

There aren't many places you'll find more than \$1 billion in a single room, especially not during the recession.

One safe bet: this weekend's National Money Show at the Oregon Convention Center.

You can see very old, very famous coins — including the penny flipped in 1845 to determine Portland's name. Meet hundreds of collectors, who give informal appraisals. And learn about the hosts — the American Numismatic Association, a group devoted to the study of money.

The rock stars of the show might be the U.S. Department of Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Christopher Madden, lead

working on President Barack Obama's official engraved portrait to show off the moneymaking trade.

Though engravers are artists of sorts, Madden says, they ultimately make a product. "If I didn't like George Washington's hairstyle, I couldn't change it."

Children can try engraving and print their creations on a vintage press. In its heyday nearly 150 years ago, it produced 250 sheets of bills a day. Modern machines crank out more than 8,000 sheets per hour.

Mike Beck, lead plate printer, gladly demonstrates — and shows off 100-year-old photos. "It's really cool when you get kids, and people who had no idea any of this happens," he says. "You're teaching history."

A single case contains \$1 billion

worth of bills, you can see \$100,000 bills printed for Federal Reserve bank transfers. The largest denomination issued to the general public: \$10,000 bills, also on hand.

As curator of the Numismatic Association, Douglas Mudd cultivates a collection for the group's Colorado Springs, Colo., museum and traveling shows. For example, visitors can see a silver dollar made for President Andrew Jackson to give to an Asian head of state. It was stolen from a private collector in 1967 and recovered more than a quarter-century later.

"Coins of this type, if they're stolen — people know what they look like," Mudd says. "They're like the Mona Lisa. You can't walk into a coin store and try to sell them."

But you can stroll into the convention center for a look.

weeks of extended unemployment aid, beyond the 26 weeks states typically provide.

U.S. economist for IHS Global Insight, a consulting firm.

The Federal Reserve also said
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Coos Bay Port gets federal money for rail line

The Port of Coos Bay will get \$8 million from the \$410 billion federal appropriations bill to help buy a rail line that runs from Eugene to Coquille.

Last fall, the Port agreed to buy the 120-mile line from Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad, which closed it in September 2007, citing safety reasons and repair costs.

Without the line, area manufacturers have faced higher shipping costs by truck.

The Port had raised about \$4 million, and the Oregon Economic and Community Development Commission had approved \$12.6 million in loans. One loan must be paid in two years; the other, in 25.

The U.S. Surface Transportation Board approved the Port's \$16.6 million purchase last fall.

—The Associated Press

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Startups sharpen pitches in front of angels

By **JONATHAN BRINCKMAN**
THE OREGONIAN

A Portland startup that modifies drugs to make them effective against drug-resistant diseases and another that creates map-managing software took the top two prizes — and total investments of \$230,000 — Thursday at the 2009 Angel Oregon contest.

DesignMedix Inc. snared \$150,000

in investments and WeoGeo won \$80,000. Both are located in the Portland State Business Accelerator in Southwest Portland.

The two companies were among six finalists making their pitches during the daylong event at The Governor Hotel. The crowd of 285 also heard from the founders of 14 other companies, who gave one-minute "elevator

pitches" describing what their companies do and why they are worth an investment.

The six finalists were vying for a pool of money raised by a judging panel comprising 46 angel investors who each pledged \$5,000.

Drew Smith, chairman of the judging panel, said DesignMedix had the most impressive combination of

management team and product. "The company has an absolutely unique technology that could solve a major health problem," he said.

DesignMedix's first product makes chloroquine effective against drug-resistant malaria.

The mosquito-borne disease is a leading cause of death in many de-

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Stevenson
DesignMedix takes top prize

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veloping countries, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and causes at least 1 million deaths a year.

Lynnor Stevenson, the chief executive of DesignMedix, was thrilled with the award.

"It means that we've virtually finished this round of fundraising and can move the project forward," she said. The company had been seeking \$250,000 in this fundraising round.

Paul Bissett, CEO of WeoGeo, said that while his company will benefit from the money, the entire process of refining its business plan and presenting to the panel of judges also was extremely valuable.

"Cash is always good for a startup," he said. "But support that came with just getting to the finals was probably as important as the actual dollars."

The Angel Oregon event is

Angel Oregon finalists

Here are the six finalists – two per category – of the 2009 Angel Oregon contest:

Biotech/clean tech

DesignMedix Inc., Portland

Founded: April 2006

What it does: Develops medication to combat drug resistance in various diseases. Malaria drugs will enter human trials in two years, mainly funded by grants.

Management: Lynnor Stevenson, chief executive; Sandra Shotwell, vice president of business development; David Peyton, chief scientific officer

Employees: 5

Web site: designmedix.com

Seeking: \$250,000

Finish: First; receives \$150,000

Tau Science Corp., Beaverton

Founded: April 2008

What it does: Designs and manufactures diagnostic tools that accelerate process development and increase manufacturing yield in the photovoltaic solar manufacturing industry.

Management: James Hudson, president; Greg Horner, chief technology officer

Employees: 4

Web site: tauscience.com

Seeking: \$950,000

Consumer

GlideCycle, Central Point

Founded: May 2008

What it does: Designs, produces and sells an outdoor mobility device that helps people run without impact, making running possible for those with painful joints, permanent disabilities, temporary injuries or excess body weight.

Management: David Vidmar, president; Richard Miller, chief executive; Richard Bosenko, vice president sales and business development; Steve Law, vice president manufacturing and engineering

Employees: 10

Web site: glidecycle.com

Seeking: \$1 million

Wicked Quick, Portland

Founded: July 2003

What it does: Designs and markets a premium clothing and accessories brand. Wicked Quick currently offers lifestyle products at Nordstrom, Metropark, Harley-Davidson dealerships and elsewhere.

Management: Tarran Pitschka, chief executive and creative director; Eric Happel, chief operating officer; Brad Trogdon, vice president product

development and sales

Employees: 4

Web site: wickedquick.com

Seeking: \$750,000

Technology

GadgetTrack, Portland

Founded: February 2007

What it does: Develops and sells theft-recovery software to help protect mobile devices against theft or loss. It uses Wi-Fi positioning technology to track stolen items in Apple's product line, including MacNotebooks, iPhones and iPods.

Management: Ken Westin, chief technology officer; Kathryn Shimabukuro, president

Employees: 2

Web site: gadgettrak.com

Seeking: \$750,000

WeoGeo, Portland

Founded: October 2006

What it does: Develops and sells software for managing survey, engineering and architectural maps.

Management: Paul Bissett, chief executive; David Kohler, chief technology officer

Employees: 10

Web site: weogeo.com

Seeking: \$1.25 million

Finish: Second, receives \$80,000

sponsored by the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving opportunities for entrepreneurs in the state.

According to a study by Robert Wiltbank, a Willamette University professor, 26 companies

that made presentations at the last six Angel Oregon contests currently employ a total of 478 people.

Linda Weston, director of the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network, said job creation is an important part of her organization's

mission.

"Entrepreneurs are going to be the solution to the economic times we are in," she said.

Jonathan Brinckman:
503-221-8190;

jbrinckman@news.oregonian.com