

SAVORING SCHOOL DAYS

Mt. Vernon alumni gather for all-class reunion

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON – With ages spanning almost 80 years, the crowd filling Clyde Holliday State Park on the Fourth of July had one thing in common.

They all attended or graduated from Mt. Vernon School.

Alumni were present from 1932 to 1991, the year of the last graduating class, when the K-12 school transitioned into a middle school.

The oldest alumnus to attend was Jack Clubb, of Pendleton, from the class of 1932. The one who traveled the farthest to the reunion was Bonnie Pankey Lemberger, class of 1962, who came from Fairbanks, Alaska.

According to organizer Linda McCumber, about 300 people attended – one of the largest turnouts they've ever had.

McCumber, who has been on the reunion committee from the start, said they began planning reunions soon after the last class graduated in 1991, and have been holding them every five years for about the past 20 years.

The Saturday picnic was only one of the happenings from a full schedule of activities which filled the three day weekend.

Friday evening there was a meet-and-greet at the Wag-



Players from the Mt. Vernon 1962 basketball team visit with their coach, Jack Potter, third from left.



About 300 people turned out at Clyde Holliday State Park for the all-class Mt. Vernon School reunion over the July 4 weekend.



Mt. Vernon School alumni chat over breakfast at the Mt. Vernon Community Center on July 5 during the reunion weekend.



From left, Linda McCumber of Mt. Vernon, Bonnie Lemberger of Alaska, and Barbara Palmer of Mt. Vernon visit during the reunion weekend.



Mt. Vernon alumni and family gather at Clyde Holliday State Park for the all-class reunion.

on Wheel and games at the Community Center. Saturday was the picnic and an evening

dance in the Community Center. Classmates were also able to re-visit the school gym and

view trophies and other memorabilia that morning. The event concluded with a breakfast Sunday morning.

Grant School District #3 sold the school building last

year after closing the school several years earlier. With no school building available now, the reunion committee is trying to raise money for a building in which they can house trophies and other school memorabilia.

McCumber said one anonymous donor contributed \$2,000 toward that effort.

Anyone interested in donating to the cause or helping with the reunions, can call McCumber at 541-932-4748 or 541-620-8100.

BREAKING NEWS ALERTS

myeaglenews.com/breakingnews

Michael B. DesJardin
Dentistry, PC

New Patients Welcome!

Preventive, Restorative,
& Endodontics

208 NW Canton,
John Day

541-575-2725

mdbdental@live.com &
michaelbdesjardindmd.com

Don't Forget to Floss

By Reiba Carter-Smith
and Gaye Pruitt
To the Blue Mountain Eagle

LONG CREEK - Domas Gymnasium at Long Creek School was decorated and full of friends greeting and visiting of old times June 20. The week prior was filled with preparations of posters with pictures of students from 1930s to 2014. Parents took their children from class poster to class poster showing what their school was like when they attended.



Eston Weissenfluh, Long Creek class of 1940, chats with Tebeau and Gail Piquet.



Gail Ledgerwood Pholot and Eldon Johns, Long Creek class of 1947.

DRIVERS WANTED

WITH CARS

JULY 18, 2015

Derby Entry Fee Grant County Fairgrounds

\$50/car, driver & 1 pit crew

Pit Pass - \$30/per person

Trophies Plus \$250/each heat

John Day, Oregon

• Read Rules
• No Imperials

Sponsored by Whiskey Gulch Gang

For more information and rules call Hugh Farrell 541-575-0329

GET SAME-DAY DELIVERY*

and a **FREE \$25 Visa Gift Card** with your **East Oregonian** subscription

GOLDEN PERFORMANCE
Urnilla's Cardenas runs to state record, ...

