

School board discusses budget, Boosters donation saves band

The Vernonia School Board of Directors held a special meeting Thursday, May 26, prior to the scheduled Budget Committee Meeting.

At the special meeting, the board approved the sale of the 11 acres of the current school campus to the City of Vernonia for \$240,000, then authorized Superintendent Ken Cox to sign a lease with the City allowing the schools to continue using the current location. Both were routine, expected steps in the continuing process of switching the old school location to the city while allowing

the school to continue using it until the new school is ready.

The only change made to budget-driven staffing changes was that Band Teacher Rob Izzett's position will not be cut. That change was made based on a promise by the Band Boosters of a \$9,000 donation to keep the position in place.

The next Budget Committee meeting will be June 2, starting at 6:00 p.m., at the district office. The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be June 9, at 6:00 p.m. at the district office.

VHS Leadership Class raises money for Jaden

An assembly on May 19 was the final step in a project by the Vernonia High School Leadership Class. A check for \$2,799.74 was presented to Jaden Krieger, of Banks, who is fighting cancer. Jaden's parents and brother also attended the presentation.

At the beginning of the school year the class, under the leadership and guidance of Teacher Teri Willard, decided they wanted to do a service project. Crystal-Ann Carreon, a junior, put forth the idea of helping Krieger after her mother saw the Jaden Collection Cans at Jim's Thriftway in Banks. The class agreed and designated Carreon as the point person for

the project. Carreon contacted the family and the class started fundraising.

The Leadership Class held assemblies, sold rubber bracelets, held a spaghetti feed with bingo (Banks High School students also helped with this one), held a Joy for Jaden Talent Show, accepted a \$500 donation from KLS Surveying, accepted a donation from the Free Wheelers Poker Night, and the proceeds of Shave the Due where A.J. Due raised money and ended up getting her head shaved.

Krieger has been fighting the cancer and is doing better. Part of the money raised was to send the family to Great Wolf

Lodge, a waterpark in Washington. The family plans to go in August. The rest of the money will help the family with medical expenses.

Carreon, when asked about her feeling on the day the check was given to the Kriegers, said, "It was really cool, it was the final chapter. I felt a good sense of accomplishment." She learned many things from heading the project, including how important communication can be and not to expect everything to go perfectly, but that it all works out. Carreon also made new friends, including Jaden's brother.

See picture on page 1.



VHS Scholarship Coordinator Dana Hyde and VHS Senior Megan Rock shown receiving the \$5K at the May 14 scholarship award banquet where Rock won a scholarship grant.

Hyde efforts earn VHS career grant

A few years back, Vernonia High School Scholarship Coordinator Dana Hyde found a new scholarship resource through Kaiser Permanente. Kaiser offers a \$2,000 college scholarship to high school seniors in its service area. As a result, in 2009, Vernonia student Gavin Roberts received the scholarship. In 2010, the \$2,000 was awarded to Dylan Vaughn.

On May 14, Hyde went to the awards banquet to see the 2011 scholarship go to Megan Rock. Rock was one of 119 students from Oregon or Washington to receive the Kaiser scholarship. Also in attendance at the banquet were Vernonia High School Principal Nate Underwood and Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox.

When Hyde was asked to come to the front, she didn't know what to make of it. Then

she found out that Kaiser had decided to give a first-ever \$5,000 award to Hyde to be used for her Vernonia High School Career Development Program.

"I feel so blessed," Hyde said, "and I'm humbled that our school is the recipient of this grant."

VHS/VMS Band plans a car wash

The Vernonia Middle and High School band students will be holding a car wash on Saturday, June 11, at the District

Parents have role in teen summer jobs

With school out for the summer, many young teens will be taking summer jobs – and parents should be involved in their children's employment decisions and know where their teens are working, who they are working for and what they are required to do.

Check regularly with your teen to make sure everything is going okay. Discuss any problems they might be having and make sure they have the proper training and supervision. Watch for signs that the job might be causing too much physical or mental strain.

Safety is a major concern. Teenagers may not be aware of their rights, or their employers may not be aware of child labor laws. Be sure to know federal and state child labor laws. Federal law limits the number of hours that 14-15-year-olds can work in non-agricultural work-sites. During the summer, federal law allows 14-15-year-olds

to work only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. They are banned from some jobs – baking/cooking, operating power-driven machinery including lawn mowers, climbing ladders, working in warehouses or construction, unloading trucks/conveyors, jobs that require climbing ladders, operating forklifts or power equipment such as meat slicers, power saws and bakery machinery.

By contrast, youth at any time may be employed in agriculture by their parent or guardian. Statistics show that agriculture is one of the more dangerous occupations. Each year more than 20 million youths are exposed to farm safety hazards.

Source: Robert Thomas, Extension & Ag Information, University of Missouri

Car seat event in St. Helens

Columbia County Safe Kids will be holding a child safety seat check up on Thursday, June 9, in St. Helens from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The free clinic will be held at the St. Helens Fire Station, 105 S. 12th Street, St. Helens. The clinic provides an opportunity to have a child safety seat checked by a certified technician, who can correct misuse, help with installation and teach you how to cor-

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Pet of the Month

Columbia Humane Society in St. Helens has a variety of wonderful pets available for adoption. Find the pet that's right for you in the shelter at 2084 Oregon Street. Phone 503-397-4353
Open Mon - Fri 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 am. to 5 pm.



Lucy is a friendly girl with a very sweet and gentle temperament. Lucy had a litter of kittens when she first came to CHS and she was a great mom. Lucy loves people and doesn't mind other cats but would prefer to be the only cat in your loving home. Lucy has been waiting for her forever home since September 2010 and would truly appreciate a second chance!

The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.

This Pet of the Month is Sponsored by:

Senator Betsy Johnson

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