants are low growing and less flammable.
4. Flammables are stored away from the home. Firewood and building materials are away from the house.
5. Yard is well trimmed and free of debris.
6. Roof and gutters are clean of leaves and needles. Valleys are clean and dead

moss removed.

7. A 30 foot non-combustible firebreak surrounds the house.

8. Good access is provided for emergency vehicles. Grass and debris are cleared from address sign. Driveway access is 20 feet wide and has 13 feet 6 inches of height clearance.

9. Exterior walls are made of fire resistant material.

10. An adequate water supply is available to fight fire.

Through good landscaping practices, fires that start in forest areas and spread to residential areas can be stopped. Most homes that are surrounded by at least 30 feet of defensible space can withstand wildfires. Remove dead leaves, dry grass, underbrush and other flammables from the area bordering your structures. Trim trees back at least 10 feet from structures. When planting trees, remember hardwoods

are less flammable than pine, fir or other conifers. Clear debris farther away from your home, up to 100 feet, if it is located on an uphill slope.

Don't forget the underside of decks and porches. They need to be cleared of leaves that blow under them. Try using rock instead of bark dust in flower gardens. Railroad ties can burn hot for a long time, so keep them away from your home. Make sure that all vents have 1/4 inch screens covering the openings.

Now is the time for cleaning up around the home and getting ready for wildland fires. Compost, dispose of or burn debris before the hot, dry season comes so can protect your home.

For more information, contact your local Fire Department or the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Host families needed for students

Council Exchanges, a foreign student exchange program, is seeking volunteer host families in the Vernonia and Jewell School Districts for the 2001-02 school year. Families with interests in horseback riding, swimming, sports and music are especially needed.

There will be students ranging in age from 15 to 18 coming next year, with many and varied interests. Their English is good and their academics are high. Council provides medical

and accident insurance for the students.

Families interested in bringing students from Germany, Russia, Latvia or Bulgaria into their homes for 10 months are asked to call local coordinator Sue Bailey of Buxton, at 503-324-1803, or Paulette Reid at 1-800-369-4791.

Though the Council Exchanges program is not well-known in the local area, it isn't a new program and is approved by the school districts.

Wu will take academy applications

Congressman David Wu is now accepting applications from eligible students for congressional nominations to United States Military Academies.

Outstanding students will be nominated by Congressman Wu to attend one of four military academies - the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, or the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Students may apply for a nomination to more than one academy. Attendance at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require a congressional nomination.

Service academies offer an undergraduate college degree at no financial cost to the student. Students must exemplify academic excellence and serve a term in the U.S. military upon graduation. Candidates must be U.S. citizens, unmarried (with no dependents) and

between 17 and 22 years of age.

Although Congressman Wu will accept applications until November 15, applicants are encouraged to submit information early. Nominees will be announced December 1, 2001.

The required application information includes military academy of choice, full name, address and contact information, date and place of birth, names of parents, Social Security number, high school grade point average, class standing, class size, SAT-1 or ACT scores, three letters of recommendation and resumé of extracurricular activities.

Applications should be mailed to: Office of Congressman David Wu, Attn: U.S. Military Academy Nominations, 620 SW Main Street, Suite 606, Portland, OR 97205.

For further information, call Ramona Perrault, 503-326-2901.

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