BRADY GETS FOUR GAME SUSPENSION
FOOTBALL/18

Cattle Barons bring 5,000 to Pendleton

Brown signs bill expanding background

Simply no substitutes
Area schools struggle to find fill-in teachers

Bill would keep kicker or budget reserves, education

Morley County asks for drought declaration

Area schools struggle to find fill-in teachers

Area schools struggle to find fill-in teachers

Area schools struggle to find fill-in teachers

Area schools struggle to find fill-in teachers

Area schools struggle to find fill-in teachers

Area schools struggle to find fill-in teachers

Area schools struggle to find fill-in teachers

Area schools struggle to find fill-in teachers

Only the East Oregonian delivers the region's most comprehensive news coverage and shopping information five days a week. Plus, your subscription includes unlimited access to EastOregonian.com.

Rates are as low as **\$21 a month** when you sign up for EZ Pay!

You must call **800-522-0255** to take advantage of this gift card offer.

EAST OREGONIAN

*Offer valid only for those who have not subscribed to the East Oregonian in the past 30 days. It is only available by calling the East Oregonian at the number above. Gift cards will be processed four-to-six weeks after payment is received. Mail delivery day may vary in some areas of Grant County.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Alumni share memories

Other memorabilia were on display, including uniforms for the majorettes in the Rose Festival Parade band of Long Creek. Sports shirts were hung about the baskets. Yearbooks and old school newspapers lay on tables to peruse. In one corner was a tribute to veterans from this area. Many sent pictures and records of their proud career serving the United States.

Merlynn Derrick Parker is collecting information for a book. Contact her to share your information.

Parker, Linda Johns Hunt and Marilyn Colebank Gibbs spent the week arranging items for display. Sherry's catered the dinner

and served 140 beef dinner plates Saturday evening.

A meet-and-greet cake reception was held in the school cafeteria June 19. That's where some help was needed knowing who is who, after 50 years of not seeing each other – fun and laughter times. The Long Creek Historical Society served a continental breakfast and a lunch of lasagna with homemade sauce Saturday. The guests were very generous donors. Thanks so much.

In the afternoon, Monica Johnson of Oklahoma sang and played, while the Johnson family of Mt. Vernon accompanied. Grant Dickerson, a past student, played

his music as well. For the dance, Frank Carlson of Baker City performed. A ticket raffle was held halfway through the dance. Odds and ends were the reward for the winning dinner tickets.

Though our crowd thinned, he played energetically until nearly midnight. Some of us were less energetic.

Sunday, June 21, the farewell breakfast was provided by Allovors organization. Oven-baked French toast, with fresh blueberry syrup over the top, is hard to beat. Yum.

It is hard to say 'adios' after such a brief time. To some it was an A-plus time even with few attending, but that meant one could spend more visiting time with individuals.

For some it was their first time to attend, especially for those from Canada. Others have not missed one reunion, and are excited to come every five years to enjoy old and some new friends.

Bill from Germany enjoys and helps clean up. Charley from Idaho helps stack chairs. Dwight from Oklahoma fills in wherever there is a need and with sacks of garbage.

Chris from California with a camera on demand. Kent wore a mountaineer costume. Eldon Johns and Gail Ledgerwood Pholot were two from class of 1947. Eston Weissenfluh was the eldest graduate attending from the class of 1940.

What a great weekend for the city and alumni with gorgeous weather – perfect in the green Long Creek Valley.

Reiba Carter Smith and Gaye Pruitt are members of the Long Creek Historical Society.



Michael Rushton, DPM

Podiatric Physician and Surgeon

Treatment and Surgery of the Foot and Ankle

In-grown Nails • Bunions • Warts • Gout • Corns & Callouses

Diabetic Foot Screening • Foot Odor • Athletes Foot

Treatment for pain in feet, shins, heels, knees, lower back.

Custom molded orthotics.

Dr. Rushton is a Preferred Provider for Lifewise and Blue Cross/Blue Shield and a Medicare participant.

2830 10th St., Baker City, OR
541-524-0122

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY

The doctor speaks Spanish – El doctor habla Español.