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Letters

Loss of credit is why businesses decline

To the Editor:
 "Thanks for the Laugh".
 In reference to your December 21, 2011 article on why small businesses are not thriving, I have to say thank you for the laughs. As a business owner when I first saw the article on why small businesses are not thriving I thought maybe someone is finally going to shed some real light on this. But, what I read was a bunch of governmental statistical political garbage!
 Uncertainty? What the heck is that? As a business owner I will tell you first hand that from conveyor belt manufacturing, construction, or gun manufacturing, the main and foremost reason small businesses are not thriving is because of the thieving banks in this country. They got their billions of dollars

in bailouts and then they bailed on every small business in this country leaving them high and dry! There is no longer such a thing as a business line of credit, construction loans, or SBA loans for any small business. When you take away working capital from a business it will not thrive!

The only uncertainty I have experienced in the small business world is wondering how are we going to make payroll, finance projects, advertise more, or expand into new markets that are available to us when we cannot even borrow ten lousy cents from any bank in the U.S? I have the work to create many good paying jobs with benefits but I don't have the working capital any more to fund it so I have to turn it down. How wrong is that? It takes money to make money, and when the banks take away your cash flow for no reason, small

businesses will fail.

Banks too big to fail and too fat on tax payers bailout money that could care less about employing the people of this country is the only reason small businesses are failing in America! Fortunately for us we have a lot of perseverance and a few good contracts to make a come back without the help of our current banking systems.

**Michael Botchie
Rainier**

every single one of us. Only to inspire to educate for the well being of the human race, to be nice and be humble and God will have mercy on you.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus and he lives within you and me." Thanking Him for all my blessings.

Happiness prevails,
**Virginia Kepner
Vernonia**

Wishing happiness to all in the new year

To the Editor:
 Happiest of New Year's to All. Through all my trials and difficulties, I've conquered with ambition, only to recover with highest hopes, happiness and justice for all.
 Wishing everyone, PEACE in this world, not just the white, black, or red, but each and

Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters with personal attacks on private citizens. Preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.
 All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number.

Vernonia 2011 Year in Review

- From page 2**
 revoked for life. Kay appeals.
 Aug. 4 – City councilors Nicks and Burch recalled by over 73% and removed from office on Aug. 5.
 Aug. 5-7 – 55th Friendship Jamboree.
 Aug. 8 – Work begins on new 7-acre wetland at old mill site.
 Aug. 20 – New West Oregon Electric Cooperative building dedicated.
 Aug. 21 – Old Grad picnic.
 Aug 29 – City council appoints new councilors Bruce McNair, Kim Tierney and Donna Webb.
 Brent Thompson sworn in as police officer.
 Sept. 1 – First day of school
 Sept. 6 – City council hires Bill Haack for City Administrator.
 Sept. 7 – Community Garage Sale.
 Sept. 15 – Camrin Eyrrick appointed to school board.
 Sept. 16-18 – St. Mary's Quilt Fair.
 Oct. 1 – Salmon Festival.
 Nov. 4 – Mike Kay files letter of intent to sue city for "high six figures".
 Nov. 21 – Matthew Brady sworn in as police officer.
 Dec. 3-4 – Christmas in the Country Bazaar.
 Dec. 6 – Vernonia school town hall announces plans for New Spencer Park.
 Dec. 11 – Vernonian Mackenzie Carr named 2012 Miss Rodeo America.
 Dec. 13 – Loren Loomis, Dan Hanson, and Jesse Harbour promoted to lieutenants of Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District.

City Update

Haack gives update on the wastewater treatment project

*by Bill Haack, Administrator
City of Vernonia*

On Tuesday December 27, 2011, the City of Vernonia selection review committee met to review and rate the two responses to the Requests for Qualifications to provide design and final engineering services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

Curran-McLoed, Inc. Consulting Engineers (CM) and Tetra Tech Engineering and Architecture Services (TT) submitted responses to the RFQ by the 2:00 p.m. Thursday December 22, 2011, deadline, therefore becoming the eligible pool of candidates.

The selection committee met as a group and provided

their rated assessments to the City Recorder. The City Recorder entered the rating and calculated the rank of each firm. TT was rated superior to CM by a ratio of about 3:2.

The selection committee's results were provided to the Public Works Committee at their meeting December 27, 2012. The PWC recommended TT to the City Council as the preferred selection for the design engineering services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

I will provide the City Council with a recommendation from the Public Works Committee authorizing the negotiations on a pricing contract for the scope of work described in the RFQ.

Ike Says . . .

From page 2
 there has always been a Coho run that comes in late December. I had it from a very reliable source that there were fresh fish in the lower Nehalem just before the last storms. Pebble Creek is one of the streams where this late run seems to show up strong. I might just

have to take a walk and see what this year brought us.
 Have a Happy New Year!

**Izaak Walton League,
Nehalem Valley Chapter**
 meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call 503-429-7193 for location.