

Business Notes

Pokémon, Star Wars items fill Merchant Palace.com

Don't be surprised if your children or grandchildren want to go to the Bridge Street Mall. They know there's something special at Merchant Palace.com.

Whether it's Pokémon trading cards or Star Wars collectibles, kids are drawn to the small shop packed with spe-

cialty items.

Andrea Alexander also carries Beanie Babies, Furbys, posters and art prints. More merchandise is on the way, including greeting cards, t-shirts, CDs, candles and a variety of gifts.

Tuesday is card trading day at Merchant Palace.com and Alexander is setting up monthly tournaments for both beginners and advanced players.

Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday from Noon to 6:00 p.m.



Andrea Alexander enjoys her young customers.

Granny's Crafty selections sure to please shoppers

Granny's Crafts is now open in the Bridge Street Mall, with "Granny" Susan Hult expanding her own repertoire of hand-crafted items by including specialties made by her mother, Carol Box (Mom sells hand-crafts in Missouri under the la-

bel "Granny Did It").

Hult's tole work on planters and flower pots makes unique containers from plain clay or wood, and she is designing gift bags with special holidays or events in mind, in addition to her all-purpose gift bags.

There will also be books for crafters and fat quarters for quilters in addition to a wide variety of hand made or hand painted merchandise.

Granny's Crafts is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Susan Hult is a crafty Granny.

Fire Season rules in effect; open burning banned

The 2000 fire season for Northwest Oregon began July 1. The fire season designation includes lands protected by the Departments of Forestry within Columbia, Clatsop, Multnomah, Washington, Tillamook and Yamhill counties. Regulations affecting forest operations and open burning go into effect with the declaration of fire season. Woods workers are required to have fire prevention and fire fighting equipment on the job site. In addition, a fire watch is required to be on the operation site after the shutdown of equipment. The first level of precaution for woods workers is called an "Industrial Fire Precaution Level 1." This is the first level of a four level system that regulates fire risks associated with industrial equipment operating in the forest protection district.

In Columbia County, the declaration of fire season also means that open burning is prohibited until significant rains occur in the fall.

As we enter fire season, fire officials want to alert all landowners to check areas where burning has been conducted recently, especially any heavy accumulations of piled woody debris. These old burn areas are known to hold hot spots that can come to life under warm and windy conditions.

Mike Simek, protection unit forester with the Department of Forestry, indicates that the long range forecast calls for overall higher temperatures than last year's fire season. The forecast also indicates a longer than normal fire season that might last well into October. Fire officials urge everyone to use good fire prevention practices whether working or play-

ing in the forests or other areas of flammable vegetation.

No outdoor burning will be allowed in the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District until rains start again in the fall.

To find out what burning is allowed and when, call the burn day information line at 429-8004. For other questions, call 429-8252.

Physical therapist now keeping regular clinic hours in Vernonia



Kristine Samuelson, MSPT

When your back (or knees/neck/shoulders/etc.) is really hurting, it's no fun to drive 30 or more miles for physical therapy. Well, relief is here.

Physical Therapist Kristine Samuelson is at Providence

Family Medicine - Vernonia twice each week and can accept clients who are not patients at the local clinic. Since earning her degree in Physical Therapy at Pacific University, Samuelson has broad experience working with orthopedic conditions, sports injuries and maternity problems.

She is in Vernonia on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Most insurance companies are accepted, Samuelson says, but the one thing that is required is a physician's referral.

Samuelson may be contacted at the Vernonia Clinic, 429-9191, or at St. Vincent Medical Center, 216-2004. The phone numbers are also in her ad in *The INDEPENDENT* Professional Directory.

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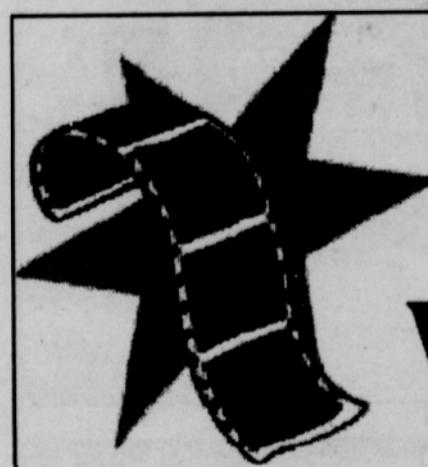
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