

VERNONIA'S voice

reflecting the spirit of our community

volume 4 issue 11

Tree To Tree Adventure Park Offers Challenges and Excitement

A new outdoor park, Tree To Tree Adventure Park has just opened between Forest Grove and Gaston, and WOW! is the only way to describe it!

Tree To Tree Adventure Park is a playground/obstacle/challenge course that is set up in the trees and according to the owners is currently the only park of its kind west of the Mississippi River. Visitors can choose their own level of difficulty, with various adventurous paths to take. You decide what degree of difficulty suits your comfort level. Similar to ski runs, there is a blue, green, red and black diamond course--the higher the level of difficulty, the higher up in the trees you head and the more difficult the obstacles. Adventurers move from "Tree to Tree" using platforms, tight ropes, wobbly bridges, suspended logs and more, including zip lines. Visitors are fully secured by a harness and lines at all times for safety.

With a soft opening on Memorial Day Weekend, owners Julie Barris, her daughter Marissa Doyle and a host of other family members had the opportunity to welcome paying customers for the first time. The family continues to work on the rest of the grounds around the new park before their official grand opening on June 19th. But the tree course is open and ready for action.

"It's a self-based adventure," says Doyle. "You go at your own pace and it's really more of a personal challenge. That's what we focus on here-- we get you ready and organized with your equipment and then let you do



At Tree To Tree Adventure Park near Gaston, visitors move from stable platforms as high as fifty feet off the ground by way of suspension bridges, swings, zip lines, and more.

whatever you want and have fun out there."

The family-run business (it includes Mom Julie, and Dad, as well as siblings Marissa, George and Jared and all their spouses) is located on a twenty-six acre parcel of land-- the tree-top adventure course is situated in 4.5 acres of forest. The rest of the property features nature paths and trails and a separate, low to the ground, challenge course for facilitated team building activities.

The family has been developing the project for the last three years-- according to Doyle, it took quite a bit of time to find the proper location with the right zoning, and time to acquire all the necessary permits. Everything was secured by last November and construc-

tion has been ongoing throughout the winter and spring.

The course was built and designed by Synergo, a local Portland company that design and builds challenge courses that include aerial elements.

Working your way through the course is a real adrenaline booster. Even though you know you are attached to the safety cable with no possibility of falling, it still takes some time to settle in and feel comfortable. This is not for the faint of heart! Working your way through the green course takes balance, some strength and conditioning, and most of all, nerve. If you are in any way adverse to heights, this might not

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City Wrestles With Budget

The Vernonia City Budget Committee is struggling through an especially tough budget process this year. The committee began meeting on April 6, 2010, and almost two months and close to ten meetings later, were still having difficulty deciding how to produce a balanced budget.

The Budget Committee is made up of five citizens along with the five members of the Vernonia City Council, who work with staff to recommend a balanced budget back to the City Council for final approval. Oregon law requires all governments--state and local--to balance their budgets before the start of the July 1 fiscal year.

This year's budget process began with what appeared to be a rosy forecast in the Budget Message by City Administrator Bob Young, who is the Budget Officer for the process. Since that time, the Budget Committee has unearthed numerous discrepancies in the original numbers that were presented.

On May 25th, a memo was sent out to City department heads at the Library and Police Department and to members of the Parks Committee asking for them to review their proposed budgets and make suggested cuts from their departments. Those cuts requested were \$9,000 from the Library, \$33,000 from the Police Department, and \$10,000 from Parks.

The Budget Committee met most recently on June 2nd where Committee Chair Josette Mitchell led a discussion

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FIRST FRIDAY

Cultivator: Not Your Usual General Store



Cultivator General Store recently opened in Clatskanie. The creation of Paulette Rees-Denis and Jeff Rees, this is not your Mom and Pop's General Store.

The designation "General Store" conjures up images of a dimly-lit, dusty interior, with a bunch of old guys in overalls sitting around a wood stove drinking coffee and talking about the weather, the price of corn, and tractor parts.

The name General Store also brings to mind a place where you can purchase a variety of goods and catch up on the latest local news. And, in reality, that's what Cultivator is. It's just not dim and dusty and there is no wood stove.

In fact, Cultivator is bright

with lots of sunlight, is colorful and cheerful, and full of wonderful specialty goods-- wines, craft beers, organic produce, chocolates, cheeses, household products, personal care items and gifts. It's still a place to sit around with a cup of coffee (or a double mocha), and catch up on the local news. And you can also get a bite to eat from the kitchen.

It's a cross between a health food store and cafe-- all rolled into one. A general store for the new millennium, so to speak.

Paulette and Jeff have created a warm and beautiful space that invites their visitors to relax and stay for a while. The atmosphere is friendly and the staff is knowledgeable. The food is tasty, healthy and fresh. And the variety of goods encourages browsing and discovering new and interesting ideas. Paulette and Jeff also hope to create a sense of community-- a place for people to gather, share ideas and build relationships.



Just some of what you'll find when you visit the Cultivator General Store in Clatskanie.

"Jeff and I have talked for years about opening a wine bar," says Paulette. "We love food, we love to eat, and we love to cook. And be-

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