

VERNONIA'S voice

reflecting the spirit of our community

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Vernonia Welcomes Home Miss Rodeo America

Vernonians gathered on December 17th for a reception to welcome home their newest celebrity,



Miss Rodeo America 2012, Mackenzie Carr.

Ms. Carr, aged 21, was crowned in Las Vegas on December 10th at the MGM Hotel and Casino, at the culmination of the week-long Miss Rodeo America Pageant held in conjunction with the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

At the 2012 Miss Rodeo America Pageant, Carr won individual honors for Horsemanship, Personality, Appearance, Speech, Scrapbook and received the Raeana Wadhams Spirit Award.

Carr was joined on December 17th by family, friends, admirers and rodeo royalty from around the region at her reception at the Vernonia High School

Gymnasium. Carr described her week at the pageant and showed a video of her ride in the Horsemanship competition.

On Monday December 19 Carr appeared on television as a guest on AM Northwest.

Carr is the daughter of Alan and Barb Carr of Vernonia, Oregon. She was a 2008 graduate and Valedictorian of Vernonia High School, as well as a nine year member of Columbia County Horse 4-H.

Continuing her involvement with the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo, Carr served as one of the 2007 Columbia County Fair and Rodeo Princesses and Queen in 2008. In 2009, she went on to represent the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association as their Miss NPRA. In July 2010, Carr won the prestigious title of Miss Rodeo Oregon. As Miss Rodeo Oregon 2011, Carr traveled over 30,000 miles throughout Oregon, the United States, and Canada promoting the great state of Oregon and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

In her spare time Carr enjoys riding her horses, giving riding lessons to children, and spending time in the great outdoors. Carr previously attended Oregon State University for two years studying Civil Engineering, and will be transferring to earn an Architectural degree, with a minor in Speech Communications. She hopes to focus on interior architecture and commercial building

Vernonia Celebrates & Gives



Vernonia children had a chance to make gifts at the Celebrating Families 2011 event December 20-22. The Community Giving Tree at US Bank helped provide basic health care items, coats & shoes for local families. For more photos see page 15.

design.

In winning the title of 2012 Miss Rodeo America, Carr receives a \$20,000 college scholarship; she won an additional \$5,500 in scholarships for winning individual categories. She will also receive a wardrobe of Wrangler wear, Justin Boots and Bailey Hats. At her reception, Carr modeled another of her prizes, a new beaver coat. Also on display were her MRA Chaps as well as two saddles she received, one of them the coveted Silver Saddle for winning the Horsemanship competition. She will also receive a MRA Belt Buckle made by Montana Silversmiths and will wear the MRA crown for the year.

As Miss Rodeo America, Carr will be an ambassador promoting the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and America's Western heritage at over 100 rodeos during the coming year.

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Cooterville City Hall: One Man's Junk...

By Scott Laird

Have you ever wondered what happened to the old sign that used to hang on the post at Staley's Junction—the old florescent sign that was a landmark at the junction of Highways 26 and 47 and marked the turn-off to head north to Vernonia?

Well that old sign resides in Cooterville now, sitting right outside the Cooterville City Hall.

Can't find Cooterville on your Oregon road-map? Well that's because Cooterville isn't really a town, it's just a place where Chuck, The Old Coot, keeps all the stuff he buys and sells.

Maybe you've noticed Cooterville City Hall as you've traveled the Sunset Highway and passed through Manning—it's kind of hard

to miss. But have you ever stopped to take a look inside? If you haven't, then you don't know what you're missing.

Chuck—who considers himself the Mayor of Cooterville—has been buying and selling stuff for over thirty years. (Yes, he bought

that Staley's sign and yes, it is for sale!) As you can see from the view of the store from the parking lot, there is a little bit of just about everything here. And step inside and there is much more. Much, much more! "They say one man's junk is another

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