



The Reflector

The Newspaper With Integrity



BG parks offers cool fun

Brandy Slagle, Staff reporter

The sweltering sun sizzled overhead in a cloudless sky as temperatures hiked up into the 90s. But boys of summer Nathan Bonnett, 7, and Zach Walters, 8, didn't seem to notice the heat.

The Battle Ground children were deeply embroiled in a water fight, laughing as they soaked colorful sponges in a small, aqua blue pool and whipped each other with the water. A dozen other children shrieked with joy as they darted under the cool mist of a sprinkler.

Battle Ground Parks and Recreation's traveling summer playground program has seen a great turnout in its inaugural year, said parks director Debbie Hanson. The largest number of children attend the Kiwanis Park playground, she said, with an average of 60 children per week. Other parks have an average of 40 children attending each week.

Held in six neighborhood parks throughout the city, the program is partially funded by a \$4,000 grant from the Clark County Parks Foundation.

The free, 10-week, drop-in program is designed for children ages 4-10, and includes a variety of arts and crafts as well as sports and games in each neighborhood. Weekly themes range from celebrating America, pirates and the great outdoors to dinosaurs, fish tales and Harry Potter.

Mary Andreatti, a park supervisor, said she tests out the craft projects each week before bringing them for the children.

"Kids come out here ranging from ages 3-10, which is a wide age range to find activities for," she said. "We make sure we have something to offer all of them."

When playing out in the sun is less appealing due to high temperatures, staff pulls out the pools and sprinklers for children.

Parents are invited to attend and participate with their children, and Hanson said she is encouraged by the number of parents who have decided to join in the fun with their families.

The program runs Tuesday-Thursday, June 23-Aug. 27, at the following locations: Tuesdays, June 23-August 25,

Kiwanis Park, 422 SW 4th Ave., 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and McConnell Park, NW 24th Avenue and NW 8th Street, 3–5 p.m.; Wednesdays, June 24–Aug. 26, Horsethief Park, SW 11th Street and SW 24th Avenue, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and Central Park, 414 East Main Street, 3–5 p.m.; and Thursdays, June 25–Aug. 27, Florence Robison Park, 1901 NW 9th St., 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and Cresap Park, 307 SE 18th Way, 3–5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.cityofbg.org or call (360) 342-5380.