

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To our Friends and Customers,
My wife Robin and I would like to thank the community of Vernonia for their support and continued business this past year.

A year ago after much soul searching I decided to open the All In Pub & Eatery (formally the Lyons Den), and thanks to Jay and Kim Barber who were so gracious in helping me get started I did so. This was the scariest thing that I have ever done in my entire life. I had done the research, crunched the numbers and talked to dozens of people about my plan, but even though all my projections showed that this could work, I still had never been a big risk taker when it came to my personal affairs. This gamble was one that put everything I have worked for my entire life on the line (thus the name "All In").

Still, with everything on the line, this could not have happened without the help of so many. We would like to thank first our children who have put up with mom and dad spending so much time at the pub and putting so much money towards getting it going. My children are the most important thing in my life, so this was one of the hardest parts of this endeavor, spending so much time away from home. Now that we are going strong, it has been a blessing to be able to spend more time with my kids.

Next, I want to thank all of our family for their support and help. We have family that comes out and works with us when we have a big events, they brings friends out, and they spread the word to their friends. We want to say a special thank you to our friends Dean & Michelle Threet who come up on band and event weekends to help out, you have saved us often.

We want to thank our employees, who have been great, thank you Shana, Katie, Kendall, Taylor, Marleen, you have been great and we wouldn't have made it without you.

And most of all I want to thank my wife Robin who believed in me and even though she was scared speechless, said go for it. My wife works her job in the Valley daily, then shops for the pub, and then comes down to help out every chance she can, and is the most awesome partner anyone could ask for.

So we have completed our first year, and most everyone I talk to loves the food, and the fact that we have entertainment most weekends, so what's next. Well, we hope that over the next year we can make more upgrades inside, as we would love to figure out a way to expand our kitchen area so we can increase our meal selection. We will continue to provide entertainment, good food and a friendly atmosphere for everyone. We hope that everyone has enjoyed the pub as much as we have.

So here we go into the next year and I hope that if you haven't been in yet, that you stop by, or if you have that you continue to come in. We appreciate each and every customer, and our goal is to give you the best experience each and every time you visit.

Thank You!

Ernie & Robin Smith
All In Pub & Eatery
Vernonia, Oregon

To the Editor

The Internet can help citizens understand the true nature of politicians, by emailing them. I emailed this request to Columbia County Commissioner Earl

Fisher on 2/3/11 which still hasn't been answered.

I'm living just above food stamp level based on a rental that was recently rebuilt by fire insurance find the \$1000 property tax increase extremely unfair, if technically legal. Therefore I have been looking at my property tax bill for things that could be reduced or eliminated. Here's my list:

1) NW Regional ESD - it seems unnecessary, anything they do could be done part time by school administrations. They do not perform anywhere near the level of website development you suggested for links to all content needed for every class. The teachers themselves ought to type in their class plans on webpages to make them public for taxpayers who want to see what's being taught, instead of typing them on paper.

2) Clatskanie 6J School - today I heard of a proposal to reduce teachers by hooking up kids and computers more like Pearcing Arrow and other schools do. I have to suggest that may help with some subjects but not all - for example I was a curve breaker in high school biology due to a spiritual relationship with Don Lowrance who attended the same church. I distinctly remember one assignment where I had no clue by normal logic but I remembered a dream about it, wrote that down, and got an A. Such spiritual connections are less likely by computer yet potentially more valuable. Focus on evaluation and firing bad teachers like a recent Bill Gates interview suggests may improve education and reduce costs. <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/12/20/gates-and-weingarten-fixing-our-nation-s-schools.html>

html

3) Columbia County - what do they do for us in the city limits?
4) Columbia 4H & extension - seems they should earn their money from fairgrounds gate fees instead of taxes.
5) Col 9-1-1 - way too much money - should reduce to ESD

Upcoming Events

Easter Parade of Hats, April 4 at the Vernonia Senior Center for men and ladies. Wear your best or prettiest hat.

Community Easter Egg Hunt, April 7, 10:00 AM at Hawkins Park.

Mattress Sale Fundraiser, April 7, 10:00 AM-5:00PM in the School Cafeteria. All proceeds go to Vernonia Athletes. High quality name brands, brand new with factory warranties, up to 50% off retail prices.

Make Vernonia Shine Day, April 21st

2012 Logging Show

Kelly and Lindsay Baska are beginning to plan the 2012 Logging Show. To get involved call Mike Pihl Logging at 503-429-1470.

level or 4H level.

6) Columbia Vector - they earn their keep after having seen what happens when they don't.

7) Clatskanie Park & Rec - unnecessary, again why take taxes when they have user fees?


8) Clatskanie Library - No big complaint but still seems high for all district residents.

9) Port of St. Helens - They should be paying the taxpayers back with their huge profits instead of overpaying for land. They should be paying our bills instead of receiving taxes.

10) Clatskanie City - Seems too high. There must be some costs to cut. One locally famous deceased city councilor told me the city did well with only one policeman to haul drunks from the bars to jail. Why do we need 5? I had 2 talk to me on one day for preaching the gospel. If they have time for that they should be teaching kids to memorize a Gospel early before they drop out and do crime.

11) Columbia SWCD - What is this? Maybe if nobody knows, it shouldn't be there.

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