

BUSINESS

Camp graduates teen entrepreneurs

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GREENFIELD – A new manufacturer of cookies and a pyrotechnics firm for on-stage concert displays are among several new ventures headed for Western Massachusetts, bank executives and business development officials learned yesterday.

So what if the people behind these new companies are teenagers?

"It's great to see so many young people who have focus," said Lawrence D. Bean, president and chief executive officer of Greenfield Cooperative Bank.

Beane, along with Michael F. Davey, loan officer for Greenfield Savings Bank, Vikki D. Lenhart, manager of development services for Mass Ventures, and Rachel C. Telushkin, lending director for Franklin County Community Development Corp., were project judges at the region's first ever

BizVenture! camp closing ceremonies, held at Greenfield Community College.

Of 10 business plans devised by the campers, they judged Wesley K. Mason's Quadastrum Computer Systems the best.

Mason, 14, of Deerfield, with \$55 in startup costs, intends to go into the business of bringing computer literacy to adults.

Making house calls if necessary, Mason intends to service "adults who are challenged or intimidated by computers."

After all, he said, "they haven't grown up in a computerized age."

The first runner-up was Michael D. Seredejko, 12, of Greenfield, who plans to create how-to videos for local businesses, explaining and showing to customers how to use their products.

"I'll charge less for a half-hour (video) than they do for 5-8 minutes," he said of the existing competition.

And ranked third was Harold

W. Clark's Arachnids Web Design company.

Clark, 14, of Orange, said he realizes the Web page design industry is "pretty large," but he thinks he can be in demand anyway because "I want to make Web design as easy and cheap as possible."

He is seeking loans of \$350 from his family and \$1,000 from a bank to get things going, and said he expects to pay back his family at the end of the first year, and the bank in year two.

Others who took the two-week, 110-hour camp organized by the Young Entrepreneurs Society, in cooperation with more than 20 businesses and organizations, included Daniel J. Valliere, 12, of Greenfield, who started baking at age 8 and will open Super Valley Cookies.

"My target is young people because they don't really care about calories and fat," he said.

Fallen Angel Fireworks is the pyrotechnic brainchild of Tim K. Zingler, 16, of Greenfield, who in-

tends to combine "my love for science and my love for explosions," to create fireworks displays for rock bands, but not until he gets out of college.

Philippa Anastos, 14, of Greenfield intends to launch Oasis Interior Design, making use of her "fascination for color schemes;" Vladislav L. Blanton of Shutesbury, 13, will create Web pages for small businesses with his Computer Works; Jerroth H. Clark, 13, of Orange, will develop and market board games as Explorer Games; Meagan A. King, 13, of Erving will open The Trendy Outlet, a traveling clothing store (mom will drive); and Francis B. Leonard of Greenfield, also 13, will open Greenfield Quality Small Engine Repair in his family's garage.

"I'm probably going to need life insurance more than health insurance, working with gasoline and oil," he acknowledged.

All the campers attended at no cost, thanks to donations from the business community.