

## New Baking Business Spotted in Vernonia

By Scott Laird

A new business has been “sighted” around downtown Vernonia.

Sasquatch Bread Co. products have been seen at several locations. Unlike their namesake, the Sasquatch Bread Co. is no hoax, legend or mystery.

These healthy new products contain no high fructose corn syrup, wheat, or dairy. They also have no artificial sweeteners, colors or additives. Some do contain eggs. They are quickly growing in popularity and are a favorite among kids as well as adults, and not just those looking for gluten free products. Everyone seems to like them!

Vernonia resident Trish Smith started making her gluten and dairy free products as a favor for friends who were gluten intolerant. “It’s expensive to go out of town to get something and the products out there taste like cardboard,” says Smith. “These are people who are just newly gluten sensitive and are used to foods that taste good.”

Smith says she didn’t start out intending to market and sell her products. People who tried her baked goods, including a sister who sells Chai Teas in Washington, enjoyed them so much and insisted she could make some money with them. So Smith decided to give it a go. “With some encouragement and a little bit of pressure they pushed me over the edge,” explains Smith. Now you can “encounter” them at Sentry Market, Made In Vernonia and Black Bear.

Smith says she started getting serious about selling her products to the

public in January and quickly received certification to bake in the kitchen at the Vernonia Christian Church. Her main product at the moment is Squatch Balls



Trish Smith recently started the Sasquatch Bread Co., making gluten and dairy free products.

which are slightly sweet and about the size of a donut hole. They are made with almond flour, agave nectar and grapeseed oil and contain pumpkin and sunflower seeds, almonds, raisins, and organic coconut. They make a healthy dessert or great snack and Smith says the kids she has asked to try them love them!

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## Smith Named Fire Chief

Earl “Dean” Smith was named the new Fire Chief of the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District on Saturday February 9, 2013.

The announcement was made by the VRFPD Board of Directors at the organization’s Annual Banquet.

“You have been chosen by the Board of Directors to become the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District Fire Chief. You have been chosen for your leadership, desire to serve, education and commitment to this community,” said VRFPD Board member Don Shulte.

Shulte read Smith the oath of office. Board members Steve Weller and Terry Lindauer were also on hand. Smith’s wife Amy was invited to participate in the ceremony and was given the honor of pinning on Smith’s new badge.

Smith had been a volunteer with VRFPD who was promoted to Lieutenant in 2007 and then served as temporary Duty Officer when the previous Chief resigned. Smith was promoted to Deputy Chief four years ago and has been working to earn the qualifications needed to become the full time chief.

Shulte noted Smith’s work in developing an EMT certification program that has recruited several volunteers, making the city of Vernonia a safer place. “Not only has Dean met



New Vernonia Fire Chief Dean Smith being administered the oath of office by VRFPD Board Member Don Shulte.

our requirements, he has exceeded them,” said Shulte.

“I first met Dean in 2007 during the flood,” Lindauer told the audience. “I saw a spark in this man’s eye back then and he has not let me down. From Lieutenant in 2007 to Fire Chief in 2013-that is not very many years. He has moved very fast and you should be very, very proud of this man. He has a vision for our department and let’s all get behind him and help him reach that vision.”

The VRFPD Banquet was held at the McMennamins Grand Lodge in Forest Grove. The VRFPD gave several awards in recognition of outstanding service; winners were Rookie of the Year, Micheal Haley, Officer of the Year, Dan Hanson, Firefighter of the Year, Kara Kemper, Volunteer of the Year, Amy Smith.

## Loggers To Play in State Basketball Tournament

Both the girls and boys basketball teams from Vernonia High School have qualified for the State Tournament this year.

The Lady Loggers added to their regular season Northwest League championship by winning the League

Tournament on Saturday, February 16 with a 48-41 victory over Portland Christian. The Lady Loggers will host Heppner on Saturday, February 23 in the first round of the State Tournament. The start time for the game has not been determined. Heppner finished their regular season in fourth place in the Blue Mountain League with 12-4 league record and an 18-6 record overall.

The Logger Boys closed out their league season with a 49-36 win over Delphian to take third place in the Northwest League Tournament. Austin Cutright was named League Player of the Year. The Loggers will head to Regis on Friday, February 22 for a 7:00 PM first round State Tournament game. Regis won the Tri-River League this season with a 13-1 league record and a 20-6 record overall.



The VHS Lady Loggers won the NW League Tournament Championship. Photo courtesy of Tracy Easlon.

## VHS Sends Four to State Tournament

Four Vernonia Loggers qualified for the State Wrestling Tournament following the District Championships held at the new Vernonia High School on February 15-16.

Freshman David Kovelda won the District Championship at 145 pounds and senior Dawson Shay won at 182 pounds.

Also qualifying for the state tournament were Mikol Pihl who finished second in the District Tournament at 170 pounds and T

John Wolf who took second at 195 pounds.

As a team the Loggers took third place in the District. Also placing for the Loggers were Andrew Jennings at 113 and Ethan Johnston at 160 who took third places; Jeffrey Goodman at 120, Vardan Grygorian at 126, Jason Bouslaugh at 132 and Zane Green at 152 who finished fourth; and Bridger Steward at 152 who took sixth.



David Kovelda won the District Championship at 145 lb. Photo by Mckenzie Titus.

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