

# Columbia River Gorge Business Review

July 2015

Covering Gorge Business

Volume 7, No. 7

Advanced  
Automotive  
Page 3



Oil Train Report  
Page 8

## Freebridge Brewery coming to TD

Page 5

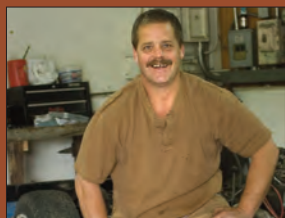




# Columbia River Gorge Business Review

## INSIDE

**Cover photos:** Freebridge Brewery is coming to The Dalles. See story, page 5



Page 2  
Eddie Dick



Page 3  
Heather Taylor  
& Sandra Brown



Page 5  
Steve and Laurie  
(Petroff) Light



Page 6  
Bob Fox



Page 8  
Oil Train Report



Page 10  
Roxie Hunter

## STAFF

**Publishers**  
Joe Petshow  
& Marilyn Roth

**General Manager**  
Chelsea Marr

**Editorial**  
Mark Gibson  
Ben Mitchell  
Kirby Neumann-Rea  
RaeLynn Ricarte  
Andrew Christiansen  
Neita Cecil  
Trisha Walker  
Patrick Mulvihill

**Content**  
Hood River  
541-386-7944  
The Dalles  
541-506-4613

**Advertising Manager**  
Jody Thompson,  
541-386-1234  
jthompson@  
hoodrivernews.com

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# Mechanic turned owner seeks quality



Eddie Dick, owner of Advanced Automotive in The Dalles, sits on the tire of a 1946 Jeep Willy he is restoring, his dog Harley Davidson at his knee.

## *New repair shop 'does it all' in TD*

By MARK GIBSON

THE DALLES — Eddie Dick, owner of the new Advanced Automotive shop at 1801 W. Second St. in The Dalles, is in a unique position: After years of working as a mechanic, he is now in a position to put into place changes he knew, as a mechanic, would improve the business.

Instead of doing in-house transmission rebuilds, Advance Automotive will be the first garage in the region to install Transmission Exchange Company transmissions, all rebuilt to specification and holding a nationwide warranty against failure, Dick said. The transmissions are available in a range of price points and quality. "We wanted to use quality units, it's like a brand new transmission. With the nation-wide warranty, I don't have the returns," he added. "These companies work absolutely to spec," he said, and all are rebuilt transmissions are certified.

"We are the only ones in the gorge who are doing this, with these companies," he said.

"People bring their cars in here, they know they can turn the key and go," Dick said.

In addition to installing rebuilt transmissions, Advanced Automotive will be offering a range of shop services, included engine rebuilds, custom fabrication, builds and rebuilds and more.

"We can fix anything but a broken heart," he quipped. "One

call, we do it all."

All work done at the shop is uploaded onto "car facts," which helps the customer if he or she goes to re-sell the vehicle. They can also help customers get mechanical insurance.

As a mechanic and now shop owner, Dick is proud to show off the quality of his work. He can't resist showing off his personal vehicle, a rebuilt pickup that runs like a top. "If a mechanics car runs good, that's important," he says.

"What we are doing now will be around for years," Dick added. "That's the difference between a pro shop and a backyard mechanic. We know their cars top to bottom, that's the base."

One of the projects Dick expects to last for a while is a rebuild currently underway on a 1946 Jeep Willy that saw action in World War II — you can still see the bullet holes. The body, "it was all smashed down," has been reshaped and sits to one side. Work is underway on the frame and engine, now a mix of old and new components: Dick added a power steering unit and a new engine, for example. "It will all come together," he said.

Parked nearby is a 1968 Chevy ¾ ton Camper Special the shop is converting for a customer, giving it a six-inch lift.

In addition to cars, the shop also offers trailer rebuilds. They will install new decking, repaint, fix rust issues, install new hitches and do any welding or refabricating needed.

In addition to the services above, the shop is currently offering: A \$99.95 transmission service, with fluid and filter re-

placement; 25-point vehicle inspections; a free vehicle scan through May, tune ups, and an oil change for \$26.99.

In addition to Eddie Dick, staff at the shop includes technician Shelby Bucher and shop manager Carl Tyler.

Advanced Automotive is located at 1800 W. Second St., The Dalles. They can be reached at 541-769-1040 or 541-993-5362.



Automotive technician Shelby Bucher works on a custom build, adding a six-inch lift to a customer's truck.

