

Local Logging Outfit Named One of Oregon's Operators of the Year

Loggers honored for exemplary work protecting soil and water during harvest

Three Oregon loggers representing northwest, southwest and eastern Oregon have been chosen as 2020 Operators of the Year, including C&C Logging.

erations which has 14 logging sites, employs 104 people, and logs approximately 170 million board feet (MMBF) per year in Oregon and Washington.

Regional Forest Practices committees select operators of the year and merit award recipients from among nominees sent in by landowners, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)



C&C Logging, from left to right: Lee Chandler, Frank Chandler Sr., son Frank Chandler Jr., daughter LeeAnne Beech.

The Oregon Board of Forestry was scheduled to honor the recipients virtually at its January 6, 2021 meeting in Salem.

The awardees are:

- Northwest Oregon – C&C Logging, LLC based in Kelso, Washington
- Southwest Oregon – D&H Logging Company of Coos Bay
- Eastern Oregon – Darrell Jacobs Trucking, Inc. of Klamath Falls

Frank Chandler started C&C Logging in 1967 in Vernonia. His son, Frank Jr., now runs the day to day op-

staff, and others. The award recognizes forest operators who, while harvesting timber or doing other forestry work, protect natural resources at a level that goes above and beyond requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. That law requires people to manage forests responsibly and protect streams and water quality, protect and enhance habitat, and reduce landslide risks. The law also requires landowners to replant after harvesting. The award honors operators who consistently meet or exceed Forest

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Wauna Credit Union Displays Local Photography

The Vernonia Wauna Credit Union (WCU) branch is now showcasing local photographs taken by area residents. The canvas prints feature sights from around Vernonia and line the walls within the local WCU building.

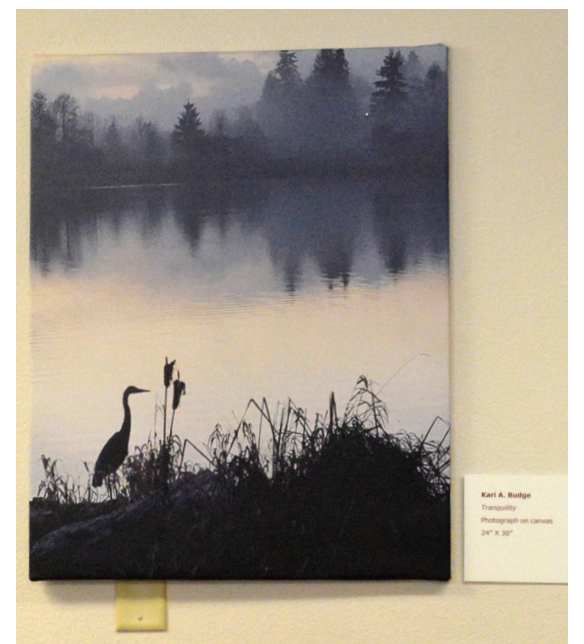
"This was just another way the Credit Union can not only support our communities, but to also show off the amazing people we serve and the beautiful areas we love," said WCU President and CEO Robert Blumberg.



The photographs were submitted as an ask by WCU in the first quarter of 2020 and feature artists from Vernonia, include: Kari A. Budge, Michael Pym, Scott Laird, and Coni Hodgson.

WCU has a history of providing community support to the counties it serves, including scholarship programs, small business lending, and outreach.

"We wanted a better way to share the essence of the area and this exhibit truly mirrors the importance of who and where we serve," added Blumberg.



inside

Vernonia Equality and Racial Justice – Fighting For Everyone in Vernonia

A local group, formed during this summer's racial protests, is trying to make sure Vernonia is welcoming to everyone

By Scott Laird

On December 7, 2020, the Vernonia City Council passed a resolution condemning discrimination and bigotry, and calling for inclusion and equality across the community. While somewhat symbolic, the resolution did call for specific actions by both local government and the community as a whole that would promote respect and dignity, and make Vernonia a welcoming community for everyone.

The passage of the resolution was the capstone to six months of work by a new group of local activists who began meeting following the death of George Floyd in May at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, which spurred protests and demon-

strations across the globe, calling for racial justice. The group of Vernonia area citizens, called Vernonia Equality and Racial Justice (VERJ), first came together for a small demonstration in Spencer Park, and continued to gather there each week on Tuesdays through the summer and fall.

While standing in the park each week, the group was met with a variety of responses from the community – most were positive, with waves, thumbs up, and honks of support. A handful each time were negative, with some shouted curses and middle fingers. A few people stopped, got out of their cars, and came over to chat and express their opinions.

"After watching the video of the death of George Floyd, I was just filled with a lot of sadness and anger and wanted to get out and demonstrate," says Vernonia resident Corrie Aiuto, who has been a focal point in organizing VERJ. "In bringing together

people to demonstrate, it started a process of working together. We don't just want to demonstrate and then go home. We want to do something within our own community that addresses our community's issues, and then work toward solutions."

That ideal led to their effort with the City Council for the passage of the resolution, which doesn't just address racial discrimination, although that was the initial driving force for the group – the City Council resolution also protects all people in the community from discrimination and harassment based on their ethnicity, nationality, country of origin, age, socio-economic status, appearance, marital status, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity.

Local community members often express surprise that people would be fighting for racial justice in mostly white Vernonia. But when the

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