

Columbia County Fair

Several Vernonia kids spent the week of July 15 at the Columbia County Fair with their families and 4-H clubs, showing their animals.



L-R: Trinity Abney, Hayden Rau, Lauren Ely, Pearl Johnston, Austin Pultz, and Blake Pultz

Vernonia True Value Celebrates 50 Years *continued from front page*



storeroom in the back. They've added a paint department and carry lumber.

The store used to sell big items like furniture, pool tables, pinball machines, along with stereo and electronic equipment, housewares like pots and pans, and a lot of toys. Now they sell more hardware, lawn mowers and garden supplies, and other everyday items.

They used to do a lot more automotive work. "It used to be all Ford, Chrysler and Chevy, so it was easy to stock parts. We would have starters and alternators on the shelves for all of them," says Craig. "Everything has become specialized. You can't just walk in and get parts for your car or for your chainsaw anymore."

One thing that hasn't changed in the last 50 years is the personal service the Tolonen family has been proud to offer their Vernonia area customers. While Craig and I were talking prior to the store opening one recent morning, the phone rang. Someone's car wouldn't start and Craig offered to run over and give them a jump.

Congratulations to the Tolonen family on 50 years of service and success in Vernonia!



Above: Mary and Arnie Tolonen, with son Mark, opened Western Auto in 1969. Left: Craig and Tonya Tolonen became the owners of Vernonia True Value in 2015.

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