

Business Notes

TenderCare® Dental Center now open in Banks

TenderCare® Dental Center is now open in Banks. Dr. Andrew Thompson, D.M.D., has had an office in North Plains since April 2002, and opened the Banks office on January 4, 2011. Dr. Thompson's history with Banks goes back to his high school days, when his father, Dr. Robert Thompson, opened a dental office in Banks in the building most recently used by Benson Realty. The elder Dr. Thompson had son Andrew dig under the building to work on the foundation.

The elder Dr. Thompson also opened the dental office in the current location in Vernonia, before selling out to his brother, Dr. Ernie Thompson, who then sold the practice to Dr. Scott VanDyken.

But, back to Banks. Dr. Andrew Thompson looked at

space beside Jim's Thriftway about 10 years ago, but wasn't able to get the right amount of space for the right amount of money at that time. About a year and a half ago, he stopped in again and found that now the right space was available. Why Banks? Dr. Thompson did some investigation and found that Banks was the only incorporated Oregon city of its size without a dentist. "That's really interesting," he said to himself. Looking further, he looked at the number of children in the school district and decided, "I felt there was a need and they'd appreciate having me here."

Dr. Thompson is part of a family of dentists. His wife is a dentist, in the Bethany area, as are his father, his uncle, his cousin and his sister's hus-

band. So far, none of his three children; Halle (age 10), Kyle (age 8) or Heath (age 3) have declared an intention to follow the family profession, but there's still time.

TenderCare® Dental Center in Banks serves adults and children and also provides some orthodontic care. They are open on alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays, with five chairs available. Between North Plains and Banks, the phones are set to transfer automatically, so patients can always reach them. They are located at 664 S. Main St. in Banks, beside Jim's Thriftway.

TenderCare® Dental Center's goal is, "Quality dentistry delivered tenderly." Call 503-747-3409 for an appointment, or go to www.tendercaredentist.com for more information.

Nominees sought for Congressional Medal of Honor

Oregon's Senator Jeff Merkley announced, on February 3, that the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation is now accepting nominations for the Citizen Service Before Self Honors, which recognize and honor extraordinary Americans who have acted with courage and selflessness. Citizen Honors are exceptional because they are presented to unsung heroes by our nation's most honored heroes – the fewer than 90 living Medal of Honor Recipients.

"In communities across Oregon, there are exceptional individuals who make sacrifices for others and routinely go the extra mile to care for their neighbors and fellow Americans," Merkley said. "I encourage Oregonians to nominate indi-

viduals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their community and country."

Citizen Service Before Self Honor recipients represent the values of courage, sacrifice and selfless service. Senator Merkley and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society encourage individuals to nominate any United States civilian who has clearly demonstrated a willingness to sacrifice for others, whether it has been through a single act of extraordinary heroism at risk to one's life or through a prolonged series of selfless acts. The nominee's actions must epitomize the concept of "service before self" and must be performed "above and beyond" one's professional or vocational area of responsibility or conduct.

Citizens may submit an eligible nominee by completing the nomination form online via the Citizen Service Before Self web site at <http://citizenservicebeforeselfhonors.org>. The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 18, 2011.

A panel of judges, to include Medal of Honor recipients, will consider all nominations and select a finalist from every state, plus the District of Columbia. From among the state finalists, three individuals will be selected to receive Citizen Honors and recognized at a ceremony on Friday, March 25, 2011, in conjunction with National Medal of Honor Day. The ceremony will be held in the shadow of the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Volunteer urges others to get active in community

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too. Attending the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce meetings on behalf of Vernonia Pride got her started with the Chamber. Webb said her goal at the chamber was, "To get Vernonia on the map. I think the flood may have helped that more than I, but I am pretty sure I had a good hand in it. I know I tried hard enough." Webb served the Chamber for

