

Business Notes

There are mountains of hidden treasures to be found in Manning

Hidden Mountain Treasures should more rightly be called Mountains of Treasures. This shop on Highway 26 in Manning is actually a mini-mall with the offerings of 10 different antique and collectable vendors.

Gordon Compton, the owner and one of the vendors, started the store in August, 2004, with two other vendors. He had been collecting items for 10 years and needed an outlet to pass them along. His special interests include small unique items, radios, military maps, even a 1960s era tanning light.

Other vendors offer such items as glassware, furniture,

Coca Cola collectables, costume jewelry, books, or a bit of everything, with prices that Compton describes as "25-30 percent lower than those found in Sellwood or Portland." Compton says the store is now getting return customers from as far away as Long Beach, Washington and Idaho.

When asked about the more unusual items he has come across, Compton named a mitt that looked kind of like a baseball mitt, and a child's barber chair that was sent to a customer in Texas. The most expensive item he's seen? That would be a 1901 ship's cabinet

built to go on the Britannic, the Titanic's sister ship. The Britannic ended up being fitted as a hospital ship when World War I broke out, so the cabinet was never installed. The Britannic, like her sister, ended up at the bottom of the sea, but that's another story. Her cabinet ended up going to a buyer in Miami.

In addition to antiques and collectables, Hidden Mountain Treasures stocks military surplus whenever Compton can find it, including camouflage, tents, and military clothing.

Reloading supplies and vintage firearms are another special offering. Plus, Compton goes to about eight auctions a month and the other vendors also restock on a regular basis, so there is always something 'new' to see.

There are definitely treasures to be found at Hidden



Gordon Compton with some of the unhidden treasures that can be found at Hidden Mountain Treasures.

Mountain Treasures, Inc., located at 4670 NW Sunset Hwy., Manning. Winter hours are Thursday through Monday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, call 503-324-9105 or see the website at www.hiddenmountaintreasures.com.

USDA loans available for women to buy and operate family farms

Loans funds are available for qualified women and minorities to buy and operate family-sized farms. The funds are from the Washington/Columbia County Farm Service Agency (FSA). FSA reserves a portion of its loan guarantee funds to assist socially disadvantaged applicants.

Socially disadvantaged groups are those whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identify as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of FSA's loan programs, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA's loan and loan guarantee funds are available to individuals and entities that are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-sized operations. Farm ownership loan funds are available to help purchase a farm or ranch. To qualify, the applicant must have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for at least three years.

For those applicants who have at least one year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch, funds are available to help with the purchase of livestock, machinery and equipment, as well as annual production expenses.

For more information, call 503-648-3174, ext. 2 or visit the website at www.fsa.usda/or/.



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