

Columbia River
Gorge
Business
Review

May 2017

Covering Gorge Business

Volume 9, No. 5



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Columbia River Gorge Business Review

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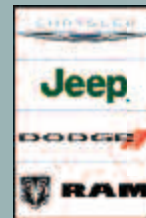
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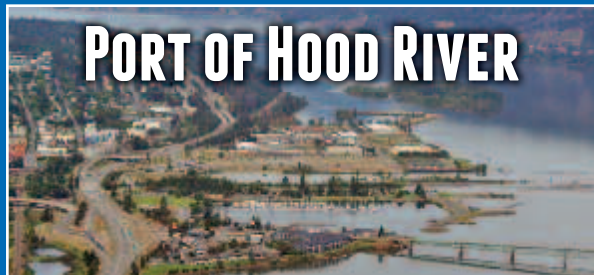
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Pictured at last month's Northwest Cherry Festival are Scott Sidell, Tonkin Subaru General Manager; Anita Clason, Home At Last (HAL) shelter manager; Steve Ross, Tonkin Subaru general sales manager and Kathy Norton, HAL board president.

Home At Last Humane Society receives award

THE DALLES — Home At Last Humane Society was the recipient of \$11,979 from Tonkin Subaru, money raised during Subaru of America's annual "Share the Love" event at The Dalles dealership.

During the "Share the Love" event held at the end of each year, Subaru of America donates \$250 for every new vehicle sold or leased.

Customers who purchase or lease a new Subaru during that period select a charity to receive the donation.

The award was made during Northwest Cherry Festival activities over the weekend.

"We are very pleased to be a

part of the good work being done by the staff and many community volunteers at Home at Last," said Scott Sidell, general manager for Tonkin Subaru.

"Theirs is special work that should never go unrecognized in the community," he said.

"It is the great local support from our Gorge Subaru customers that makes this contribution possible each year."

Home at Last is a private, non-profit humane society caring for hundreds of animals each year and striving to ensure that no companion animal is killed simply because it is homeless.

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Mount Hood Railroad returns to Parkdale



NEWS FILE
PHOTO

A locomotive pulls up near Parkdale. Mount Hood Railroad's excursion trips are returning to the upper valley.

By PATRICK MULVIHILL

PARKDALE — Mount Hood Railroad's scenic excursion trips have returned to the upper Hood River Valley.

Trains take passengers on a four-hour journey through shady woods and colorful fruit orchards, capping the experience with picturesque mountain views in downtown Parkdale.

Last year, the trip stopped short in Odell — but now the full loop's back in action.

"I'm just excited (that we're) going back to Parkdale," said Ron Kaufman, Mount Hood Railroad general manager.

Kaufman, who has been with the railroad for 30 years, opened the Dee and Parkdale leg of the trip in 1988, at the inception of its tourist route. Since then, the railroad has continually operated the valley excursions, except for in 2016.

The company was eager to return to Parkdale, Kaufman ex-

plained, because the upper valley offers plenty of sights and experiences, from forests along the winding Hood River to vineyards and orchards. Pears and apples grow in abundance, lining rolling hills.

The train ride goes high enough that "you feel like you're at the base" of Mount Hood, Kaufman said. Mount Hood, Oregon's tallest peak, looms high above Parkdale with a summit at roughly 11,250 feet elevation.

With a four-hour tour, passengers can make of a day of it. Kaufman noted that families traveling from as far as Eugene to ride the Mount Hood Railroad get a more satisfying trip that way, compared to the shorter route to Odell, which was about an hour long.

Boarding happens at Mount Hood Railroad's station in downtown Hood River, at 110 Railroad Ave., off Second Street.

The end of the line is Clear Creek Station, at the intersection

of Baseline Drive and Clear Creek Road in Parkdale. The park setting includes a large grassy area, picnic tables, a small amphitheater and historic exhibits. Nearby are the Hutson Museum, the Parkdale Grange, Apple Valley Barbecue, Solera Brewery, and Alabama Jim's Long Shot Restaurant.

The Mount Hood Railroad, a 22-mile route, was originally built in 1906 by David Eccles, who was drawn to the valley by the large timber stands and the already

burgeoning fruit industry. The train transported freight for Oregon Lumber Company.

The state's prime lumber days are gone, but Mount Hood Railroad still operates as a heritage and short line freight road.

The company first came to Parkdale in 1910 to bring lumber used to construct the original McIsaac's Store. The old store is gone, but its replacement lies close to the tracks and offers an old-time general store feel.