MARK B. GIBSON PHOTOS

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## COFFEE STOP CHANGES NAME, FACES

# 'Cup of Mud' now owned by Brown family

By DELANEY FILBY

THE DALLES — The little coffee shop at 405 West Second Street in The Dalles is now under new ownership and serving white coffee, a drink that is growing in popularity along the West Coast.

Sandra and Larry Brown purchased what was previously The Cup of Mud owned by Nola Fraser in May. They changed the name to Browns Grounds.

The name Browns Grounds fits the coffee shop because the business is a family affair.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown work alongside Sandy Brown's daughter, Tiffany Brown, and Larry Brown's daughter, Heather (Brown) Taylor.

Larry is a retired Marine. His daughter describes him as "One of those people who worked for everything he got. He joined the Marines at 16 and became a chief engineer on a Marine cargo ship."

According to Sandra, it was Larry Brown's idea to buy the coffee shop.

"He just walked in, and asked Fraser if the shop was for sale," said Sandra.

Fraser had been wanting to sell the business for a while, but hadn't put the word out.

"No one else knew she wanted to sell it. It was just perfect timing," said Sandra.

She and her husband had been retired for several years but decided "it was time for us to go back to work."

They kept the same shack, supplies, and menu with one

important distinction — they lowered the prices.

The prices had gone up just before the Browns purchased the shop, but they brought them back down to where they had originally been.

"Now I've heard from several people that we have the lowest prices in town," said Sandra.

Another difference between Browns Grounds and the other coffee shops in The Dalles is that Browns' serves white coffee.

"I think it's the next big thing," said Sandra.

Taylor moved back from Seattle to be with her family in Dufur and lend her coffee expertise to the business.

She owned a coffee stand in Seattle, and is proud of the fact that Browns Grounds serves the only white coffee in The Dalles.

"Coffee is my thing. I love it," said Taylor.

Sandra said she and Larry had no experience with coffee making or coffee shops, so Taylor is teaching them how to make the business great.

The Browns live in Dufur and drive to The Dalles every day to run their new enterprise.



Sandra Brown, right, one of the new owners of Browns Grounds, stands next to her step-daughter Heather Taylor, who recently moved from Seattle to help out at the new family business.

DELANEY FILBY PHOTO

## Retired Insitu CEO receives Scout award

Steven Sliwa has been awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award following his nomination by the Cascade Pacific Council, Hood River, Oregon and the Boy Scouts of America. This award is granted to Eagle Scouts who, after 25 years, have distinguished themselves in their life work and who have shared their talents with their communities on a voluntary basis.

Steven Mark Sliwa, PhD, is a member of the Boy Scouts

of America and achieved Eagle Scout on Feb. 4, 1969. He has continued to serve God, his country, and other people by following the principles of the scout oath and law.

Sliwa is founder and formerly CEO of Insitu, a leading developer of miniature robotic aircraft and provider of surveillance services; founder of Capital Synergy Partners management and strategic consulting services and President of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

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# Freebridge Brewery coming to TD

*Company will set up in The Mint building*

**By Mark Gibson**

THE DALLES — Freebridge Brewing is taking over The Mint downtown The Dalles.

Steve Light of Fifteen Mile Ventures LLC is setting up a full brew line on the production floor of The Mint, 710 E. Second Street, and will be reopening the tasting room. "We are hoping to begin production in October, and launch the tasting room in January," Light said.

Federal and state license requirements are the biggest reason for the delay in opening, he added, and the production space has yet to be engineered and setup.

Once open, the brewery will

feature its own Freebridge brews and offer locally-produced guest taps, as well as wine and, hopefully, hard cider. "Hard cider is pretty popular here locally," Light said.

The Columbia Gorge has a variety of brews and wines, Light said, many of which are very popular.

The brewery is co-owned by Light and Laurie (Petroff) Light. Laurie was born and raised in The Dalles, the daughter of a multi-generation wheat farm near the Deschutes River.

It's there that the name of the brewery has its roots: Freebridge was the first bridge over the Deschutes River, which was crossed by the Oregon Trail.

Local legend holds that the "Freebridge" was blown up by the Moody's, who ran a toll bridge near the mouth of the Deschutes. "That's the story, anyway," said Laurie.

The feud, if feud there was, is apparently long since resolved as one of the wines the brewery hopes to feature is from local winery Moody Toll Bridge.

