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VERGAS COMMUNITY HAS IT ALL!

June 11, 2021

By Heather Rule

Life long Vergas resident Sherri Hanson knows what to expect when she walks into Vergas Hardware. Customers can find what they need or get help, because the hardware store looks out for its customers.

For example, if Hanson walks in and wants to buy grass seed in early spring, she might be told: "Well you know Sherri, it's a little cold yet. You don't want to put that in, because it's not going to germinate, and you don't want the birds to eat it." "They would never just sell it to

you without having your best interest in mind," said Hanson, who's also the assistant vice president at the Vergas State Bank. "I love that about our hardware store."

Whether it's household items, a cup of coffee or clothing, shoppers don't have to leave Vergas to make their purchases. The town boasts gift shops, a coffee shop, convenience stores and restaurants, along with the hardware store, which sells everything from kitchen supplies to gift wrapping, kids' games and toys, balloons and garden supplies.

Vergas shoppers have a few options when it comes to gifts and apparel.

Natalie's Serendipity sells gifts, home décor and clothing; The Attic Shop sells clothing and décor; Forest Edge Gallery offers jewelry and art options. Shoppers in town can find everything from business attire to casual clothing like t-shirts and sundresses, hats and winter gear.

Otter Coffee also sells gifts and wall art, in addition to coffee, ice cream and fresh bread. Convenience stores and the hardware store even offer some grocery items, so people can still purchase their meats and veggies in town.

Vergas offers a few restaurant options as well. Loons Nest Restaurant serves breakfast and lunch, "just good, family fare," Hanson said. Head over to Skal Bar and Grill for a specialty sandwich. The c-stores also offer sandwiches and pizzas. Billy's is known for burgers and beer. Spanky's Stone Hearth is a fine-dining spot, beautifully situated on the north end of Rose Lake. They're extremely fortunate to have these eatery options, Hanson said.

Everything circles back to that personalized customer care. If a shopper spends \$50 at a local business in Vergas it might help that venue make its deposit for the day and help keep its doors open. It makes a difference for those local businesses, Hanson said.

Business hours for shops and stores might vary in the winter months from the busier summertime, but most try to stay open through Christmas, according to Hanson.