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PHOTO BY
CHELSEA MARR

ROTARY PEACE POLE

Aryan Argrawal, exchange student from India, right, joins Rotarians at the dedication of the Peace Pole at the city-owned Jackson Park in Hood River. The pole is located at the west entrance to the park, just above the Mike Schend Stage. From left are Steve Schmidt, Rotary President Joe Guenther, Don Benton, and Steve Wheeler, who is city manager. The pole contains the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in eight different languages, representing the countries of exchange students hosted by Hood River Rotary through the years: English, Spanish, Chinese, Thai, French, Hindi, Danish, and Swiss. Rotary Peacebuilder Clubs throughout Northwest Oregon dedicated more than 120 Peace Poles on the same day April 21. Peace Poles started in Japan, and have spread worldwide with many distinguished dedicators including Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Pope John Paul II, Coretta Scott King, and the presidents of many countries.



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Doors remain open at Rebuild-It Center

Non-profit looks to brighter future

By TRISHA WALKER

HOOD RIVER — Gorge Rebuild-it Center, a community-supported nonprofit since 2004, was looking at a February closing date as a long winter kept customers away and the theft of \$8,000 in merchandise financially strained the organization.

But things have started looking up as the weather has improved, said Center General Manager Patrick Morris.

"Stuff is coming in and people are shopping," he said.

"Every day now, we're making enough money to pay all the bills, so that's a plus. We should be fine through summer," he added. "We'll see how summer goes."

He credits the community for coming together to keep the center afloat.

"We ended up getting quite a bit of support from the community," Morris said. "We're still not great financially, but it's not looking as bad as it was."

While they're not out of the woods yet — all of the Rebuild-it Center's financial reserves were used up this winter in order to keep the doors open — Morris is "pretty optimistic" about the store's future.

"We're kind of over the hurdle, but we have another one to go," he said. "We need this summer's (sales) to get through next winter. We always have to make enough money in the spring and summer to get through winter."

Thanks to donations, there is plenty of new merchandise on the shelves. The center carries used or leftover building supplies; customers shop for everything from home improvement to art projects.

Those wishing to donate materials such as kitchen and bathroom cabinets, kitchen and bath fixtures, windows and doors, dimensional lumber, lighting, reusable flooring, surplus electrical and plumbing supplies, or unused insulation should call Gorge Rebuild-It Center at 541-387-4387 first, so Morris can get an idea of what is available. Donations are tax deductible.

The store takes donations Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Morris said.

For more information on Gorge Rebuild-it Center, visit the website, rebuildit.org, or the center's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gorgerebuilditcenter.



Rebuild-It General Manager Patrick Morris accepts donation of doors and other materials from Matt Ryan of Underwood, Wash. "Stuff is coming in and people are shopping," Morris said.

Goods of all kinds are available in the Rebuild-it Center structure and yard. The non-profit is rebounding from a weather-wracked winter season and a major theft.





Fairfield Inn & Suites of The Dalles was named "2016 Hotel of the Year" by Marriott International at the company's annual convention in New Orleans in April.

TD's Fairfield Inn wins big annual award

THE DALLES — The Dalles made national and international hospitality industry headlines when

Fairfield Inn & Suites of The Dalles was named "2016 Hotel of the Year" by Marriott International at the company's annual convention in New Orleans in April.

Fairfield's general manager, Troy Crowe, was joined on stage by assistant manager Sara Hearn to receive the award.

Marriott International compared the inn with 840 Fairfield Inns & Suites around the world, in areas such as guest satisfaction and quality assurance, finan-

cial performance and overall customer recognition and retention.

As if winning the 2016 Hotel of the Year was not enough, the inn was honored with six additional awards, each specific to performance in various areas: The Diamond Hotel Award, Staff Service Award, Maintenance and Upkeep, Intent to Recommend, Problem Incidence Free Award and finally, the Stress Free Stay Award for 2016.

The Fairfield Inn & Suites in The Dalles is managed by Escape Lodging Company, headquartered in Cannon Beach.

Lions install new hearing loop system at HRMS

HOOD RIVER — Five members of EyeOpeners Lions Club and one from The Dalles Lions Club met at Hood River Middle School on April 13 to install a special piece of equipment in the historic auditorium's lower level.

They were there to put in a hearing loop system — an induction system using a magnetic field to send sound directly to a hearing aid's telecoil, turning it into a wireless speaker — just in time for the annual Lions Follies production, which opens next weekend, April 21-23.

Leonard Hickman, project coordinator, was joined by Erma

Hickman, Trudy Tallman, Bill Huff and Chad Tyler from Hood River and Tim McGlothlin from The Dalles. McGlothlin has been setting up the systems locally, free of charge, said Hickman, for clubs who purchase the materials. It took the EyeOpeners a year to go from the planning stages to installation. Funds for the nearly \$1,000 project came from community projects such as Families in the Park dinners and working at the Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum Fly-In.

