

Business Notes

Vernonia Business of the Year award goes to local Wauna FCU branch

Wauna Federal Credit Union was named the 2007 Business of the Year by the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce at an awards dinner on May 14.

The Business of the Year is selected by members of the chamber and is based on the business's contributions to the community. Wauna Federal Credit Union's Vernonia branch participates in events held by the chamber, including the annual Scarecrow competition (which WFCU has won twice). They also participate in the St. Patrick's Day and Jamboree parades. Participating in Chamber meetings and supporting the "buy local" theme to help Vernonia thrive, were also

considerations in determining the Business of the Year.

"Celebrating our Successes" is the theme chosen by the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce for the annual awards banquet. In addition to recognizing the Business of the Year, the event is designed to bring together civic organizations and area businesses to share what each organization has been doing.

Among those attending the awards banquet were state Senator Betsy Johnson, Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde, and representatives of Columbia County Flood Relief, Vernonia Cares, Adair Homes, Vernonia Grange and Hands on Art.

DEQ requires D.A.D.S. relocation

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et. Council voted unanimously not to renew that contract, with Councilor Randy Parrow saying he understands that volunteers have stepped forward to run the center's programs.

After telling Sandy DeWeber of D.A.D.S. Recycling that they value its contribution to Vernonia and hope the DeWebers can find private property for their business, council voted to discontinue their contract with the DeWeber's operation on Lagoon Drive. The flood made it necessary to move this business, though DEQ has allowed the transfer station to remain, with some modifications. The transfer station is on slightly higher ground than that occupied by D.A.D.S. Recycling. The DeWebers were granted an extension, until July 31, 2008, to remove their business from its present location.

Vernonia resident Loren Loomis told council he is concerned about the city's water and sewer loans and would like to know the principal, interest rates, and repayment schedule, for each loan. He told council that it looks like they "are playing games with the citizens of Vernonia" and that they need to "restore our trust in you." Council agreed that more information about the loans could be sent out with the water bills.

On June 2, council; • approved a grant application to repair Washington St. • approved a new two-year contract with Meterreaders, LLC, which increases the rate from \$.89 to \$.91 per meter for reading the city's utility meters. • received confirmation of an \$18,100 grant from the Cycle Oregon Fund for the Skills Park.

In other business, on May 19, council;

• voted to apply for a 2008 Community Development Block grant (CDBG) to update the 2006 wastewater treatment facilities plan,

• approved a new Vernonia Lake vendor agreement, a new park host agreement, and park fee changes.

• approved the Vernonia Bicycle Skills Park agreement with Alta Planning and Design after Parks Committee Chairman Scott Laird said this work would be paid by grants.

• approved a request to close Madison Ave. from Bridge St. towards Shady Lane for street vendors during the June 6 First Friday events.

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County employment numbers show some increase

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.9 percent in April, down from the previous month (6.4%) but higher than one year before (5.5%). The rate was a

little above the statewide rate (5.5%) and higher than the national rate (5.0%). Total employment increased by 125 to 23,179 and the number of unemployed people dropped by

216 to 1,432. Total employment this April was 370 more than one year before but there were 159 more people unemployed this year.

local resource

Wauna Federal Credit Union is your local lending resource and is working in cooperation with Columbia County Flood Relief.

Your credit union can provide lending options for expenses related to:

- Home Repair
- Home Elevation

with our full line of mortgage products, bridge loans, personal lines of credit and title loans.

Wauna Federal Credit Union is a participant in the Home Start program, a grant program to assist with down payments.

Call Heidi or Brian at your local branch today!



Wauna Federal Credit Union

Own the Difference

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