

WCI adds another Iowa paper

The parent company of Unified Newspaper Group, which includes the Oregon Observer, is continuing to grow its roster of weekly newspapers.

Woodward Communications, Inc. of Dubuque, Iowa, announced July 26 it would acquire the Anamosa Journal-Eureka, and its shopper, the Town Crier, on Aug. 1.

The newspaper will become part of WCI's Woodward Community Media division, which comprises UNG's four suburban Madison newspapers (the Fitchburg Star, Oregon Observer, Stoughton Courier Hub and Verona Press), and 10 other weekly newspapers, as well as the Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, 10 shopper publications, several other niche publications and Woodward Printing Services.

"We chose to sell to Woodward Communications because of their commitment to community newspapers," co-owner Jim Johnson said. "The improvements that we made were done with

commitment to the community. We took the Journal-Eureka to new heights. Woodward is going to take it to the next level."

In September 2017, WCI acquired West Branch Communications which includes the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, Solon Economist, West Liberty Index, West Branch Times, North Liberty Leader, Marion Times and Linn News-Letter. Anamosa is about 15 miles from Mount Vernon, Iowa.

"This represents our continued commitment to quality community media and related information services, and the important roles they play in the communities we serve," said Tom Woodward, chief executive officer and president of Woodward Communications, Inc. "The community of Anamosa and these publications build upon our eastern Iowa market area and related synergies within our entire community publishing division."