"We got the idea last March at the district convention in The Dalles — there was a speaker giv-

ing a session on hearing loops," explained Tallman. Some members knew how well it worked from experience, having seen it in action at Valley Christian, who installed a system during their big remodel a couple of years ago, she said. With Lions clubs celebrating 100 years in 2017, there's a push for "legacy projects" — long-lasting gifts to the community that make a difference — and EyeOpeners felt this achieved that mission.

HRMS was chosen, said Hickman, because it's the site of the annual Follies production, one of the club's major fundraisers each year.



Eyeopeners Lions Club members — and one The Dalles Lions member — met at Hood River Middle School April 13 to install a new hearing loop system to the downstairs portion of the auditorium. From left, in front, are Bill Huff, Tim McGlothlin (The Dalles Lions) holding the transmitter box, and Erma Hickman holding a plaque explaining the new technology. Behind, from left, are Chad Tyler, Trudy Tallman and Leonard Hickman, project coordinator.

MCCFL selected as 'certified community behavioral health center'

THE DALLES/HOOD RIVER — As of April 1, Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCFL), the community mental health and developmental disabilities programs for Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties, began practicing as a Certified Community Mental Health Center (CCBHC) at their locations in Hood River and The Dalles.

MCCFL was selected by the Oregon Health Authority as one of 13 behavioral health agencies in the state; Oregon was chosen as one of eight states to participate in the pilot project based on the federal "Excellence in Mental Health Act."

"The CCBHC opportunity is aligned with Oregon's health care transformation and the drive to integrate care systems to better serve community members; it's an exciting advancement for our region," said Karen Joplin, Hood River County commissioner and board chair of MCCFL.

The goals of the pilot project are to expand access to mental health and substance use services in community-based settings, including in rural areas, with a particular focus on veterans, services to Native American tribes and other underserved populations, including Hispanic/Latino and Samoan populations in Hood River and Wasco counties. CCBHC's require the integration of physical health assessment and care into the behavioral health setting. MCCFL will receive an enhanced Medicaid prospective payment rate based on projected costs of the program.

Barb Seatter, the executive director of MCCFL said, "Given the uncertainty of other funding for

mental health and substance abuse, the enhanced payment rate will allow MCCFL to continue to design programs that integrate physical health with mental health and substance abuse, improve timely access to care, care coordination and crisis interventions, and work to better serve culturally specific populations."

MCCFL currently provides physical health screenings by their nursing department who then coordinate care with the clients' primary care doctor. By April 2018, MCCFL plans to provide 20 hours of primary care services at both CCBHC clinics. MCCFL has been operating a same day intake or "open access" system for the past year where no appointment is necessary for an intake for mental health or substance use assessments for adults. Children and youth assessments can be conducted in the community at schools and other locations, but do require scheduling.

Seatter said, "People living with persistent mental health and substance abuse issues die anywhere from 25-35 years earlier than the general population. Many of the clients we serve also struggle with chronic health conditions and have difficulty getting to regular physical health appointments. Providing wraparound mental health and primary care will enable us to treat 'the whole' person and ultimately help to extend people's lives."

For more information on open access process and services, call 541-386-2620 in Hood River, 541-296-5452 in The Dalles, or 541-565-3149 in Sherman County.



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Reaching for sky by digging in dirt



PHOTO BY
JESSE BURKHARDT

Rachel and Tim Brown named their business, Skycam Construction, after their two sons, Skyler and Cameron.

By JESSE BURKHARDT

THE DALLES — When construction companies around the Columbia River Gorge started getting too busy to take on new jobs, Tim Brown knew it was the right time for him to step up.

"With the economy turning up, there is a need for a lot more work happening," said Brown, who co-owns Skycam Construction with his wife, Rachel. "People in the field are too busy, and that's why they're turning work down. It's time for someone else, and I was at the point where I wanted to branch out in my own business. I've been thinking about this for the last year, and I decided to go for it."

"A lot of established construction companies are so busy they are not able to get to things quickly, and that's one of the reasons we got started," added Rachel. "Everybody seems to be really busy."

Skycam specializes in a variety of niches. The company handles driveway regrading and repairs; site prep and development; placing utility conduits; laying pipelines; building rock retaining walls; installing and repairing septic systems; and excavations.

"We don't build the house; we get the ground ready for it," said

Rachel. "We have been bidding a lot of work, and once we get rolling, we'll be busy. We're trying to set up for the summer."

