

Back to School Barbeque a hit with all

The Vernonia Community PTA hosted a "Back to School Barbeque" at Washington Grade School (WGS) on Thursday, September 1. Students from kindergarten through eighth grade and their families

were invited to attend. The purpose of the barbeque was to ease back-to-school jitters, allowing students to see where their classrooms would be and to meet their principal – as well as to enjoy the



new play structure at WGS, the good company and the food.

Approximately 150 people attended the event and roughly 200 hotdogs were eaten. Principals Aaron Miller and Nate Underwood barbequed the hotdogs and PTA volunteers served food. All food was free, courtesy of the Vernonia Community PTA, with pasta salads donated by "Simply Delicious," a local catering company. Entertainment was provided by "Muggles" (Forrest Wheeler of Vernonia), a clown from the "Clowns Interactive Program", a non-profit organization that promotes social good.

Left, Muggles the clown makes balloon animals and hats for kids at the Vernonia Community PTA Back to School Barbeque held on September 1. Below left, children at the barbeque enjoyed playing on the new play structure put in place during the summer.



MTC summer youth program provides leadership training

MTC Works again provided a variety of summer youth activities in Columbia County.

In addition to the youth jobs program in Vernonia, 25 young adults completed four days of skill-building, teambuilding, and leadership training with MTC Works and the National Guard.

Youth focused on applications, interviews and completing the Q Customer Service Training during the first two days of the workshop. Completion of the Q Training earned students college credit from Chemeketa Community College.

The National Guard returned to provide two days of teambuilding and leadership activities led by MSgt. John Shirron and Sgt. Bobbie Vicory of the National Guard Drug Prevention Team. Youth were actively involved in hands-on leadership building activities, learning skills that will help them make better choices in life.

Participants also had the opportunity to interview for work experiences with private businesses and public agencies

Vernonia High School Sports Report

By Ben Schorzman

Vernonia High School is once again in full swing, ready for another long year. It is always the same: the teachers, old and new, ready for the kids, and the kids, not ready for homework. For the athletes of Vernonia High, it all started in August, with the volleyball and cross-country teams practicing hard for their respective seasons, and the football team getting ready to take another shot at the playoffs.

For the football team, practice started almost a month before the first day of school. They began play with a week of "Team Camp" starting August 8 – no pads, and no conditioning. It was a week of relative fun for the players who each paid \$25 for the camp. The purpose of the camp was for the coaches and players to develop a new offense before starting daily doubles.

When asked about the change in offense, Coach Mike Funderburg said, "This team is unique, because even though I'm the head coach, I'm only running the defense. But because I am a head coach, I have my own offensive philosophy. I want to know in a tight game which plays are being called."

In addition to a new offense, the Loggers have two new coaches. Jeff Ridgeway, who formerly coached at Mollala High School, is the receiver coach. Also added is Jackson Gillett, who enlisted in the Marines out of high school, played some semi-pro football and a year of Arena League Football.

When asked how the team is looking this year, Coach Funderburg said that it all depends on how they handle adversity. "They could get down on themselves and lose it, or they can choose to battle. Even though we have lost a lot of key players, we have eight returning starters from offense and defense. We look at this year, not as a rebuilding year, but as a 'reloading' year."

How the team handles adversity is key because they have a tough opening schedule. After the Willamina Jamboree, where they won by scores of 12-6, 6-0, and 6-0, they will play number four ranked Blanchett at home, then travel to Scio, before opening league play at Clatskanie. To see how they handle the coming season, join the fans on Friday nights to watch the Mighty Loggers on their march toward the playoffs.

throughout the county. Those who were selected spent the summer learning new skills while providing a public service at several work sites.

For more information about MTC Works programs, contact Karin Miller or Diana Nish in St. Helens, 503-397-6495.

Evergreen Dance Center Classes Start Sept. 22!!

WEDNESDAYS

Ballet

Age 4-5 3:30 p.m.

Age 6-7 4:30 p.m.

Age 8 + 5:30 p.m.

Jazz

Age 6 + 6:30 p.m.

\$38/MONTH



Teacher: Jessica Weller Davis
Classes held at Vernonia Community Church
957 State Ave, Vernonia

To Register, Call 360-423-7410, Longview