

## Rebuilding a Life *continued from front page*

into a lot of bar fights, getting kicked out of parties. I was just being belligerent and stupid. Working, drinking and fighting... that was my life."

Hines says during his early twenties he was arrested about 30 times, mostly for minor things like disorderly conduct, assault, resisting arrest, and even an assault of a police officer.

While Hines talks about this time in his life somewhat cavalierly, he also recognizes that what he was doing with his life was wrong, and that he hadn't had any good role models or any kind of support system. In his 20s he tried to commit suicide several times. He knows he made bad decisions. He also knows he lacked direction. "I've done some pretty dumb stuff with my life and took a lot of risks," he says. "I thought, 'If I die, who cares.' I always had this low self-esteem and no self-worth."

When he was 23 his blind right eye started causing him problems with severe pain from pressure build up. "It was putting me on the ground, it was so painful," says Hines. He finally went to see a doctor who immediately referred him to a specialist who removed the eye the next day in emergency surgery. "I've been dealing with this one eye thing my whole life, and most people didn't have anything good to say about it," says Hines. "It's where a lot of the fighting came from."

"It ain't been no easy ride," he says looking back. "I might have settled down but I didn't feel I was responsible enough to have a family. I just thought I wanted to drink and be a piece of shit my whole life because that's what I thought I deserved. I knew what my father had been like and people used to tell me, 'Des, you are just like your dad.' That told me, 'I'm going to beat my kids,' so I didn't want to have kids. I knew if I kept drinking and with my anger issues, that's where I would end up, like my dad."

\*\*\*

When he was 24 Hines says he woke up in the drunk tank, and had a revelation. "I decided it was going to be the last time," says Hines. "I just decided this wasn't where I wanted to be anymore and I wasn't going back to jail for anything." He says he cut back on his drinking and figured out that if he stuck to beer instead of hard booze he could stay out of trouble; which he did for the next five years – no tickets, no arrests, no trips to jail.

"It's a complete alcohol induced delusion," says Hines about the way he dealt with his drinking. "I knew cheap liquor would get me in trouble but I also knew I could drink cheap beer all day and just be a happy drunk guy." It was a rationalization, but it worked... to a degree.

"There have been a lot of rough obstacles in my life that I hadn't dealt with appropriately until I went to prison," says Hines. "Now that I'm completely sober and had a lot of time to think about those things, I've been able to put them in the past and work towards the future. When you've been emotionally damaged it's hard to trust people or let people in your life, because they might hurt you like you've been hurt in

the past."

Anyone who knows Desmond Hines knows he's a hard worker who is also a bit hard headed. He is smart, determined, and very capable; a guy who will show up when he says and get the job done.

Once he decides to do something, that's what he does, and that's what happened when he decided to "control his drinking." He stayed out of

*"There have been a lot of rough obstacles in my life that I hadn't dealt with appropriately until I went to prison," says Hines. "When you've been emotionally damaged it's hard to trust people or let people in your life, because they might hurt you like you've been hurt in the past."*

trouble and was a positive influence in the lives of many of his friends' kids. "I was Uncle Des," he says with a smile. "I took care of them, taught them to ride bikes, to fish. They come up to me today and tell me they missed having me around. It's nice to be loved by someone unconditionally."

\*\*\*

Dawn Scott is one of Hines's closest friends – they've known each other since they were teenagers and were like brother and sister. They partied together and ran in the same circle of friends, including Darrell Schoonover. They grew up in similar circumstances – Scott also had a single and abusive father, with no mother in the household, and brothers who ended up as alcoholics and in trouble with the law.

Scott married when she was 18 and pregnant, and later developed a drug addiction. She has since cleaned up her life, remarried, and is raising her three girls and two step-daughters in a clean and healthy environment in Vernonia. "In our twenties Desmond lived next door to me in a trailer, says Scott. "Most of his adult life Desmond has lived in a trailer - on a property here, at the end of the road there - and he couch surfed a lot. But he always worked for his room and board." She says their group of friends would hang out together, have BBQs, attend weddings. "We were like a big family," she says.


Scott confirms that Hines's relationship with her children has been positive. "He's always been 'Uncle Des' and he's always been the best uncle that my kids have, even though they're not related," says Scott. "Desmond is there for them. He's always been really clear about enforcing rules, but they could always go and talk to him and he would give them guidance from his life experiences. He's a good influence and teaches them a good work ethic."

According to Scott, Hines would still get drunk on beer and do stupid things, but he was much more fun to be around, more in control, and wasn't getting in trouble like he had in the past. "He was a happy drunk when he wasn't drinking hard alcohol," says Hines.

"When Desmond went to prison, I was completely honest with my kids, and told them what was going on,"

*continued on page 5*

# All In



**Pub & Eatery**

**FULLdish SPORTS PACKAGE!**

Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4-7

**EVENTS**

Sat, Nov. 5  
Triple Edge Band

Sun, Dec. 4  
Texas Hold 'em

- Specialty hamburgers
- 8 Draft beers & mixed drinks
- 5 Craft beers on tap
- Pool tables & satellite TV
- Free Wi-fi
- Beer & Kegs to go

**"BIKER FRIENDLY"**

Sun - Thurs 11 AM - Midnight • Fri - Sat 11 AM - 2:30 AM  
733 Bridge St, Vernonia • 503-429-9999

## Cedar Side Inn



**Karaoke**  
Every 2nd & Last Friday

**Taco Tuesday**  
from opening until 9pm  
3 hardshell or 1 softshell \$4.25

**Ladies' Night**  
every Thursday 6pm-close

---

• Free Pool • Free WiFi • Specialty Pizzas

*Check our Facebook page for daily specials and upcoming events*  
756 Bridge Street, Vernonia 503-429-5841

VERNONIA'S  
*voice*  
reflecting the spirit of our community

**Publisher and Managing Editor**  
**Scott Laird**  
**503-367-0098**  
**scott@vernoniasvoice.com**

**Contributors**  
Karen Kain  
Stacey Lynn  
Aaron Miller


**Photography**  
Karen Kain  
Scott Laird

Want to advertise?  
Have an article?  
Contact: scott@vernoniasvoice.com

One year subscriptions  
(24 issues) \$35

Vernonia's Voice is published  
on the 1st and 3rd Thursday  
of each month.

**Vernonia's Voice, LLC**  
**PO Box 55**  
**Vernonia, OR 97064**  
**503-367-0098**



www.VernoniasVoice.com

FAST & FAIR  
CASH OFFERS



Columbia  
County  
**HOME  
BUYER**

NO  
OBLIGATION  
Written Offer

LOCAL  
CASH BUYER

NO:  
Commisions  
Fees nor  
Repairs

CALL NOW  
(503)  
**943-0001**