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THE INDEPENDENT

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Last week, students in the Pacific University Dental program, (left to right) Kelsey Pautz, Amanda Bolliger, and Aimee Elrod, along with others, came to Vernonia and performed dental screenings on every student, Kindergarten through grade 12. This service was organized by Heather Lewis and sponsored by the Vernonia Prevention Coalition.



Left to right, the new Verdura Family Wellness staff includes of Receptionist Tonia Clark (Vernonia), Jessica McLaughlin, MA (Vernonia), Albert Rodriguez, PA, Practice Manager Sara Miller, and Office Manager Charissa Miller. Dr. Bryan Miller, DO, will be here weekly, also.

Verdura Family Wellness to open Feb. 20

Verdura Family Wellness, the new medical clinic in Vernonia, will open Monday, February 20, and will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The staff and providers will be available to meet the public at an Open House this Satur-

day, February 18, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. New patient registrations will be available at the open house and can still be picked up at Vernonia Pharmacy or at West Oregon Electric Cooperative.

Verdura Family Wellness is, "looking forward to...contributing to the community's well-

ness," said Practice Manager Sara Miller. Come meet them at the Open House.

The clinic is located at 510 Bridge Street and their phone number is 503-429-0300. The website is www.verdurafamilywellness.com.

Bonamici announces her first round of Town Halls

Newly elected Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici has scheduled her first town hall meetings in her district.

- Feb. 18, 2–3:00 p.m. Beaverton City Hall, 4755 SW Griffith Dr., Beaverton.
- Feb. 25, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Hillsboro Library, 2850

NE Brookwood Parkway, Hillsboro.

- Feb. 25, 1–2:00 p.m., Rainier Senior Center, 48 West 7th St., Rainier.
- Feb. 25, 4–5:00 p.m., Clatsop Community College, Performing Arts Center, 588 16th St., Astoria.

Vernonia Council works on Committee ordinance

Mayor Josette Mitchell appointed George Tice for another term on the Budget Committee at the February 6 Vernonia City Council meeting. Mitchell also announced that there is still one open position on the Budget Committee. Information on that opening, and applications, are available on the city website or at city hall.

Dan Brown gave a presentation on flood recovery efforts, explaining to the mostly new council how the processes worked for determining damage, and getting homes lifted, moved, or removed. Brown told council that there will be seven homes lifted starting this spring and that there may be one more small group of homes lifted after that, but that flood recovery efforts are starting to wind down at this point.

Council spent a fair amount of time discussing the proposed new Committee Ordinance. The ordinance will formalize the composition and duties of all city committees. Small differences in committees will then be identified by specific resolutions. Each committee will be composed of seven members, at least five to be residents of the city, plus one council liaison who will not be a voting member of the committee. To reach any decisions about recommendations to the council from the committee, four of the seven members must agree. Council then held

a Work Session on February 13 to finalize what is now Ordinance 880 and held the first reading, by title only. The final draft will be included in the next meeting's agenda with the final reading to be held at that time.

The council recommended that City Administrator Bill Haack find a way to improve the tracking of public works projects and personnel time. Council feels that the information would help to better determine the budgetary needs of this department. Haack said he will contact other cities and find out what resources are available for this purpose and report back to council in March.

Council approved a request by Chief of Police Michael Conner to surplus the ICOP cameras and replace them with a less costly lapel camera system.

The next meeting of the city council will be February 21 (as city hall will be closed February 20 for President's Day) at 7:00 p.m. in city hall.

Vernonia Church offers Free Dinner on Feb. 18. See page 7 for more information