

Business Notes

Vernonia Mercantile emphasizing Vernonia-friendly merchandise



When Dana Roach first opened Vernonia Mercantile, people were concerned, saying "This isn't a big enough town to make a living from a tee shirt shop." But T-shirts were only the beginning.

It was a logical beginning, however. The Roach family business, KO Screening in Hillsboro, has been handling the work of J. Angus McLean, the Vernonia artist who designs so many Jamboree shirts, as well as designs from many others. Vernonia Mercantile can provide ready made and custom T-shirts, sweat shirts and jackets for individuals, teams or organizations, plus athletic bags. Many designs are available, with transfers done in Vernonia. Silk screening and embroidery are done in Hillsboro.

Vernonia Mercantile will also be representing additional work

by McLean, plus Jeanne Warren's award-winning wildlife paintings, custom ornamental wrought iron by Wolfgang Forge, antique clocks from Jess' Clockworks, and Tanya's French Milled Soap—all Vernonia residents and products.

Roach has also added Wesco Boots, from West Coast Shoe Co. in Scappoose, makers of handmade boots since 1918.

Many more lines are planned for Vernonia Mercantile and, little by little, the shelves and walls are filling up. One thing isn't for sale, though — that classic British motorcycle in the store window.

Dana and his wife, Brenda, moved to Vernonia nearly four years ago. Their three children — Preston, Parker and Makayla — attend Vernonia schools.

Business Plan Competition announced

The second annual Oregon Business Plan Competition has been announced by *The Business Journal*. The competition is designed to help promote and support the entrepreneurial spirit throughout Oregon.

The grand prizewinner of the competition will receive up to \$70,000 in cash and services. There will also be a second prize of up to \$35,000 in cash and services.

The Oregon Business Plan Competition is open to anyone with a business plan for a company that has been in existence for less than two years with less than \$200,000 in revenue. All entrants must plan to

locate their business in Oregon or Southwest Washington.

The Business Journal's Oregon Business Plan Competition is sponsored by HR Northwest/Answers Inc., KPMG LLP, Lane Powell Spears Lubersky LLP, Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, and Pacific Continental Bank.

Each of the sponsors has demonstrated commitment to the Portland small and emerging business community through the products and services they provide, and they will be instrumental in helping the winners get their businesses off the ground.

Judging will be done by a panel of experts on small business development from the companies listed above, *The Business Journal* editorial staff, and members of the Oregon Entrepreneur's Forum Business Plan Review committee.

Deadline for entry is February 3, 2003. Anyone interested in entering the Oregon Business Plan Competition can request an entry packet online at <http://portland.bizjournals.com/portland/networking/nominations/538>, or call the competition at 503-219-3482. You may also e-mail cjohns@bizjournals.com for additional information.

Commissioners set meeting schedule

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners will hold its regularly scheduled Board meeting every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.; Work Sessions every second and fourth Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.; and Staff meetings every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Room 308 of the Columbia County Court-

house, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon. Any changes and/or cancellations to this schedule will be noticed.

The County does not discriminate on the basis of handicap status. If any special accommodations are required, please contact the Board office at 503-397-4322 the day before the meeting.

Emergency program fund distribution announced

United Way of Columbia County has announced the allocation for phase two of funds from the national Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). The organization has local jurisdiction for EFSP and the local EFSP board, which determines how the funds will be distributed. The board includes volunteers representing the American Red Cross, City of Rainier, VFW, City of Vernonia, homeless people, veterans, Columbia County Emergency Services, Rainier Metho-

dist Church, the Salvation Army, and PGE. Four community agencies providing services to Columbia County residents applied to the EFSP board requesting \$51,350, and will share in the available funds, which totaled \$42,413.

The volunteer board allocated the funds as follows:

- Women's Resource Center: \$10,000 to help defray the cost of shelter for homeless women and children.
- Community Action Team: \$5,000 for Emergency Home-

less Assistance and \$3,000 for Emergency Utility Assistance

- Columbia Pacific Food Bank: \$18,000 to purchase high protein and emergency food products and \$300 for a large commercial scale.

- Turning Point Community Center: \$4,113 for Emergency Homelessness Assistance and \$2,000 for Emergency Utility Assistance

The money will be distributed directly from the national board to each agency in two equal payments during 2003.

Then and Now... at Hutchins

1950s		2003	
Chevy V8 Convertible	\$2,595.00	Chevy Corvette	\$53,000.00
19" Black & White TV	\$169.00	20" Color Stereo TV	\$159.00
Washer & Dryer	\$699.00	Washer & Dryer	\$529.00
Refrigerator-18cu Ft.	\$649.00	Refrigerator-18 cu Ft.	\$449.00

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