

inside business

Mobile mechanic brings cure to cars

by HANK EMRICH
Post Correspondent

When Clay Allen makes a house call, it's not with a little black bag and a bottle of aspirin. Allen makes his calls in a 1-ton International truck loaded mechanic's wrenches rather than surgical supplies.

The Sandy man owns and operates Allen's Mobile Auto Repair.

Before repairing other's autos, he put his mechanical talents in use readying the truck as a mobile repair shop. Demonstrating resourcefulness in his abilities, he built an air compressor into the truck chassis using parts from another truck. The compressor enables Allen to use air-operated tools when he goes on a call. Other modifications make the vehicle suitable for a wide variety of repairs.

"It's not as comfortable as a heated garage, but it works," said Allen.

He said he can do almost any repair or remove parts for repair in the field, but stops short of engine overhauls. "There are some things only a qualified machine shop can do," he said.

The loss of his job at Boeing two years ago prompted Allen to try this venture.

He learned mechanics from his father, Roy, a diesel mechanic who now operates Alpine Tree Service in Sandy.

It didn't take him long to learn to spot the problems behind ailing engines. "I kind of have a mind for mechanics," he said.

While preparing his truck for service, he worked for two area repair shops.

Allen said there are several advantages to



Clay Allen brings his mechanic skills to the door of customers, trouble-shooting automotive problems on the spot with his mobile repair service.

spot with his mobile repair service.

"The last repair I did was at a fellow's place that really loved animals," he said. "I was trying to

loosen bolts with one hand and fighting off chickens, ducks, dogs, cats, and even goats with the other."



New El Casa Grande Mexican restaurant operators (left to right) Larry Gregory, Bob Hansen, Bobbie Hansen and Mike Dorrell, survey their Pioneer Boulevard site across from Sandy Fire Station.

At El Casa Grande

Mexican cuisine featured

A former area restaurateur and friends have reopened Sandy's Weigh Station on Pioneer Boulevard with a Mexican food format.

Larry Gregory, who formerly operated Sanchos Mexican Food east of Sandy, purchased the restaurant across from Sandy Fire Station from Jan Nerison.

Bob Hansen, also of Sandy, is his partner.

They operate the new El Casa Grande with Hansen's wife, Bobbie, and Mike Dorrell, also of Sandy.

The new Mexican restaurant offers some unique Gregory recipes for salsa and sopaipillas, his own fried bread taco creation.

All menu items are made fresh daily in the restaurant.

A grand opening is planned this Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The new restaurant also serves beer and wine and accepts credit cards.

El Casa Grande is open for lunches and dinners

Dog grooming salon open

Cindy Griggs of Estacada has been raising, breeding and grooming her own toy poodles for over 10 years, and now she's putting that experience to use in Sandy as the owner of a new business, Silver Blade Dog Grooming.

The business, located at 39110 Proctor Blvd., has been open about three weeks. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, or by special appointment.

Besides experience grooming her own dogs, Griggs has completed a 12-week course at the Tara Lara School of Dog Grooming in Portland where she learned to groom dogs other than poodles.

"It's not just for looks, but also for their health," Griggs said, recommending a flea shampoo or dip once a month if nothing else.

Most people don't know what to look for as far as fleas, other parasites or infections, she said.

Griggs located in Sandy because there was no grooming shop in town. "Every town should have one in town, I think," she said.

Despite the newness, she said business has been



Cindy Griggs and customer, Poopsy.

"pretty good." The toy poodle business is also good.

"Everything else may have slowed down but that seems to keep going," she said.

She's also started raising and breeding Yorkshire terriers.

She and her husband, Steve, an electrician, have two children, Sean, 8, and Shawna, 10.

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