

River Junction Music – Sharing a Love of Music

New music store in downtown Vernonia has instruments and supplies for sale, and musical knowledge to share

By Scott Laird

Brian Tingle has spent a lifetime around music, playing it, recording it, and producing it. Now he is sharing it with the Vernonia community.

Tingle recently opened River Junction Music in the Brunsman Building at 736 Bridge Street, where he's selling instruments and other music supplies, like strings, music books, amps, and tuners.

"I just want to help get instruments into people's hands, get them learning, get them going," says Tingle. "I love music and I just want to share it."

The new shop is small, but fairly well stocked in every corner with options for someone just starting to learn to play music, someone wanting to upgrade their instrument, or someone who just wants to talk about music – Tingle has a wealth of knowledge he's willing to share.

On the walls there are a number of electric and acoustic guitars. He has several ukuleles, which have been popular. He carries violins, harmonicas, had a trumpet, and has heads and sticks for drums. Most of the instruments and supplies are new, but he will take used instruments to sell on consignment. A rack of music books, for beginner to advanced, take up one corner. There are effects pedals, reeds for saxophones

and clarinets, a metronome to help keep time, and more. Tingle can even do some minor repairs, and will do full set-ups and restringing instruments for someone who needs a bit of help. "I'm trying to have and do a little bit of everything," he says.



Brian Tingle recently opened River Junction Music at 736 Bridge St.

Having a local music store with a knowledgeable owner, obviously has a number of advantages for local musicians. Being able to buy a pack of strings without having to drive out of town is just one. As his business gets established, Tingle says he'll bring in more stock. "I'm learning what people here want and what they need – what style of strings they like and things like that," he says.

He also works closely with the owner of Michael's Music in Cannon Beach who is a personal friend, so they order supplies together and can trade

or source from each other to meet customer's needs. "Anything at his store is at my disposal, and anything here is at his." The stores place new orders together every two weeks. "If someone needs something we don't have, I'll get it ordered and it will be here for them if

bit of piano. Later he played in bands and performed on stage, worked as a session musician on a number of professional recordings, wrote his own music, and has helped produce several other recordings. Today he mostly plays acoustic and electric guitar.

When he writes music, he says he generally starts out on the acoustic guitar. "The structure, tones, the chords, just seem to be fuller, and it keeps your fingers tough. Then I transfer it to the electric guitar," he explains. "Unless I'm doing some real good, down-home blues, or something that needs some grit."

"I'm always trying to learn, because you never stop learning in music," says Tingle. "You hear something interesting, and you think, 'I have to go learn that.' I'm constantly doing that."

Tingle says he's also interested in helping bring live music to Vernonia for events like Jamboree. "I have the connections and the knowledge to get those kinds of things together – electricity, stage, sound, and musicians – that's not a problem."

"Music has gotten me through the hard times in my life, whether it's listening to it, or playing it, or just being a part of it," says Tingle. "And I've always wanted to pass that on." Now he's getting that chance.

River Junction Music is located at 736 Bridge Street. Hours are 2:00-7:00 pm Wednesday - Friday, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm and 4:30-7:00 pm on Saturday, and 2:00-6:00 pm on Sunday, closed Monday and Tuesday.

Vernonia Team Enjoys Winning Season

Some Vernonia little league baseball players are having a great season this summer.

The Vernonia Junior National Team, made up of players in 4th through 6th grades, with a few 3rd graders mixed in, are coached by Jon Swart, Ben Ickes, Paul McIntyre, Rich Pedersen, and James George.

Playing in Oregon's Junior Baseball Organization (JBO) the team was heading into its final game of the regular season on July 19 against Neah-Kah-Nie with a 15-2 record and a lock on 1st place in the West Division. The Vernonia kids had already beaten Neah-kah-Nie in two close games earlier in the season, by scores of 9-8 and 17-15, and then defeated them again on July 13, hopefully earning them a spot in the state playoffs.



Vernonia Junior National Team 2021

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