

Business Notes

Take a break at Breaktime with fun for the whole family



Lisa and Ben Edgar are ready for fun in their new Breaktime family recreation center.

A new family entertainment center called Breaktime is now open in Vernonia. Ben and Lisa Edgar, owners of Creatures and the Menagerie, are now offering a whole new range of services with this venture.

The list of activities available is extensive. There are great eats, with Tillamook Ice Cream, BJ's Gourmet Coffee, popcorn, nachos, plus Kosher and all beef hot dogs and sausages. There are table games, including pool, air hockey and foosball, along with board games, puzzles and more. Pool tournaments have already been held and will be again.

The Edgars hope many will enjoy one of the main attractions — a stage available to all, with an open mic and a 1,000 watt amplifier for those who like to entertain. Organized music groups, comedians, any and all talents can be shared with the

community on this stage. In addition, they have a Karaoke system for singers and plan to hold a 'Battle of the Bands' (if interested, let them know).

There are also other small businesses tucked into the corners at the Breaktime. The Menagerie and Toy Box are there, along with Sew Simple (for all your sewing needs) and Schilling's List Book Store. The space may be used for birthdays or other special occasions.

Breaktime is located at 736 Bridge St., Vernonia, and is open 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and closed Sunday (Private parties may reserve the space Sundays.). For more information, call 503-429-7208.

Whether you are interested in sitting in a quiet place and reading a good book while sipping a great cup of coffee, or if you want to stand up on stage and yodel, Breaktime is the place for all sorts of entertainment. Check them out soon.

ODDA evaluation

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commodations and restaurants. He also talked about ways to improve the city and chamber of commerce web sites and to get Vernonia into other destination web sites so more people can find the city online.

The presentation was a simplified version of the complete report, which will be written and sent to the city in about 30 days. Overall, the team indicated that Vernonia was ahead of many towns they visit in the area of infrastructure, with good roads, streets and street scaping.

Classes for Chamber member businesses

Members of any Chamber of Commerce in Columbia County can take advantage of training classes sponsored by the St. Helens - Scappoose Chamber of Commerce. The classes are subsidized by a grant from the Governor's Workforce Development Initiative, allowing low fees for chamber members.

Classes on May 24 and 26 will include Microsoft Word and

FSA loans can help farmers

The Washington/Columbia County Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan funds available to help qualified women and minorities buy and operate family-sized farms. FSA reserves a portion of its loan guarantee funds to assist socially disadvantaged applicants.

Applicants must have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for at least three years.

For applicants who have at least one year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch, funds are available to help with the purchase of livestock, machinery and equipment, as well as annual production expenses.

Applications for all FSA direct loan programs are made through FSA's local offices, listed in telephone directories under "United States Government, Department of Agriculture." Guaranteed loan applications are made with the lender. In cases where a lender is not known, local office personnel will assist the applicant.

Further information can be found on the website at <www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Excel. They will cover basic to intermediate skill levels to increase the bottom line of businesses that participate. Normally \$130 classes, the fee for chamber members is just \$30, with the grant paying the remaining \$100.

Customer Service Training will be offered May 19. This training was developed by Travel Oregon (formerly the Oregon Tourism Commission) and Chemeketa Community College. The fee is \$25 and participants may earn continuing education credit at the college level, as well. This training teaches great customer service to employees to keep customers returning time and time

again.

To qualify for these training opportunities, the participating business must be a Chamber member, have one or more employees, and fall into one of the following targeted industries — health care, tourism, technology, financial institutions, trades and agriculture/forestry. Businesses that are not currently chamber members may qualify simply by joining their area Chamber of Commerce.

For further information, contact the St. Helens-Scappoose Chamber of Commerce at 503-397-0685. Class sizes are limited so register early, online at <www.shschamber.org> or by calling 503-397-0685.

Open to the public
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