

Pihl Logging Purchases New Truck

Mike Pihl Logging has purchased a brand new Kenworth T800 truck

Pihl Logging driver, Doug Davenport, says the vehicle was purchased specifically to pull the lowboy trailer. "It was time to upgrade," said Davenport



Doug Davenport shows off the new Kenworth truck that Mike Pihl Logging recently purchased.

recently, as he watched the trailer being loaded. "The old truck was sixteen years old, had a lot of miles on it and was just getting tired."

Davenport says Pihl Logging uses their truck, not just for hauling their own equipment, but to contract out to other companies who rely on their service. "With the customer base we have outside of our company and the amount of machines we have of our own, I have to be able to get to work everyday without having to work on the truck first," says Davenport. "It's peace of mind for us and it's peace of mind for our customers."

So why is a local company that is buying new equipment considered newsworthy? With the recent decline over the past few years in the logging industry and a depressed local economy in general, a local company reinvesting in itself is very good sign that business is beginning to trend upwards.

"I think things are getting better," says Davenport. "Most of the time we're staying busy



six or seven days a week." Davenport says that in addition to work for Pihl Logging, he has done work for construction companies and utility companies and others. "Those guys just seem to be getting busier and busier," says Davenport. "From what I can tell, the economy is picking up everywhere for everybody, bit by bit. And the timber industry has really been picking up. We've been busier the last two months than we have been the last year. And it's supposed to keep getting better."

That sounds like good news for everyone.

Vernonia Friendship Taekwon-do Tournament

On Saturday, February 19th, several local adults and youth participated in the Vernonia Friendship Taekwon-do Tournament. Leading the Vernonia group were Head instructors 5th degree black belt Master Andrew Berkholtz and 3rd degree black belt Ruth Brown. The instructors, along with brown belt Kathy Leach and white belt Aubrey Leach, put on a demonstration for the entire group attending the tournament simulating the defense of a knife attack and potential abduction.

The Vernonia students did very well at the tournament and placed as follows: Kathy Leach, 3rd place medal for sparring and 2nd place

medal for breaking in Women's heavyweight brown belt, Jonah Ooten, 3rd place medal, Men's heavyweight white belt, Brad Ely, 2nd place medal, Junior heavyweight white belt, Brandon Moloney, 1st place medal, Pee Wee super heavyweight white belt, Sarah Law, 2nd place medal, Pee Wee super heavyweight white belt, and Aubrey Leach won a 2nd place medal, Pee Wee heavyweight white belt. Kathy Leach also was presented with an award for special dedication in service to the martial arts.

If you are interested in Taekwon-do in Vernonia, you can contact 503-359-4997.



Rebuilding Vernonia: The Rose Avenue Project *continued from page 5*

Avenue Project, according to the Health Board's Lewis, the two projects are not necessarily linked. "The Health Center needs to be moved, regardless of whether Catherine Mater's plan proves to be viable," says Lewis. "The Forest Health—Human Health Initiative is still being researched; if it proves to be feasible, that partnership will be icing on the cake for the development of our project, but we should still bake the cake with or without the icing. The priority is to move essential services out of harm's way to be accessible in any eventuality."

Previously the Vernonia City Council had given approval for Haack, as City Administrator, to continue pursuing the transfer of the Rose Avenue property and to continue planning for development. In January, Vernonia replaced three of its five Council members. There appears to be some hesitation from the current

Council about whether they are in support of moving forward with the project. Councilor Willow Burch publicly questioned whether it should be a priority for the city, leaving members of all three groups wondering where they stand.

"We have been moving forward with good faith that the city is backing this project," says Lewis. "Twelve to fifteen years goes by quickly. We want to provide this Council with the information they need to give us a vote of confidence to continue to move forward, as soon as possible. Otherwise, we need to start considering other options."

"All these three groups don't want to move forward with this and undertake the cost and risks, making promises and burning other peoples' time unless we know we have the City Council on board," says Tierney.

Right now, the Rose Avenue Project still has some questions that need to be answered. Hopefully, that can happen soon and the Health Clinic, Senior Center and Food Bank can move forward with some kind of plan to move to a safe and suitable location.



Dr. Gilmore's Retirement Party

Friends and patients gathered on Sunday February 27 to honor Dr. Phyllis Gilmore. Gilmore has retired from her practice at the Vernonia Providence Clinic. The party, with a Mardi Gras theme complete with beads, boas and even a traditional King Cake, was hosted by the Vernonia Health Board. Phillip Darrah acted as Master of Ceremonies. Vernonia's Voice would like to wish Dr. Gilmore best wishes in the next phase of her career.

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