

Vernonia Health Board Announces Pacific University Partnership

By Scott Laird

The Vernonia Health Board has announced that they are beginning an exciting new partnership with Pacific University.

The Vernonia Health Board has developed an innovative health care model for providing rural health care. That model includes the creation of a three way partnership with Pacific University in addition to the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County, with whom the Health Board already has a working relationship. The partnerships and new operating model are designed to provide long term and sustainable health care for the Vernonia community.

The partnership with Pacific University has already begun at the current Health Center. It will expand when the new Vernonia Health Center opens next year as part of the Rose Avenue Project.

According to Health Board spokesperson Heather Lewis, Pacific University will use the Vernonia facility as a teaching clinic for medical students interested in a career in rural medicine, while providing the community with local high quality and expanded health care services.

Lewis was pleased to announce that Physician Assistant Albert Rodriguez has returned as the health care provider at the Vernonia Health Center. Rodriguez, who previously worked in Vernonia, will work as a professor and faculty member at Pacific University and as the health care provider in Vernonia through the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County. "He will be a joint employee," says Lewis.

Rodriguez is a native of Ellensburg, WA. He worked in a Pharmacy for ten years and volunteered in the E.R.



Albert Rodriguez is the new Physician Assistant at the Vernonia Health Center.

part-time and weekends, while attending Central Washington University, earning his Bachelor's degree in Science. He attained a Physician Assistant degree in Medicine at Pacific University in 2008. He practiced medicine for three years in a very fast-paced Orthopedic practice before moving on to Primary Care.

The current clinic hours have been expanded to Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Students will begin working at the clinic under Rodriguez's supervision on November 1.

Lewis says the students will rotate through the Health Center as they do their residencies. "It will be a teaching facility," says Lewis. "We made this decision because it allows us to provide more service with a stronger financial foundation-in other words, it costs us less and we're getting more," explains Lewis.

According to Lewis the Health Center is hoping to add additional services including Psychology services and Physical Therapy once the new Health Center opens, currently scheduled for the

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Timberbound Project to Perform in Vernonia

On Saturday, October 26, a concert and square dance will be held at the Vernonia Scout Cabin to celebrate the rich history of folk music in Vernonia. The Timberbound Project--who interpret the music of John and Kim Cunnick, Hobe Kytr, and Dave Berge--will perform a

as able, \$5 - \$10 at the door. Concert starts at 7:00 PM sharp, the square dance will go from 8:30 until late at night.

Other musicians slated to appear at the dance are Jenny Estrin on fiddle and Jack Dwyer on guitar.

The Timberbound Project



The Timberbound Project is (l-r) Joe Seamons, Kate Sandgren and Gavin Duffy.

concert of these artists' music, and then provide music for the ensuing square dance. The songs will celebrate the spirit and culture of the region, and the musicians hope to spread awareness of this music to yet another generation. Therefore, the event is free to people under 19 years of age. All others will be asked to contribute

was recently featured in an article in *Vernonia's Voice*, find it online here: <http://www.vernoniasvoice.com/2013/05/15/the-timberbound-project-reviving-old-songs/>. They also performed at the end of the last school year at the Vernonia Schools in a concert for students and staff.

Subway Gets New Owners

Just to clarify, in case you have heard rumors, the Vernonia Subway is NOT closing.

Steve and Sue Whiteman who opened the store just over one year ago are selling to new owners.

"A lot of people said fast food couldn't make it here in Vernonia," said Whiteman. "Well, we have a Subway here now and it did make it."

Whiteman went on to explain

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VSD Receives \$95K for Energy Efficiency

At the October 10, 2013 Vernonia School Board meeting, the Vernonia School District (VSD) was presented with a check for \$95,000.

The check was for the outstanding energy efficiency measures that were incorporated into the new school building construction and comes from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) conservation and energy efficiency program that West Oregon Electric Cooperative (WOEC) participates in through PNGC Power.

"This is the same program that provides rebate money for our clothes washer rebates, weatherization like new windows & insulation, and commercial lighting



Left to right: Dan Murphy, WOEC Director; Sarah Rossi, WOEC Executive Assistant & Energy Efficiency Coordinator; Bob Paleck, WOEC Director; Bill Langmaid, Vernonia School District Board Chairman; Ken Cox, Vernonia School Superintendent; Margaret Ryan, PNGC Manager Member Services; Marc Farmer, WOEC General Manager; Doug Brawley, PNGC Senior Vice President Power Management. Photo courtesy of David Western, Manager of Administration & Finance for WOEC.

projects," said Sarah Rossi, WOEC's Energy Efficiency Coordinator who has worked on the project for the last three years. "We have provided rebates for Jewell School and the Timber Fire Station for lighting

projects and numerous residential members for clothes washers and weatherization rebates over the years. We also did a large low income housing weatherization project for 5

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