

Reinvesting in Vernonia *continued from front page*

thought it would be a win-win."

Some of the most exciting news to hit Vernonia in several years was the confirmation that Gretchen Stelzenmueller has purchased the old Joy Theater building. Stelzenmueller is the owner/operator of Gretchen's Saddlery and is a current tenant in one of the retail spaces that are part of the theater building. Stelzenmueller is exploring numerous opportunities to find funding to rehabilitate the old building which has been sitting dormant since the 1996 flood. A new roof is being put on the old building which is a great start. Stelzenmueller says she will be trying to use local companies for any of the rehab work she will undertake. She is also open to the idea of volunteers helping her to reopen the old theater.

Real Estate agent Bernal had more good news concerning buildings in Vernonia. Bernal noted that the deals have closed for the sale of the Vernonia Inn and the old Masonic Lodge. According to Bernal, the same person has purchased both properties and both will provide additional lodging for visitors to the community.

Bernal says the real estate market continues to rebound and is particularly strong in Vernonia. "We have a lot of people from Intel who are looking to live in a small community that is half an hour from where they work," says Bernal. "And many of them are younger families with kids. And I have to tell

you, every person who comes into Vernonia just thinks it's great. They absolutely love it! And so do I. That's why I'm here."

Dana Roach is the owner of The Black Iron Grill, home of Black Bear Coffee and the Bear Creek Pub. Roach recently did a major kitchen renovation, adding a grill and hood which has allowed him to expand his menu as well as his staff. "After the flood in 2007 and the drop in the economy a large number of area restaurants closed down," says Roach. "We saw a void and are trying to fill it." A favorite spot for visitors, especially tourists on bicycles, Roach expanded his outdoor seating area last year and added additional bicycle parking. Roach says he is betting on Vernonia becoming more of a destination. "I'm very excited about the future of this community," says Roach.

It looks like things are expanding at the Vernonia Dental office. Dr. Chris Scheuerman has seen a huge increase in new patients who have been able to get health care coverage since the implementation of Cover Oregon. Dr. Scheuerman says his practice has been adding over 70 new patients per month for the last five months. He says he plans to expand his office this summer into the space in their building left vacant when Vernonia Pharmacy closed several years ago. Vernonia Dental has added several new positions, so the expansion is adding new jobs to Vernonia as well.

Photo Solutions is a small manufacturing firm servicing global high tech industries and is one of the only light industry businesses in Vernonia. Owner Brad Curtis recently took advantage of Vernonia's inclusion in the South Columbia County Enterprise Zone and expanded his business by purchasing \$200,000 of new equipment. "I see a lot of possibilities for firms to do business out here, especially for businesses where location doesn't matter," says Curtis. "The enterprise zone expansion helps level the playing field." Curtis's manufacturing plant was damaged in the 2007 flood and incentives available through the Enterprise Zone may allow him to move his business to higher ground at the California Avenue industrial site currently under development in Vernonia.

Pam Weller is the branch Manager at Wauna Federal Credit Union. Weller says she is excited to see business owners investing in the Vernonia community. She says Wauna FCU offers a comprehensive business lending program that also reinvests in the local economy. "Any loan that we do goes back into the counties we serve-Columbia and Clatsop Counties," says Weller. "The other great thing is that the people who are making decisions about your

loan live here in Columbia County."

Scrub Tub is the local laundromat. Owners Randy and Sharon Parrow recently added a number of brand new washing machines to their location. Randy Parrow says the reinvestment in the business makes sense, but maybe not in the way you might think. "This is not really a money making business," explains Parrow. "We are doing this because we want to support the community and provide a needed service. People who live here need this facility. It could be very prohibitive for people to travel out of town just to do their laundry."

These local businesses and owners see something great happening in Vernonia and are choosing to re-invest in the community. But they need our support as well. It is important for all of us to remember to shop local whenever possible and support these local businesses and local owners. After all, we all want Vernonia to thrive and prosper and there is a reason we all choose to live here.

I think maybe Sharon Bernal said it best when she was discussing the real estate market. "If you just come to Vernonia you're going to love it. If you just get to know some of the people in this community, you're going to love it."

FORM LB-1 NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING			
A public meeting of the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District will be held on June 10, 2014 at 6:45 pm at 555 E Bridge Street, Vernonia, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 as approved by the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at the Fire Station, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.			
Contact: Earl Dean Smith	Telephone: 503-429-8252	Email: firechief@vernoniarfpd.us	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2012-2013	Adopted Budget This Year 2013-2014	Approved Budget Next Year 2014-2015
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	378,403	265,488	251,928
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	1,259	1,000	750
Federal, State and all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations and Donations	0	0	0
Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt	0	0	0
Interfund Transfers / Internal Service Reimbursements	23	3,676	0
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	46,582	52,800	43,000
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	178,783	170,000	180,000
Total Resources	605,050	492,964	475,678
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	108,561	125,462	126,573
Materials and Services	154,525	150,850	140,791
Capital Outlay	43,213	22,400	17,650
Debt Service	9,336	9,400	9,336
Interfund Transfers	23	3,676	0
Contingencies	1,760	10,000	0
Special Payments	0	0	0
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	337,406	171,176	181,328
Total Requirements	654,824	492,964	475,678
PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed 2012-2013	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2013-2014	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2014-2015
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit \$0.9535 per \$1,000)	\$0.9535 per \$1,000	\$0.9535 per \$1,000	\$0.9535 per \$1,000
Local Option Levy			
Levy For General Obligation Bonds			
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS			
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1,	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1	
General Obligation Bonds			
Other Bonds			
Other Borrowings	\$17,354		
Total			

Columbia Humane Society

"Rena" Featured Pet



Rena came to the shelter as a stray, so we are still learning about her. When she came in she was very shy and wasn't ready to have new people touch her. During her time at the shelter she has learned lots of neat things about how great people are. She is still a little hesitant to jump up on your lap but give her some time and she will be the love of your life. She shows a lot of interest in cats, and seems to really like other dogs. We think she is probably going to do better with older kids, maybe around 10 years old. She weighs in right around 18lbs. Her adoption fee is going to be \$165. If you have any questions we will be happy to answer them.

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