

Vernonia Crowd Views “Coming To Ground,” Film Directors on Hand for Discussion at Grange

About forty people were in attendance at the Vernonia Grange Hall on January 19, 2013 for a viewing of the documentary film “Coming To Ground.”

Film Directors Jean Donohue and Fred Johnson were on hand to lead a discussion following the film.

Coming to Ground is a feature documentary that explores the impact on the state of Kentucky of the 1998 Tobacco Settlement Agreement. The agreement was reached between forty-six states and the Tobacco industry to settle law suits to recover their tobacco-related health-care costs. The film documents the history of tobacco farming in Kentucky and how Kentucky chose to use those settlement funds to help local farmers reinvent their industry.

Donohue and Johnson are both originally from Kentucky and currently reside in Portland, Oregon. They told the audience that they spent two seasons filming the interviews with numerous small farmers who have found new ways to survive and even prosper when many small family farms all over the country are disappearing.

The film explains that in the 1990's the end of the Federal Tobacco Price Support Program, which had allowed Kentucky farmers to thrive for over 200 years, spelled disaster for the

local economy.

According to Donohue and Johnson, leaders in the Kentucky farm industry, along with Governor Paul Patton and other government leaders, worked together to create policies that were crucial to the transformation of the



local farming industry. Kentucky, which receives \$3 billion dollars each year for twenty-five years as their share of the tobacco settlement, invested a good portion of their funds into long term change and diversification of products. The funds were used to assist farmers in making changes on their farms through grants and loans, allowing them to purchase new equipment and try new methods of farming.

The film profiles several success stories including several farms that feature organic and biodynamic grown produce and beef; the rise and success of high traffic farmers markets

and community supported agriculture (CSA); a woman who produces goats milk and cheeses; collectors and sellers of heirloom seeds, and a couple who have converted their tobacco farm into a vineyard.

The film was beautifully shot and opens with scenic views of the Kentucky countryside. The historical perspective and the importance of tobacco to the state of Kentucky was informative and useful background for the subject. The interviews with the diverse group of farmers helped show the ability of farmers to use their ingenuity, creativity, and understanding of the land to re-create themselves and their farms into something more productive.

Donohue and Johnson stated during the discussion that the change in Kentucky has only taken place because of the bipartisan effort to create the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund and the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy which gives power to local governments to use the tobacco settlement funds to help individual farmers.

A copy of the film “Coming to Ground” can be purchased for \$35.99; make check to “Media Working Group” (note Coming to Ground) and send to MWG, P.O. Box 1807, Lexington, KY 40588-1807.

Health Center *continued from front page*

ing as well as donation money that is being held by Providence Health that was donated to the clinic after it was flooded in 2007. The Health Board says they intend to approach philanthropic foundations to invest in completing the project.

The Vernonia Health Board also continues to be engaged in discussions with other communities in Columbia County as well as the Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization. Together they have formed North Columbia Access which is working to create a regional health care delivery system that could coordinate administrative duties for local clinics and help find ways to deliver health care to rural communities. “It's not just a new building, we are really building a whole new delivery system and how health care will be provided in this community,” says Krahn. “We're looking to partner with people and agencies from the state, our regional coordinated care organization, from the county, and other agencies to create as sustainable a model as anybody could hope for in this economy.”

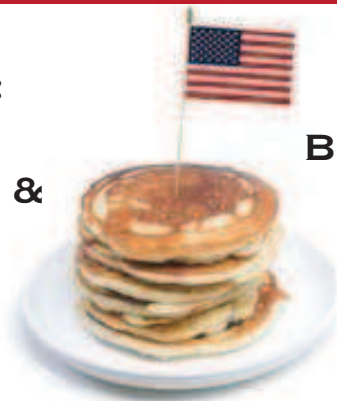
Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization has indicated that they would like to use the Vernonia Health Center as a pilot project and a new model for rural health care in Oregon.

The Health Board recently welcomed three new board members, DeAnna Pearl, Erica Paleck and Rebecca Brookins. “The Health Board knows the wave of change is coming and we are taking the opportunity to shape the way we will be impacted by that wave by being ahead of it and showing how we can react and respond to it,” says Pearl.

MIST BIRKENFELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** FEBRUARY 9, 8 AM - 12 PM

ADULTS:
\$5

KIDS 12 &
UNDER:
\$3



PANCAKES
BISCUITS & GRAVY
EGGS & HAM
COFFEE & JUICE

MIST BIRKENFELD FIRE STATION
12525 HWY 202, MIST

VERNONIA HEALTH BOARD IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE VERNONIA HEALTH CENTER FEBRUARY 19, 2013



LOCAL RESIDENT TERA ROBERTS, NP
WILL BE THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

MON & WED 1:00-5:00 PM
TUE 3:00-7:00 PM
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