

Bear Creek Pub and Bar

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a drink and reminisce about the old times.”

Roach didn't grow up here in Vernonia, but he still sees the value in displaying the memorabilia from the past. “It belongs to the residents--their memories of their childhoods,” he explained.

The resurrection and transformation of Ben's Barbershop has been in the works for a couple of years. “I got really lucky,” says Roach. “Everything was in here, the mirrors, the floor. All I had to do was clean it up, and set down a bar. All the signs were here, I just had them cleaned and framed. And we painted.”

He even has Ben's barbershop sign, which has been recreated on the front door. And the barber pole, now mounted inside, is an original.

Roach has found all kinds of knickknacks and items of interest. It was like opening a time capsule. He likes to show off a 1929 local phone book, barber tools, a working oscillating fan, and a business license from 1933 which hangs on the wall.

The story goes that Ben Brickle arrived in

Vernonia in 1923, and filled in when the local barber was injured when he was thrown through the front window of his own shop. Ben ended up staying for over fifty years. “A lot of men got their hair cut here over the years,” said Roach.

Along with a bit of history, The Bear Creek Pub and Bar will offer a full bar, along with beer and wine and the regular food menu that Black Bear offers.

The change from a salon to a saloon was a natural progression. “The barbershop was the place where guys came to hang out and talk and get their hair cut,” said Roach.

Now, instead of that haircut, you can have a bite to eat and a drink.



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There are also a few ways all of us as drivers can keep from annoying others. Try to drive close to the speed limit and don't block passing lanes. Don't tailgate, yell, gesture or speed up when someone is trying to merge or pass. Only use one parking space.

Columbia 9-1-1 reminds all of you—our friends and neighbors throughout the county—to take safe driving into your own hands. Buckle up, stay calm, drive close to the speed limit and don't drink and drive. And if you're ever in a traffic emergency, call 9-1-1 right away because every second counts.

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