

Senior Center Opens for In-Person Meals

After a long wait of well over one year, Vernonia Seniors were finally able to enjoy the hospitality of their new Senior Center.

On Wednesday, January 12, Vernonia seniors gathered together to enjoy a noon-time meal, the first meal served in the newly constructed center since it opened.

The Vernonia Senior Center celebrated the opening of their new facility on September 12, 2021 with a ribbon cutting, but have been unable to fully enjoy it due to concerns around the

COVID-19 virus.

While COVID remains a concern, the Senior Center is following all recommended and required safety protocols that restaurants are following. Servers and kitchen staff are all wearing masks, seating is limited to four per table, and tables are spaced six feet apart.

A small group of seniors enjoyed a meal of lasagna, salad, broccoli, and pears. But more importantly, they enjoyed the companionship of sharing a meal together. "As seniors, we need this chance to get face-to-face with

other people," said Sandy Welch, an officer with the Senior Center, as well as the Executive Director of the Vernonia Cares food pantry which adjoins the senior's facility. "We waited a long time to be able to invite people into the new building and enjoy it together."

Pat Ray is a long-time member of the Senior Center and served as the Treasurer for many of those years. "I just felt I needed to be here to support what they're trying to do," said Ray. "I won't be here for every meal, but today was the first day, so I felt I should be here."

The COVID virus didn't seem to be a worry for those in atten-

dance at the first meal. "There isn't a big mob of people here, so I feel all right about being here," said Karen Miller.

Marcy Rohde also said she wanted to support the Senior Center and share a meal. She said she regularly self-quarantines after spending time in public, just to be on the safe side and not spread COVID.

Meals will be available during January at the Senior Center on Wednesdays and Fridays and are served at 12 noon. In February the Senior Center will add meals on Mondays. There is no charge for seniors over the age of 60, although a recommended donation of \$5 is suggested.



Far left: Theresa Kilgore prepares the meal in the new Senior Center kitchen
Left: This decoration was made by former Senior Center Board Member Pat Ray
Below: Seniors enjoyed their first meal together at the new facility



Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act *continued from page 5*

Mexico will vie for those funds, as will Utah, which has a huge hydrogen project in the works in the central part of the state. Palo Verde nuclear plant near Phoenix has just entered into a partnership to use excess power to produce hydrogen, which would then be used to generate electricity, making it another possible hub.

But wait ... there's more!

There's also money for wildlife crossings, energy efficiency in buildings, railroads, for making the power grid more resilient and facilitating the construction of high voltage transmission lines to move renewable energy over long distances, for airports, public transit, and for clean school buses.

Even so, the bill remains incomplete without its other half: The Build Back Better Act, which has increased funding for social programs and climate resilience as well as potential oil

and gas leasing and mining reforms. Fiscal conservatives are holding that one up, though, until they can be assured it won't break the budget. (A wealth tax on billionaires, à la Eccles, might help with that, by the way.)

The bill's proponents might respond by taking another page from Eccles' book. During that 1933 hearing, Sen. Thomas Gore of Oklahoma asked: "Where does the federal government get this money to give to the States?"

Without missing a beat, Eccles, referring to the vast amount of money that was used to fight World War I, retorted: "Where did it get \$27 billion during the war to waste?"

Jonathan Thompson is a contributing editor at High Country News. He is the author of Sagebrush Empire: How a Remote Utah County Became the Battlefront of American Public Lands.



Steve Emory
President and Sr. Loan Officer
NMLS# 45523
Chair Ethics OAMP, '99-'03
o. 503-747-7998
c. 503-730-7364
steve.emory@pacificsunsetmortgage.com

Your **Local** Mortgage Loan Officers
We both live in Vernonia and help with country homes.



Dean Pearl
Loan Officer
NMLS# 1948556
Vernonia H.S. Grad
o. 503-747-7998
c. 503-748-9193
dean.pearl@pacificsunsetmortgage.com



Pacific Sunset Mortgage

Mortgage Brokers are Better - Local Lender with National Reach

Residential Home Loans - Purchase or Refinance - Conventional, FHA/VA/USDA, Jumbo

Pacific Sunset Mortgage, LLC NMLS# 1806349 ML-5769
15455 NW Greenbrier Pkwy, Suite 100, Beaverton, OR 97006
Certain Restrictions apply. Not all applicants will qualify. Not a commitment to lend. Licensed OR & WA





VNC
503-429-9333

Recreational & Medical Marijuana Dispensary

Serving the Community

Featuring:

- Edibles • Concentrates
- CBD Oils, Topicals, & Tinctures
- Flower Grams & Pre-rolled Joints

VERNONIA'S NATURAL CHOICE

Open 7 days 9am - 9pm
736 Bridge Street, Suite 1



Nehalem Valley Bible Church

To know Christ and to make Him known

9:45am Sunday School for all ages
10:45am Sunday Worship Service
6:00pm Sunday Evening Service

NVBibleChurch.org nvbc98@gmail.com
500 North Street, Vernonia, OR 97064 / 503-429-5378



KLS SURVEYING

Owned and Operated by Don & Kim Wallace

DON WALLACE, PLS
Professional Land Surveying
1224 E. Alder St.
Vernonia, OR 97064
Phone: 503-429-6115
FAX: 1-866-297-1402
Email: DWallace_KLS@msn.com



CORPORATE MEMBER