

Where Are They Now? Dillon Dethlefs *continued from front page*

"It definitely was a good time and a good experience," says Dethlefs about his years in the Vernonia school system. "All the teachers, all the teachers' aides, coaches, library staff... everyone helped me out a lot, both back in the past in high school and still to this day. They were a big influence on me and they definitely helped me."

At the graduation ceremony, Dethlefs was very surprised to be selected to receive the "Chance to Become Scholarship" which is awarded each year by school staff to a deserving student. The scholarship is aimed at students who might not be eligible or qualify for typical scholarships. In many cases they are considered average students and may come from families that cannot pay for their continuing education. They might be students with a special talent or they may have overcome behavioral or personal problems. It is a \$5,000 scholarship, given to a student over two continuous school years, \$2,500 each year. The program pays for expenses associated with attending a four-year college or university, a community college, or a career school for a professional trade certificate.

"I certainly wasn't expecting that when I was sitting there at graduation," says Dethlefs. "When my name was called it was definitely emotional for me. When I was chosen it gave me a lot of confidence in myself and the confidence to go and further my education. No one in my family had ever gone fur-



Dillon Dethlefs accepting the Chance to Become Scholarship from Gordon Jarman at his VHS 2012 graduation.

ther than high school." "I witnessed a young man who had incredible desire to not just work hard and get through some tough stuff, but who always seemed willing to help others if he saw a need," says School Maintenance Supervisor, Mark Brown about Dethlefs. "It is one of those things I am not sure if people are born with or become. I think he could have thrown in the towel several times and no one would have blamed him. But he kept pushing on and was an inspiration to many people he may not have been aware of, both other classmates and grownups."

Dethlefs used his scholarship to attend Northwest Renewable Energy Institute in Vancouver, Washington and completed a six month program to become a Wind Turbine Technician. For



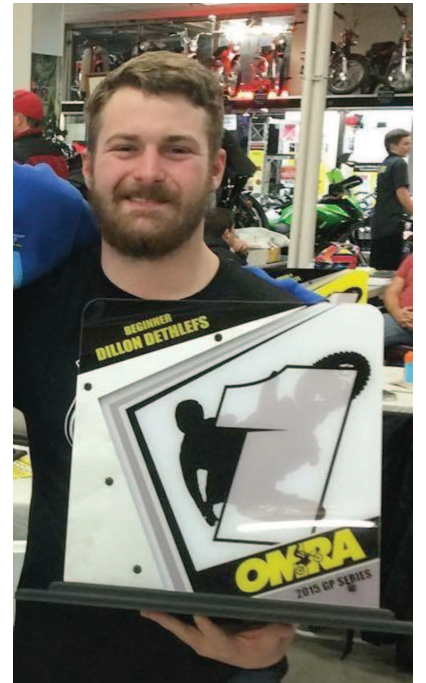
Dethlefs competing at the 2016 Vernonia Jamboree Logging Show.

Dethlefs it was a bit of a struggle to move up to college level academic studies. "I'm more of a hands on type of learner, so when it comes to books I really had to put my nose to the grindstone," he says. "I didn't really know how to study but luckily I always had my previous teachers from Vernonia that I could call and they would give me pointers and ways to study and learn."

Dethlefs graduated from Northwest Renewable Energy Institute with a 3.0 GPA and a year's worth of college credits. Following his graduation he began applying for jobs and was hired to work as a travel technician by Sky Climber Wind Solutions, a supplier of premiere wind turbine maintenance, repair, and inspection services.

At the age of 18 Dethlefs traveled straight from Portland, Oregon to Portland, Maine and began working in New Hampshire and Vermont, and then moved on to Idaho where he managed his own crew swapping out blades on wind turbines. From Idaho, he went on to New Mexico for several months.

"I learned a lot real quick and it was really an awesome experience," says Dethlefs. "If a kid wanted to learn a good trade, this is a field that is always



Last season Dethlefs won the OMRA Off Road Championship.

going to be around. This industry has all sorts of different trades involved in it - ironworking, hydraulics, electrical. You can get paid to travel to different states and if you get your passport you could

continued on page 13

FAITH BIBLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
NOW ENROLLING! PRE-K-12TH

FAITH
West

Enroll today and discover what makes Faith Bible Christian Schools a terrific option for your student.

- SUPERIOR ACADEMICS
- ATHLETICS FOR GRADES 5-12
- BUS ROUTE BETWEEN CAMPUSES
- LOCAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES
- EXPERIENCED EDUCATORS
- SMALL CLASS SIZES
- SAFE, NURTURING ENVIRONMENT
- FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE!

WE'RE BRINGING EXCEPTIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR NEW LOCATION IN BUXTON!
503-324-4500
503-642-4112
22785 NW Fisher Rd.
Buxton, OR 97109
www.FaithKids.org

NOW ENROLLING!! - FINANCIAL AID AVAILBLE!

vernonia open air MARKET

Every Saturday
10 am - 2 pm
May - September
Adams Avenue
(at Bridge Street)

Interested in Vending? Please Contact
Penny (503) 804-0424
or Bill (971) 998-3705

A PROJECT OF:
VERNONIA COMMUNITY GARDEN

SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY
Handcrafted goods & more!
Local organic starts & produce!
New location!
SHOP LOCAL

MIKE PIHL LOGGING CO., INC

Free Estimates
Specializing in Private Timber

503-429-1470
cell 503.789.1268
fax 503.429.0252

mplogging@frontier.com
1984 mist drive, po box 321 vernonia, or 97064