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Local ACE Hardware Earns National Recognition for Outstanding Sales
Storeowner Surprised this Morning with Prestigious Chairman's Award, Special Discounts for Shoppers

AHOSKIE, N.C. -- Jamie Johnson, owner of the local ACE Hardware, received a surprise visit this morning from territory manager Todd Spencer and regional sales manager Nora Chapman of OneCoast, the nation's largest sales representative organization of the gift and home décor industry. The store was presented with OneCoast's prestigious Chairman's Award, a national honor that recognizes outstanding sales at independent gift retailers. In 2007, the Ahoskie ACE Hardware is projected to sell nearly \$250,000 worth of merchandise from vendors represented by OneCoast.

"This is a tremendous feat for stores in any market, let alone the small town of Ahoskie," says Spencer. "You've sold an incredible volume of gift products this year, despite having retailing giant Wal-Mart directly across the street. Your store is proof that consumers enjoy the unique, customer-oriented shopping experiences that the independent retailer offers."

The store's projected \$250,000 in gift department sales includes products from five primary vendors: Mud Pie, an award-winning gift company that offers products reflecting current trends and popular designs in gift, baby and pet categories; New Creative Enterprises, a recognized trend leader in must-have outdoor living and home décor; Woodstock Chimes, the manufacturer of precision-tuned windchimes and premium musical gifts; CR Gibson, the maker of memory books, stationery and albums; and Burnes of Boston, the maker of photo frames, albums and home decor. In celebration of ACE Hardware's outstanding sales accomplishment, OneCoast will offer shoppers a special discount today on these products and all others in the store's gift department. Additional details are available in-store.

The Ahoskie ACE Hardware, which also celebrates 30 years in business this year, is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. However, this evening the store will also be hosting an invitation-only reception from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments for guests. Unbeknownst to Johnson, OneCoast planned the award presentation to occur the same day as the reception. For more information, contact the store at 252.332.8038. ACE Hardware is located at 1405 Memorial Dr. East in the Ahoskie Commons Shopping Center.

Digital Images Available Upon Request

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