

Woodland High hosts grant recipients and legislators

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On Nov. 1, Woodland High School hosted a reception celebrating completed 2017 projects receiving funding from the Coosa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council.

WHS principal Jeff Thompson welcomed the recipients and legislators as they met in the library. Coosa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council Executive Director Heidi Richards and office manager Christy Cochran acknowledged Randolph County Commissioner Terry Lovvorn and Dean Wysner with the Soil & Water Conservation District on the building committee and board member Larry Raughton for all their hard work. Sen. Gerald Dial and Rep. Bob Fincher spoke of the importance of RC&D and their contributions to rural communities through funding special projects. Dial thanked the council members for providing these grants, stating how taxpayers could see their money at work by coming back to improve the quality of life in Randolph County.

Grant recipients expressed appreciation and presented information on each of these recent projects:

"Randolph County River Kids Program," project director and Randolph County Extension Coordinator Tiffany Moore received \$994 to purchase a trailer for 10 kayaks, including tag and sponsorship signage; two-way radios; first aid kits and dry good bags.

The "Repair Erosion at Woodland High School" project reported by Thompson received \$7,000 funding for the re-pavement and repair of the eroded driveway off Highway 48. This improvement also allows access to the greenhouse and vocational agriculture building.

Woodland Athletic Club, led by President Ryan Prince, received \$5,125 for the installation of a commercial kitchen hood in the concession stand at the Woodland football field.

The "Awbrey Public Library Parking Lot Expansion" project, reported by Tim Jacobs, received a grant of \$10,000, allowing for the size of the pre-existing parking lot to almost double from eight



Grant

Superintendent John Jacobs, Sen. Gerald Dial, WHS principal Jeff Thompson, vice-principal Jimmie Fryer and Rep. Bob Fincher.

to 15 parking spaces, which now meets ADA requirements and provides for handicap parking and access to the library.

Dial also presented checks to Thompson for Woodland High School; to Woodland librarian Marilyn Ward for the library; and agri-science teacher Brad Johnson for the vocational agriculture program at Woodland.

Several WHS student leaders attended and witnessed firsthand how government officials work for the community to provide funding for local projects. Student leaders attending were Jordan Herring, Autumn Whaley, Madison Womack, Joseph Watts, Ariana Etheridge, Andrew Lam, Elizabeth Gembe, Dawson Loveless, Wesley Britt, Jaycee Lovvorn and Katie Brooks.

Along with the officials, students also viewed the onsite completed projects of the road off Hwy. 48 by the vo ag building, the concession stand at the football field and saw the trailer with the kayaks and photos of the Awbrey Library improvements in Roanoke. The group enjoyed meeting the officials at a reception in the vo ag building hosted by family and consumer science teacher Amber Green, along with servers Charlee Scarbary, Audrey Harper, Kirstan Lorrow and Cera Brewer.

Several student leaders had comments about their experience. Katie Brooks said all the students agreed they learned things they did not know about the community and how our leaders worked hard to better our community. Hunter Brit stated that Dial was kind and made people feel at ease. Jaycee Lovvorn and Elizabeth Gembe spoke of learning about the importance of the RC&D and their role in community improvements, and Dawson Loveless said this day brought a new chapter in his life and he appreciated all the hard work our leaders do for us. Woodland High School appreciates not only the improvements these projects have made in our community but also the investments in our students.