"We will be choosing what's popular in the area," said Light, who plans to feature additional gorge grown products in the future.

Freebridge is installing tanks manufactured by J.V. Northwest of Canby, an eight-vessel system designed to brew 10 barrels at a time. Although the tanks are on site, the facility has yet to be engineered and setup has yet to begin.

The tasting room, which seats about 45, will overlook the production floor and will be open daily. A small space is planned to allow for music, events and future expansion.

Erin Glenn Winery, which op-

*See BREWERY, Page 7*



MARK B. GIBSON PHOTO

Steve and Laurie (Petroff) Light, co-owners of Fifteen Mile Ventures, stand in front of the main components of an eight-vessel brewery in The Mint, where they hope to begin production as Freebridge Brewery in October. The tasting room, formerly operated by Erin Glenn Winery, is scheduled to open in January of next year.

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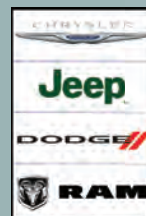
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# Sir Isaac is Fox Tail's first bottling

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

ODELL — The newest local bottled cider is Sir Isaac, made with local apples and wine yeast, from Fox Tail Ciders in Odell.

Owner Bob Fox and cider maker Justin Cardwell worked with Mobile Bottling Solutions from Bend last week to bottle and box up cases of 22-ounce bottles, set to retail at about \$6. Look for Sir Isaac at local stores and bottle shops.

Fox Tail began its cidery and café operation two years ago on Highway 35 at Ehrck Hill Road. Fox and Cardwell decided to go with Sir Isaac (6.2 ABV) for their first bottling, given its balance of sweet and tart, appealing to a variety of palates.

Sir Isaac debuted about two months ago. "When we first brought it out we had score cards, and this one was getting fives out of five. We said, 'this is the one we bottle,'" Fox said.

The name was one Fox and friends came up with, over cider, but it has no particular historical or agricultural meaning. "We just thought the words went together well and had a good sound," Fox said.

Next likely brew for bottling: either of two standbys, the peach-based Fuzzy Haven or Docklands, a double-fermented Irish-style cider.

Fox has juggled a changing tap list of ciders employing apples, pears, raspberries, peaches, apricots and other fruits; the current list includes "Strawberry Rheum" with rhubarb, and blackberry-infused Briarberry.

## CIDER HOUSES SET TO OPEN

Two new cideries are due to open this summer and fall in Hood River. They are Crush Cidery on Wasco Street and '12 Ciders' on the Heights.

First to open will be Crush, owned by Sam Bailey and cider maker Guntram Jordan, a native of Germany, in mid-July at 1020 Wasco, next to New York City Sub Shop.

"We will start out with as many local ciders from the Hood River area as we can get for the taproom," Bailey said. "We will be working on the cider production contiguously to the opening. It will take a bit longer for the production area. We will be in production for this harvest season."

In the works on the Heights, poised as "The 12 Ciders Taproom," is a collaborative by cider makers John Metta, Jeff Nicol, Chip Dickenson and Stefan Gumperlein, located on 12th Street next to Pine Street Bakery. They plan to open their doors in the fall, and make and serve cider. (Gumperlein has Ovino deli, and will continue that business.)

"Expect 'lots of small barrels and special one offs,'" Metta said. "Our volume is low, everything will be different and a little bit special," Metta said.

PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

Fox Tail cidemaker Justin Cardwell, left, and owner Bob Fox bottle and box Sir Isaac, which shows off its amber tones in the afternoon light of the Odell-area café.



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# Most retailers comply in youth ‘tobacco assessment’ in HRC

HOOD RIVER — A team of high school students from Hood River Valley High School Health Media Club in partnership with The Dalles YouthThink recently participated in a tobacco retail assessment, a youth led evaluation around the sale of tobacco products in their community.

The participants visited over 50 tobacco retailers in Hood River and Wasco County on April 25 to assess if retailers would allow them to purchase tobacco products. The underage youth, with parental and law enforcement permission, entered local retail stores and attempted to purchase tobacco products. Out of the 50 retailers, six did not card and allowed the minors to purchase tobacco products.

Retailers that did not card were given a letter and tobacco product was not purchased. The letter asked them to remember to ask for identification and support the health of our youth. Re-

tailers that did card and that refused to sell received a thank you letter from the participants.

In this particular project, no citations or fines were delivered if a retailer was not in compliance.

