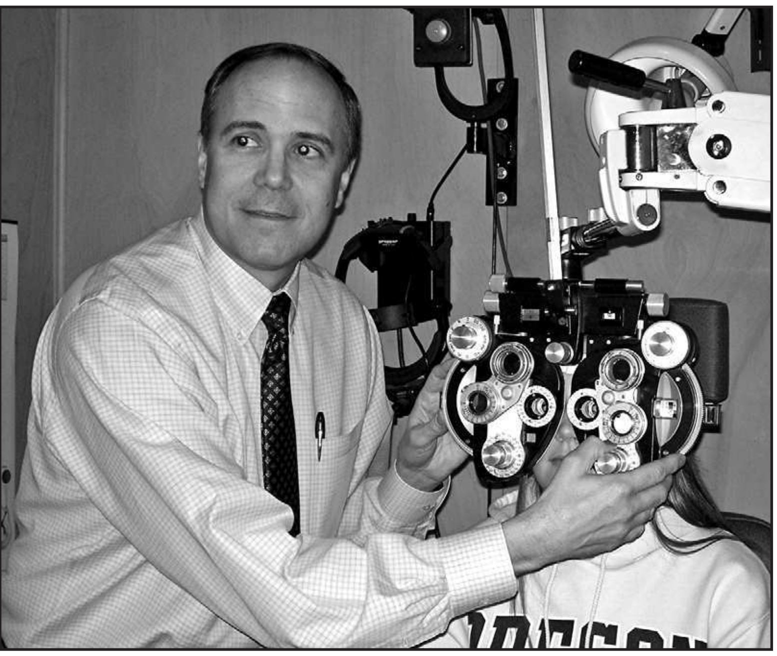
Business Notes

Dr. Tobin won't reopen Vernonia office; will still see local patients

When the flood waters came in December of 2007, Terry P. Tobin, O.D., had been Vernonia's Optometrist since November of 1981. Tobin still considers himself Vernonia's Optometrist, though he will no longer have an office in Vernonia. Tobin, who has been coming to Vernonia each Wednesday since 1981, lost his Vernonia office to the flood. The building his office was in, the old Wauna Federal Credit Union building at 622 Bridge St, is just now getting ready for businesses to return. In the meantime, Tobin's Wednesday schedule has filled in at his Cedar Mill practice. As a result he has, with some regrets, decided to see patients only at his Portland office.



Terry Tobin, O.D., in a posture familiar to Vernonia patients.

Tobin graduated from Pacific University's College of Optometry in May of 1981 and purchased an existing practice that had an office in Cedar Mill and one in Vernonia. Eye exams, glasses, contacts, medical eye appointments, cataract and lasik pre- and post-operative appointments are all still available from Dr. Tobin at his Cedar Mill, Portland, office.

"I would like to thank the people of Vernonia for the support they've given me and for all the friendships," Tobin told *The INDEPENDENT*.

Tobin also related a story about when he first came to Vernonia, in 1981,and was told by Vernonian Derl Roberts to, "Get rid of the tie." Tobin lost the tie, but gained many patients and friends during his time in Vernonia.

Tobin has, "Always enjoyed the drive to Vernonia, except when it's snowy and has always enjoyed the people of Vernonia very much. I'm still available and would love to hear from my Vernonia patients." His office is right across Murray Boulevard from Home Depot at 660 NW Murray Blvd, Portland. The number to call for an appointment is still the same, 503-429-7008. His office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Nehalem Valley CPAC elections

Columbia County will hold Citizen Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) elections, for positions with expiring terms.

CPACs provide advice and recommendations to the County Land Use Planning entities, including the Planning Department, the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners. CPAC members serve two-year terms.

Each CPAC is divided into neighborhoods. Members represent neighborhoods in which they reside or own property. Neighborhood residents and/or property owners elect CPAC members. There must be at least five voters from each neighborhood to hold an election. To be eligible to vote, you must show either picture identification proving you live in the CPAC neighborhood where you will vote, or a tax statement proving that you own property in the neighborhood. You may vote only once in your area.

The elections will be held as follows:

• Upper Nehalem, Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Vernonia City Hall, 1001 Bridge St.;

• Mist-Birkenfeld, Wednesday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hemeon residence, 14090 Wallace Road in Mist.

For information on other CPAC elections, call Chief Planner Glen Higgins, or Land Use Planner Debbie Jacob, at the Columbia County Courthouse, 503-397-1501.

SBA finance seminar

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Portland District office, 601 S.W. Second Ave., Portland, will be holding a briefing on financing a small business. The session is free and will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, in Suite 2030.

The loan briefing covers financing options to start or grow a small business. Topics will include SBA loan guarantee program, credit requirements, use of proceeds, how to approach a lender and loan proposal assistance.

Time permitting, there will be a mini-tour of the Business Resource Center. No early registration is required. For additional information, call 503-326-2682.

Two County judges in primary election

There will be two uncontested judicial positions for 19th District Circuit Court on the May 20 Primary Election ballots for Columbia County voters. All judicial positions are nonpartisan.

Steven B. Reed and Ted E. Grove incumbents for Pos. 1 and 2, are unopposed.

April 29, 2008, is the last day to register for the May 20 primary election or to change party affiliation.

County jobless total slightly up at 6.2%

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 6.2 percent in February inched upward from the previous month (5.9%) and from one year before (5.7%). The rate was a little above the statewide rate (5.5%) and higher than the national rate (4.8%).

Total employment fell by 133 to 22,837 and the number of unemployed people increased by 38 to 1,689. Total employment this February was 163 more than one year before and there were 157 more people unemployed this year.