

Cheerleading is Back at VHS *continued from front page*

cheerleaders in their fancy uniforms dancing, so it was something I really wanted to try.”

“I really like being in the group and dancing,” continues Hofer. “I think the best part is being at the game, watching the game and yelling and the spirit you get. I really like it.”

Way likes to let Logger fans know that Cheerleading is a sport. She says the squad has been working out through the summer, training for their stunts, running, and learning all the material they are performing. “This is a brand new program here, there was literally no material for us to draw upon,” says Way. “So these girls are creating all their material. And they are out there physically working hard.”

Way and her family moved to

Vernonia this past May and brings an extensive background in cheerleading and dance to her program. Way says



VHS Cheerleaders Meagan Scheirmister and Alex Steffler practice with the Little Loggers during a cheer clinic.

her cheerleading background goes back pretty far; she started in junior high and high school in Hillsboro. She has the distinction of being one of the original Blazer Dancers with the Portland Trail Blazers. She has also danced with the Portland Jazz and Ballet Company. Most recently Way served as the head cheerleading coach at Forest Grove High School. She also currently works as Marketing Director and Cheerleading Director for the Portland Monarchs, a semi-pro football team in Pacific Football League.

Way says she has been particularly impressed, not just with the girls on the cheerleading squad, but by all the youth she

has encountered in Vernonia. “The kids in this town have thoroughly amazed me by their drive and their willingness to participate because they want to be part of something, not because they have to be there,” says Way. “The kids of this town have re-established my faith in the future of this country. I’ve really been impressed by them.”

Being involved in the community is important to Way. She volunteers her time as head cheerleading coach. She also says she really loves living in small town Vernonia. “I am so impressed by the way the community has reacted and supported and embraced what these girls have done,” says Way.

With a new school campus and new dose of school spirit Logger fans have a lot to cheer about this year.

Meet the Exchange Students

The Vernonia School District and the Vernonia Community has been the willing and beneficial recipient of an unusually large number of foreign exchange students over the last few years. This school year is no different, with twenty students from around the globe living, playing and studying along side our own students.

In the next four issues of *Vernonia's Voice* we will introduce our readers to each of the exchange students who are living in our community this school year.

Let’s make sure we all make our new friends feel welcome!

Hanna Farsch is from Germany and is living with the Robertson family. Hanna is running Cross Country and is also a member of the cheerleading squad this fall. She says she might try wrestling or basketball this winter and will run track in the spring. Since arriving in the

Pacific Northwest Hanna has had a chance to visit with her brother who lives in Washington state. Previously Hanna has traveled around Europe to France, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary and Romania. Hanna says Vernonia was actually bigger than she expected. “When I first looked at a map I said ‘Look where it is, it looks like it will be very small,’ and my father said ‘Oh, there will just be a gas station and nothing else!’ Then I got here and explored it and we have a supermarket and restaurants—for me it is big enough. The yards and property of the people are so big, where I live is a small city, but it is much bigger than Vernonia, but the houses are




VHS foreign exchange students (from left to right) Hanna Farsch, Melanie Bonnefoux, Iryna Budkevych, Lauri Andersson and Stefan Scheer.

much closer with smaller yards.”

Lauri Andersson is from a small town in Finland, about the same size of Vernonia and is living with Kathy and Reggie Ward. Lauri is playing football this spring and says he will play basketball this winter and run sprints for the track team in the spring. This is Lauri’s second trip to the U.S. The last time was in the summer of 2009 with his family when they made a road trip from New York to Florida, across Texas to California and then up the west coast to Seattle; other highlights included stops in New Orleans, Los Angeles and the Grand Canyon. Lauri says he has traveled all around Europe and also lived in Australia with his family for nine months. Lauri says Vernonia seems bigger than his hometown-- at home he has to ride a train for forty minutes to another city to attend high

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Vernonia Community PTA Carnival!

Saturday, October, 20
5pm-9pm

Food • Games • Prizes • Raffle/Auction

All proceeds to help purchase a playground for the elementary kids and commons area furniture for the VMS & VHS students.

Bring 2 cans of food for Vernonia Cares, get 1 FREE game ticket.
(maximum of 10 game tickets per family)



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