“It is strictly an evaluation of our local retailers’ efforts and to remind retailers to keep tobacco out of the hands of our youth,” said Belinda Ballah of Hood River Prevention Office. “We commend our local retailers that are consistently checking the I.D. of youth prior to selling tobacco products and refusing to sell to those who are under the age of 18.”

Students discussed the negative health effects caused by tobacco and that tobacco use remains the number one preventable cause of death and disease in Oregon. They also talked about how Big Tobacco targets youth, communities of color and low income to initiate tobacco use. At the end of the day when

asked about their experience, youth participant Elizabeth Blas Campos said, “I want to be involved in my community to create change.”

Tobacco Assessment are used as a project to educate and engage youth in the health and well-being of their community around tobacco use and health equity. A community collaboration with Mid-Columbia Health Equity Advocates, The Next Door, YouthThink, North Central Public Health District and HRVHS Health Media Club and Hood River County Prevention Office.

For more information about Tobacco Assessments please contact Belinda Ballah, Prevention Specialist at Hood River County Prevention Office, at 541-387-6890 or Shellie Campbell, Tobacco Prevention Education Program Coordinator at North Central Public Health District, at 541-506-2609.

# Winery releases new Pinot Noir

WISHRAM — Jacob Williams Winery in Wishram has released its first pinot noir roses — one dry, one off-dry— which offer brilliant acidity, a flash of green apple, rose petal, strawberry, and spicy watermelon.

This is the winery’s third pinot noir release, but is the first time they have made it as a Rosé.

The rose wines are considered quite versatile when paired with food, such as chèvre, light pas-

tas, and seafood.

The winery is offering live music every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at their tasting room throughout the summer.

As a small, family-owned boutique winery, Jacob Williams has made a name for itself by producing wines at an unparalleled destination. The winery is located at 3 Avery Road in Wishram, about seven miles east of Dallesport.

# Industrial Center nears completion

THE DALLES — Following a delay to allow seven 430-ton transformers to be moved through the property, finishing work on the Columbia Gorge Industrial Center is back on track and should be completed early this summer.

Before the last layer of asphalt can be applied, the Bonneville Power Administration substation on the property will be connected to water and sewer lines running through the industrial center.

“Work is also under way on landscaping, completion of the bioswale that will filter storm water before it flows into waterways, and

removal of a large pile of woody debris that was removed from the former chip mill site during land leveling,” said Port Executive Director Andrea Klaas.

Once street, water and sewer system work is completed, those facilities will be turned over to city ownership.

Paving was delayed to allow time to move seven 430-ton Transformers through the property to Celilo Converter Station, which is being rebuilt. But the original completion date for that work has been moved back from the end of summer to the end of the year and paving will not be

held until that project is completed.

“We delayed the final lift of paving out of concern that the heavy transformers could damage the asphalt,” Klaas said, “but that hasn’t been the case in the first two moves, so we feel confident about moving forward.”

The first phase of the Columbia Gorge Industrial Center includes 26 possible lots on about 60 acres, zoned industrial. The Port hopes to attract businesses from growing industrial sectors including unmanned systems, technology and value-added agriculture.

# BREWERY

*Continued from Page 5*

erated the tasting room until 2010 and has continued to host events at The Mint, will be moving production to the winery, said owner Tim Schechtel.

“We are helping with the transfer, the power and plumbing and logistics of the installation,” he explained. “They are taking over the production area and the tasting room.”

The Mint is located not far

from Defiance Brewery, a new craft brewery and taproom planned at 208 Laughlin Street downtown The Dalles.

A request by Defiance Brewery to establish a brewery was approved with conditions by The Dalles Planning Commission June 4.

Light is pleased to see the brew industry grow so quickly. “I think it’s great,” he said. “It brings more recognition to the community, it’s another reason to come to The Dalles.”

The styles of each brewery is different, he added. “It’s great having two.”

In the first year of production, which is expected to begin in October, Light, although has received formal brewing education through OSU, will have a professional brewing consultant as well as assistance from JV Northwest to help fine tune the process.

He and his wife are pleased, and a little anxious, about the venture.

“We came back to The Dalles about four years ago, and now we are investing in The Dalles,” explained Laurie Light.

“We’re really excited about it.”



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# Columbia River Gorge oil train traffic sharply declines

By ROB DAVIS

The Oregonian/OregonLive, Staff

PORTLAND — (AP) Oil train traffic through the Columbia River Gorge has declined one-third or more from its peak amid an oil price decline that has pressured crude-by-rail shipments nationwide.