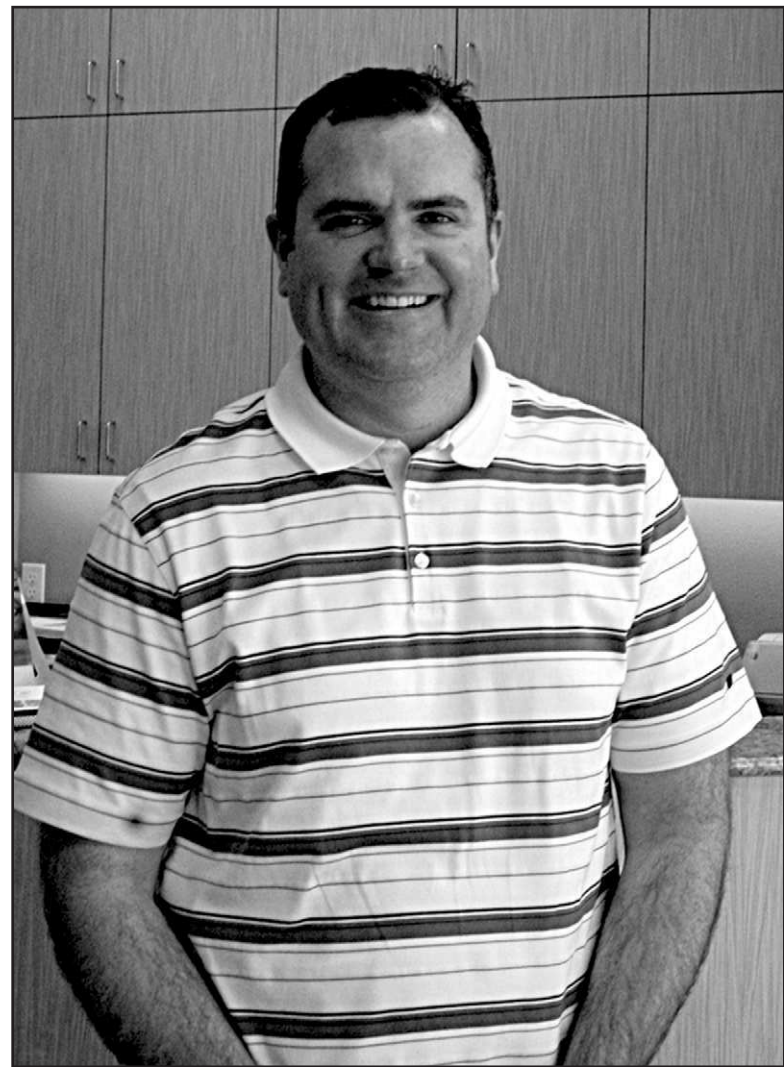
about six years, leaving the position of President earlier this year.

Webb also volunteered as a host parent for foreign exchange students, with Vernonia First Friday, Jamboree, Salmon Fest, Riverfest (now defunct), the Grange, Study Club, as Cycle Oregon coordinator, and worked getting signatures to take to Salem to get local calling service here.

Now Webb has cut back on

her volunteer hours to enjoy family, including new grandchildren. Her final comment was, "The only thing I will say is THANK YOU, Vernonia residents and friends. I have loved serving my community. I love Vernonia."

Just goes to show that a person can work full-time and still be involved in the community. Webb hopes her story acts as a challenge, so more community members get out and volunteer.



Dr. Andrew Thompson, D.M.D.

Watch state legislature floor sessions, more, live on-line

Oregon's legislative proceedings can be viewed on-line with coverage of all committee hearings, Senate and House floor sessions and news conferences available over the Legislature's website (www.oregonlegislature.gov).

The website offers live video and audio streams from each of the Capitol's two chambers, 11 hearing rooms, and from news conferences held in the Capitol press room and Governor's Ceremonial Office. The Legislature's website also offers 24/7 access to archived audio recordings of all legislative proceedings going back to the 1999 session. For more information on how to access the audio/video resources on the website, contact the Legislative Information Services Help Desk at 503-986-1914.

Legislative Administration also recently decided not to extend the pilot project called the Oregon Channel, which is car-

ried by only six cable public access channels at limited times each day, compared with 24/7 access of all legislative proceedings available to Oregonians via the Legislature's website. The Oregon Channel pilot was launched during the 2007 legislative session, in partnership with Oregon Public Broadcasting and Southern Oregon Public Television. The Oregon Channel will be discontinued on July 1, 2011, following the conclusion of the current legislative session.

"We are working to provide cost-effective and easy access to audio and video for the most number of Oregon citizens. The Legislature's website is an excellent resource for Oregonians to follow a wide range of legislative proceedings from floor sessions to committee hearings to news conferences," said Legislative Media Services Manager Bill Gross.