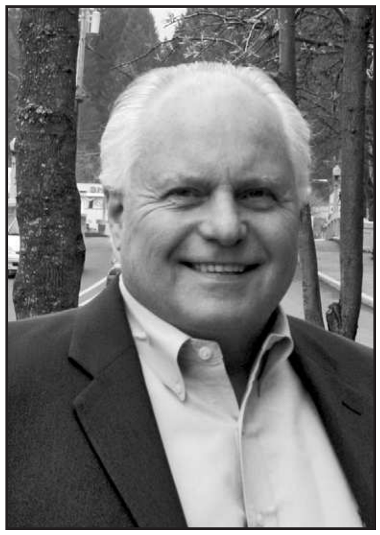
Business Notes

Helping others by planning is his business, music is his passion

Vernonian Jim Presley and New York Life can help you (or your small business) reach your financial goals. After being a customer of New York Life for about 30 years, Presley started working for them about six months ago and is now a New York Life Financial Services Professional.

Presley said what he likes about this work is, "At the highest level, what I do is help people accumulate wealth and build financial security. How I do that is by working with each individual or small business in the areas of life insurance, long term care, retirement, and mutual funds." Presley went on to say that New York Life, at 163 years old, is the second oldest company in existence in Oregon (he thinks the first may be The Oregonian) and has the highest rating in life insurance in the industry. A Fortune 100 company, New York Life has paid out $927 million in claims this year so far.



Jim Presley

Another thing Presley likes about New York Life is that he and other Financial Services Professionals spend about 20 percent of their time in training so they can always offer the best information and help possible. With an Associate degree in Computer Science, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Management Science, Presley admits, "I've always believed education is important."

Presley bought property in Vernonia and moved here two-and-a-half years ago after visiting friends in the area many times during the last 15 years. He has two adult children in California and says his personal passion has always been music. He has been playing guitar and singing his "whole life" and came from a family of musicians.

Before coming here, Presley worked in computer and software development for many years. He started a software development company in Roseburg/Eugene, taught Computer Science at Umpqua Community College, and was a strategic planner for Fortune 500 and small businesses in North America and Europe.

Now Presley, who says he plans to spend the rest of his life right here in Vernonia, is half owner of the old nursery building on Bridge St. (he and the other owner, Dick Titus, donated the use of that building to flood recovery efforts), is on the supervisory committee of Wauna Federal Credit Union, and serves as the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce liaison to the Vernonia Economic Development Committee. In addition, he offered his services to the chamber for a series of strategic planning meetings to help the chamber better meet the needs of its members. Presley put it this way, "Another way I'm trying to make a difference is by doing some volunteer work here."

Wondering what happens when you work on your financial security with Presley? First there is a an assessment of where you currently are financially. Next, the important question, "Where do you want to go?" Then, together with Presley, you identify any gaps and help find ways to fill in any missing pieces. Presley has the products, resources and tools to assist people in obtaining financial security.

New York Life Insurance Company (The Company You Keep®) and Jim Presley are ready to help you reach your financial goals. To get started, call Jim Presley at 503-429-0747 or 503-929-3455 (cell).

One lease ok, another lease is denied

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boxes and commercial rates.

When the regular meeting began, the council unanimously voted to extend Waste Management's franchise agreement for four years. The rate increase proposal will be considered at the next meeting.

The council unanimously approved a proposal from Columbia County Flood Relief (CCFR) to lease parts of the Vernonia Community Learning Center (VCLC) for $1,400 per month. CCFR had estimated the monthly VCLC expenses at $900 to $1,100 per month. (Editor's Note: Based on the last eight months expenditures report, VCLC expenses average $1,112.56 per month if the Director's contract of $3,200 per month is not included, otherwise the monthly average is $4,319.85.) The monthly lease agreement also calls for CCFR to pay the VCLC utility costs, which average $362.85 per month.

The council packet included a lease agreement between the city and Allen Marshall (Muffy Enterprises) and George Tice (Buckhorn Restaurant) for $100 a year for use of a strip of city owned land beside the alley behind their businesses. Marshall and Tice had previously asked to purchase the strip of land for employee parking.

Objecting to the proposed lease was Evangeline Doyle, who owns a parcel adjoining the city property and the alley it is connected to. Doyle said she has offered to buy the property behind her home and has been told twice by Interim City Administrator Aldie Howard that she needs to tear down her garage and fence. Doyle explained that the garage in question, built about 80 years ago, has a three foot encroachment on the alley. Doyle said when she asked to buy the property she was told no and now someone else is being given that opportunity.

Howard said he "didn't look at the property" the first time Doyle asked about it and the second time, she wanted to build another dwelling and "that can't happen," and if the alley is improved the fence and garage would have to move. Howard went on to say that the alley can't be vacated because the other property owners would have to agree and it wouldn't be in their best interests to do so. Allen Marshall was present and told council he would like to control the strip of property to use as offstreet parking for employees.

Planning Commissioner Heather Lewis pointed out that the alley, with or without the strip of land in question, cannot meet parking standards or measurements. Howard then suggested getting "all these people in a room" together to see what could be worked out. Doyle asked, "Is there going to be council there because it's already clear to me that Aldie is working for George and Marshall." Without responding to Doyle's last comment, council unanimously denied the lease agreement.

Janet Wright gave a presentation on the Columbia County Rider program, telling council the County would like to expand the Rider program to a regular three times a week schedule and add a bus stop at the Vernonia Community Learning Center. According to Wright, as more medical transports (such as for dialysis treatments in Portland) occur, Rider services have been less available to others and service should be increased from the one vehicle in Vernonia. Also, there seems to be a general belief that Rider

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