

VERNONIA'S voice

reflecting the spirit of our community

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All In Pub and Eatery is Open

By Scott Laird

Ernie and Robin Smith have reopened the former *Lyon's Den* on Bridge Street and renamed it the *All In Pub and Eatery*. And, although not a lot has changed, Vernonians seem pretty excited.

With limited options on where to go during evening



Ernie Smith behind the bar at the All In Pub and Eatery. Smith and his wife, Robin, reopened the former *Lyon's Den* under the new name on March 11; a Grand Opening celebration is scheduled for April 1st.

hours in town, the *All In Pub* was welcomed with open arms during the Smiths' first weekend of business. According to many sources, the place was packed on Friday night, March 11, the Smiths' opening day ("It felt like Jamboree," was the word around town). It was also pretty crowded Saturday night, as well. A tired, and pleased, Ernie Smith spoke with *Vernonia's Voice* the following Monday, and talked about opening a (new, sort of) bar and restaurant in Vernonia.

First, the name. "All In a Poker term for when someone wagers all the money they have on the table. Smith says he and Robin had been trying to pick a name and were trying out a number of ideas, several of which had been suggested. Ernie says he used to have a poker theme in his personal office and had a framed picture with a hand of four kings and an ace, with the words "All In." "One day, Robin, out of the blue, said, 'We ought to call it the All In, because we are.' And I thought about it. We certainly are going *all in* on this, and it just kind of fit, so that was the one."

Ernie says he has some bar and restaurant experience, although it goes back a few years. When he was a kid, his grandparents owned the Timber Tavern in Timber, Oregon, in the 60's and 70's. "When I was nine or ten, I was stocking coolers from the back room and breaking down beer boxes for my Granddad," says Ernie. "And there was an apartment behind the bar and my bedroom wall was up against the same wall as the juke box. So, I went to sleep to the old country western songs and ballads."

Ernie says he also worked during his early teen years as a cook in the kitchen of the old Timber Nut. "There were a lot of times I would run the kitchen by myself."

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Happy St. Patty's Day!



Pat Knight led the 28th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade down Bridge Street in Vernonia. More photos on page 20.

You Can Help Make Vernonia Shine

What are you doing on Saturday, April 16 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM?

We're hoping you're planning on participating in the annual "Make Vernonia Shine Day." Vernonia Pride is proud to organize this event, in coordination with SOLV's SOLV IT day throughout Oregon.

This year's event will focus on Vernonia Pride's mission; downtown beautification. Weeding, debris pick-up, etc. We'll focus on the "downtown core" from the Elk sign to the Lake. If enough people show up to volunteer, we'll also be able to get some work done in our Parks.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Providence Medical Clinic building. Snacks and bottled water will be available for volunteers at the end of the clean-up (1:00 PM).

Vernonia Pride is looking for volunteers and would like you to please bring your own gardening tools/yard equipment. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Catherine Helmer at 503-914-9525 or email her at catherine.helmer@yahoo.com

Thank you for your support of this fabulous activity!

Mackenzie Carr Crowned Miss Rodeo Oregon 2011

Saturday evening, March 5th, in the beautiful Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center, Mackenzie Carr of Vernonia was crowned Miss Rodeo Oregon 2011. In front of over 200 guests, family, and friends, the 20 year old cowgirl graciously accepted the crown from Ashley Ziegler, the 2010 state titleholder.

The evening began with music by the Concrete Cowboys band, followed by a delicious baron of beef banquet dinner, fundraising auctions, and introductions of visiting rodeo Royalty. Rodeo

Announcer Scott Allen was the emcee for the event. Special guest tribal princesses performed a traditional "Blanket Dance" as a send-off for

Carr.

Mackenzie Carr is the daughter of Alan and Barb Carr of Vernonia, Oregon. She grew up on a small farm in a rural timber community an hour from the Oregon coast. Mackenzie is a 2008 graduate and Valedictorian of Vernonia High School, as well as a nine year member of Columbia County Horse 4-H. Her involvement with the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo continued as Carr served as a 2007 Columbia County Fair and Rodeo Princesses and Queen in 2008. In 2009, she went on to represent the Northwest Professional

Rodeo Association as Miss NPRA. In July 2010, Mackenzie was awarded the prestigious title of Miss Rodeo Oregon. In addition to winning the title, she earned the awards of Appearance, Speech, Knowledge, Horsemanship, Personality, and Photogenic. In her spare time she enjoys riding her horses, giving riding lessons to children, and spending time in the great outdoors. Mackenzie attended Oregon State University for two years studying Civil Engineering, and will continue working toward an Architectural degree, with a minor in Speech Communications. She hopes to focus on interior architecture and commercial building design.

Miss Rodeo Oregon will travel over 30,000 miles this year promoting the sport of rodeo and representing the State of Oregon at PRCA rodeos, parades, fundraisers, school visits, other rodeo court coronations and pageants, the Columbia River Circuit Finals and at the end of the year the Miss Rodeo America Pageant held in conjunction with the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Mackenzie Carr celebrated her coronation as Miss Rodeo Oregon on March 5th. Carr accepted the crown from the previous Miss Rodeo Oregon, Ashley Ziegler. Photo Courtesy of Creekside Studios.

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