

Local Guy Makes Good

By Scott Laird

Tyler Dougherty has made the most of a bad situation, turning last winter's flood in Vernonia into a new job and, hopefully, the start of a long career.

Dougherty, a graduate of Vernonia High School in 2004, used his summer experience working in Vernonia with the Public Works Department while in high school, to get temporarily placed this past spring, through a unique opportunity with MTC Works. He recently applied for a position with the Astoria Public Works Department, and his experience with the Vernonia crew helped him land the job. Dougherty started his new job on October 20th.

"My Mom calls me a poster child for the MTC program," laughed Dougherty, recently.

"Tyler was self-motivated, and had a tremendous work ethic," said Vernonia Public Works employee Carl Pense, who worked with Dougherty in Vernonia. "We are very excited for him."

MTC Works is a federally-funded program operating in Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook Counties, and is designed to provide job training and placement services for adults, youth and businesses.

Dougherty, who graduated from Portland Community College in 2007 from a diesel mechanics program, was unemployed when the MTC program placed several workers in Vernonia to help with flood clean-up this past spring. Dougherty had previously worked two summers in Vernonia through MTC, and was a natural choice for the placement. Dougherty performed a variety of jobs in Vernonia, mostly performing parks maintenance, freeing up the more skilled permanent crew to work on flood repairs.

"Tyler learned new skills, and he also showed some supervisor skills while he was here with us," said Pense, who notified Dougherty of the opening in Astoria. "I'm glad we had a part in helping him get this opportunity."

Dougherty will be starting as a Utility Worker I in Astoria, an entry-level position, which means he could be doing... "just about anything," said Dougherty. The position offers retirement, sick leave and benefits, not bad for a young guy who was out of work in a tough economy just a few months ago.

As for the MTC Program- Dougherty is appreciative. "I just want to say thanks to them for all they have done. And anyone who gets the chance to work in their program should do it."



Tyler Dougherty, (second from R) with the rest of the Vernonia Public works crew

Service Flag Honors Those in Military

By Scott Laird

Don Dailey's mother flew the same Service Flag when he and his brother were serving in Vietnam. And now Dailey and his wife, Nancy, are displaying the flag in their window for their son, Craig, who is serving in Iraq.

Don Dailey wants people to understand the significance of the white banner with the blue star in the center when they see it in his window on Alder Street in Vernonia, and anywhere else they might encounter it.

The Service Flag, with a white background, red border, and blue star, was first flown during WWI, and was known as the "son in service" flag, with each blue star representing a family member in the military. The blue star is covered with a gold star if the family member is killed in service. The blue star is said to represent hope and pride; the gold star represents sacrifice to the cause of liberty and freedom. Only immediate family members of those serving are allowed to display a Service Flag.

"It is an honor to fly the Service Flag," said Don Dailey, who served for three years in the Marine Corps, including one tour of duty in Vietnam. "And it will hang in our window until Craig comes home."

Craig Dailey, aged thirty-eight, is serving his seventh tour of duty, as a maintenance chief for Army Apache helicopters. According to Don Dailey, Craig was scheduled to retire soon, after twenty years of service, but his stay has been extended for a year and a half as part of the stop-loss program. "Craig is in a Special Ops Unit that supports ground troops, delivers and picks up Seals and Delta Forces, flies covert operations and missions like that," said Dailey. Craig Dailey received a Bronze Star for participating in the rescue of Jessica Lynch, a well-publicized story during the early part of the Iraqi War.

"I want people to know what the Service Flag is when they see it- to notice it and recognize it," said Dailey. "There are many of them around, and I hope people will start to see them and understand what they mean to the families displaying them, and to the troops they are supporting."

Craig Dailey has a wife, Toshi, and son, Tyson, who is a year and a half old, living in Huntsville, Alabama, awaiting Craig's return.



Nancy and Don Dailey hold the service flag they hang in their window in honor of their son Craig, who is currently serving in Iraq.

Calling All Veterans – A Veterans Day Event at Avamere at St. Helens

Avamere at St. Helens is inviting all local veterans and their guests to participate in its "Day of Honor" celebrations, a tribute to Columbia County veterans. The event will be held on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, from 10:00 AM To 2:00 PM at Avamere at St. Helens, 2400 Gable Rd.

The celebration will begin with a flag ceremony and color guard, led by the St. Helens High School Marching Band. The St. Helens High School Chorus will sing a moving rendition of the National Anthem.

The event will follow with the VFW #1440 St. Helens post level award ceremony for Patriot's Pen, a youth-essay writing contest endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The nationwide competition gives students in grades six, seven and eight the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. This year's theme was "Why America's Veterans Should Be Honored."

Complimentary lunch will be served at 12:30 PM. Visitors can enjoy the afternoon listening to the tunes of all eras, courtesy of keyboardist Dean Lemire and Horn Man Rick Homer. Guests can also view a display of military vehicles along with photos, uniforms, artifacts and other memorabilia.

There will be a special room set up for veterans who would like to share their experiences.

KOHI AM 1600 will broadcast the celebration live from Avamere at St. Helens, capturing the ceremony and entertainment, and airing interviews with veterans and guests.

Parking is available across the street at St. Helens High School. For more information about the Day of Honor events, please contact Jenny Hicks at 503-366-8070.

Avamere at St. Helens serves residents and families throughout Columbia County. It is part of the Avamere Family of Companies offering a spectrum of healthcare solutions and living options for seniors in approximately 40 communities throughout Oregon and Washington. For additional information, visit www.avamere.com.

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