

Health Center Celebrates Groundbreaking *continued from front page*

Paleck was referring in part to the new operational partnerships the Vernonia Health Board has created with Pacific University and The Public Health Foundation of Columbia County. These partners are continuing to develop a new model for delivery of health care services in a rural setting. Pacific University is supporting the Health Center with student internships, research and professional advice. The Public Health Foundation of Columbia County has provided care givers and staff. "Our new partners provide us an opportunity to deliver services in the community and at the same time train badly needed next generation health care providers," said Paleck.

The groundbreaking was a culmination of an almost herculean effort by the volunteers of the Health Board who raised over \$1 million from numerous sources in less than a year, allowing them to begin construction and meet a FEMA deadline to move their facility out of the flood zone. Paleck thanked the various sources of funding, including Providence, Meyer Memorial Trust, The Ford Family Foundation, The Collins Foundation and The Oregon Community Foundation.

Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde noted during his remarks that he was a doubter when the Health Board first unveiled their plans to move the Health Center to a new location. "I didn't get their vision, I didn't see it," said Hyde. "It wasn't about the building-it was never about the building. It was about the compelling need of this community with regards to health care, now and into the future. This is an opportunity to take our hats off to those who never lost sight of that need."

State Senator Betsy Johnson was enthusiastic in her support for the project, saying it is just one more

milestone in Vernonia's recovery. "We are once again celebrating the strength, grit and determination of this community and reveling in the partnerships we have created," said Johnson. "I have to applaud the Board for hanging in



Vernonia Health Board President Erika Paleck with an image of the new Health Center.

there. Lesser folks would have given up."

Members of the Keasey family were in attendance as the entire crowd honored and paid tribute to Carolyn Keasey, a long time Board member and past president, who passed away in October of 2013. Mrs. Keasey was a driving force behind the project and a longtime advocate for accessible health care for the Vernonia community. The Carolyn Keasey Fund continues to support the construction of the new building. Mrs. Keasey's husband Ralph, also a long time Board member, took part in the ceremonial first shovel.

The building will be constructed by Five Star Builders, who also built the WOEC headquarters across the street from the location of

the new Health Center. It was designed by Scott Edwards Architecture; Joan Jasper is the Project Manager. Displays at the event showed an artist's conceptual view of the exterior of the building as well as the layout and the layout of the

her," said Paleck. "None of this would have been possible without her foresight and her ability to see partnerships. We all owe her very much."

According to Lewis, who is acting as spokesperson, the Health Board had to re-evaluate their design and timeline due to a \$100,000 funding shortage. "In order to begin the project on time we have value engineered the project and will not finish some of the exam rooms," said Lewis. "We will continue to fundraise to complete those four rooms as well as some various equipment that we delayed in purchasing. We did make a conscious decision to move forward and have a functioning clinic while we continued to fundraise as opposed to waiting and not be moved before the next flood season."

Following the ceremony, another long time Board member, Bob Wagner acknowledged the arduous process the Health Board had been through to reach this groundbreaking milestone. "I remember when the Health Board didn't really have much to do" said Wagner. "How things have changed."

The new Vernonia Health Center is scheduled to open in the fall of 2014.

CITY OF VERNONIA PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Vernonia is receiving applications to be placed upon the Small Works Roster of the City for construction services.

Applicants must be licensed contractors in the State of Oregon, must meet the general qualifications for the project and must submit a copy of their current license, registration, insurance and bonding information with the application.

This information must be kept current during the year in which you wish to receive invitations to bid. Contractors

whose names appear on the Small Works Roster may be contacted from time to time to submit job proposals for contracts in the amount of \$100,000 or less. The application need only be submitted once a year.

To receive an application please go to our website: vernonia-or.gov. Click on City info and go to job opportunities to download a fillable application. You may also contact us at financial@vernonia-or.gov or 503-429-5291

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:
Monday, April 7, 2014
Monday, April 21, 2014

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, May 26, 2014
Memorial Day

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

Vernonia Police Blotter
March 17-30, 2014

ARRESTS/REPORTS/CRIMINAL CITATIONS

- March 21, 2014 – Police Responded to the 500 Block of E Bridge St. regarding a Disturbance and Trespass. Transported by ambulance to a medical center for evaluation.
- March 22, 2014 – Police took a report of stolen vehicle license plates at the 500 block of E Bridge St.
- March 22, 2014 – Arrest on an outstanding warrant.
- March 26, 2014 – Arrest on multiple outstanding warrants.

TRAFFIC/OTHER CITATIONS

- March 18, 2014 – Issued a traffic citation for Driving Without a License.
- March 19, 2014 – Issued a traffic citation for Driving Without a License.

Terry's Gym

JOIN THE TEAM!

503-901-1705
16720 Noakes Rd. Vernonia

Vernonia Dental

Dr. Christopher M. Scheuerman DMD

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