A new report from BNSF Railway Co., one of the country's major crude-by-rail haulers, shows between eight and 12 trains, each a mile long, now haul oil through the gorge each week. That's down from as many as 18 each week in 2014.

Oil trains have grown less frequent throughout the Pacific Northwest as oil prices have collapsed. Traffic dwindled earlier this year along two Oregon routes — through Central Oregon and between Portland and an oil-barging facility in Clatskanie.

A BNSF spokesman, Gus Melonas, said the railroad hasn't moved any oil trains through Central Oregon since February.

Traffic through the Columbia Gorge is significant because it's a reliable measure for how much oil is moving by rail in Oregon and Washington. The gorge is the primary route used by shippers extracting oil in North Dakota and sending it to West Coast refineries.

North Dakota is the site of an ongoing boom that has pushed an unprecedented amount of oil onto railways nationwide, leading to a string of fiery accidents that have raised safety concerns in the United States and Canada.

The BNSF report, which was



PHOTO BY ROB DAVIS, THE OREGONIAN/OREGONLIVE

Fewer oil trains are rolling through Columbia River Gorge per week due to a decline in oil prices, said BNSF Railway Co. in a new report.

released in May by the Washington Military Department, is required to comply with an emergency federal order from May 2014.

Though federal transportation officials had said they would end those disclosures,

returning a veil of secrecy to oil train movements, they recently agreed to continue them indefinitely after coming under pressure from lawmakers including U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Oregon Democrats.

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# Klickitat County considers two-year ban on new pot businesses

By LOU MARZELES

GOLDENDALE — The Klickitat County Planning Commission was one vote shy of unanimity in its meeting Monday night in proposing a two-year ban with a sunset clause on new marijuana businesses to the County Commissioners. The vote has no binding authority but rather serves as a recommendation for action to the county commission. No action would affect existing county businesses.

Commission Chair James Dean ran an orderly meeting over the two hours of public testimony and commission discussion before a vote occurred. He also cast the sole dissenting vote during a roll call vote of each of the eight commission members. In sharp contrast to earlier county and Goldendale municipal hearings, speakers

both for and against marijuana businesses were uniformly calm and generally courteous, requiring little intervention by Dean.

Testimony during the public hearing phase ran almost dead even between proponents and opponents of allowing new marijuana businesses in the county, with 10 speaking for and 10 against, although one of the proponents was from Oregon.

Most of the proponents spoke of the benefits of medical marijuana and found no opposition to their arguments. One speaker, Roxie Hunter, talked movingly of her experience. "I came here to die," she said, "in April. It's now June." She said she'd always been the last person to ever consider using marijuana but began using it as a last resort. "It has changed my life."

Klickitat County Sheriff Bob Songer spoke on the issues of marijuana businesses from a law enforcement perspective and later, during commission discussion, was asked several follow-up questions on the cost in personnel hours and dollars of additional police concerns with marijuana businesses. "I can't put an exact number on the cost," he said, "but it has an impact."

Several of the marijuana growers were also asked follow-up questions, chiefly focusing on controls in place for securing marijuana from theft or unlawful consumption. Commissioner Howard Kreps asked if there were anything to prevent a person from buying large quantities of pot day after day. There were no marijuana retailers in the meeting, but one grower who said he was a

friend of the local retailer and knew the law testified that retail purchasers were limited to how much they could buy at one time. "But there's nothing that keeps them from going from store to store or coming in at different times and buying more," he said.

During the commission discussion stage of the meeting, it seemed that initial consideration leaned toward allowing new businesses with tight procedural restraints. As conversation continued, the sense emerged that not enough was known about all the issues to do anything but recommend a two-year ban on new pot businesses but with a sunset clause, meaning in the absence of further action the measure would end at the conclusion of two years.

"I have great respect for the



PHOTO BY LOU MARZELES.

**ROXIE HUNTER** speaks to the Klickitat County Planning Commission Monday night on her dramatic experience with medical marijuana.

growers," Kreps said during discussion. "It's clear that you've worked your butt off doing your operations in care- ful regard to the law, doing it right, and you've put a lot of money into it. But I work with teens every

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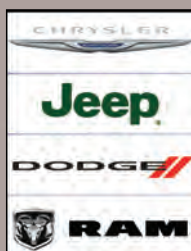
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