Brown said his fledgling company got started in March, but he has years of construction experience in the Gorge.

"This is the first business I've ever started, but I've been in heavy civil construction in the Gorge for 15 years," he said. "Most of my experience is with public works projects, and my standards are high because I've worked with engineers and others who were inspecting my work."

Rachel has key experience in the field as well. In addition to her role managing the business, she works as office manager for Windermere Real Estate in The Dalles. She pointed out there is a bit of a housing boom currently underway.

"It has a lot to do with the need for more housing in the area. There is not much (residential) inventory at all, so there is a lot of new construction going on," she explained.

Tim and Rachel, who married in 2009, explained that the "Skycam" name of their business was

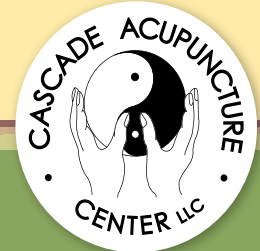


Not pictured: Amy and Jona

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Pictured from L to R: Josie Miller, Lacy Underhill, Dani Annala with Aatto Annala, Meghan Golden, Tanner Reitmann, and LaDonna Kiniston

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See SKYCAM, page 10

SKYCAM

Continued from page 9

taken from the first part of the names of their two sons — Skyler, 6, and Cameron, 3. And there is an additional meaning behind the name.

"It's a company I'm building to be able to pass down to my kids," Tim said.

The company is currently licensed in Oregon for residential and light commercial work, as well as septic installations. However, the couple is working to also get licensed in Washington, hopefully by this summer.

"We've been getting a lot of interest from Washington," said Rachel. "There is a lot going on in Goldendale, and that's part of why we're pushing to get the Washington license. There are not many places to go for undeveloped real estate."

They will take on jobs within roughly 50 miles of The Dalles.

"We'll go to Cascade Locks, Boardman, Maupin," Rachel said.

For now, Tim and Rachel run the business out of their house in

The Dalles, but they are planning to open an office in the city by the end of the year.

They currently have just one on-call employee, but that number is expected to grow.

"As the work load increases, we'll be hiring," Tim said.

"As we grow, we want to keep our company feeling like a family," Rachel added. "Taking care of our employees is important to us."

Tim said he believes supporting other businesses in The Dalles helps everyone.

"I want to keep money in the community," he explained. "I buy my tires here and groceries here, and my pickup trucks and trailers. I try to use local suppliers, and have a local insurance agent. I want to take care of my employees, and get them a 401(k) plan and insurance as soon as I can. I want to keep the money in the area."

To contact Skycam, call 541-980-8063, or visit the company's website — www.skycamconstruction.com — or check out their Facebook page.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tim Brown works regrading a driveway in Mosier, one of his first jobs since he and his wife, Rachel, launched Skycam Construction.

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TD's Legend Cider debuts at festival

PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-REA



Legend crew, from left: Tyler Bauman, Adrienne Bauman, Martina Piel, with Adeline Piel, 18 months, Andrew Piel, and Cassie Senders, at Hard Pressed Cider Fest.

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

HOOD RIVER — Under a tent with other cider makers at April's Hard Pressed Cider Fest was the fitting place for one of Oregon's newest cider makers, The Dalles-based Legend Cider Company, to have its pouring-out party.

The Tyler Bauman and Andrew Piel families formed the business two years ago and were licensed to sell their cider in November 2016.

Bauman and Piel met playing lacrosse at Oregon State University and became best friends. Sixteen years later, they are business partners.

Their wives, Adrienne Bauman and Martina Piel, help out. "It's a family affair," Andrew said.

"When you're getting a business off the ground you gotta do what it takes and it's a lot of work but it's gone well," Tyler said.

Bauman has operated his

Mauna Kea Grill food cart at Bend's Crux Fermentation Project for four years, and Piel works as a pharmacist in Portland, but the two cider makers looked to The Dalles as their ideal location to produce their traditional dry ciders.

The production facility is on Crates Way in west The Dalles.

"If you're going to make cider you're gonna need fruit, and you're going to be in the Gorge," Piel said. "It just make sense to be in The Dalles, as it's an up and coming place." Legend has distribution to central Oregon, Eugene, and southern Oregon. Currently their ciders are on tap at Freebridge Brewery and Route 30 taproom in The Dalles. Crush Cider Café in Hood River recently ran through a keg. (Check any establishment for availability; Legend updates its tap locations on Facebook.) Hard

See *LEGEND*, page 12

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From left to right: Trish Surber, Stephanie Bowen, Amanda Evans, Anne Copper & Celeste Hill-Thomas

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PHOTO COURTESY OF INSITU

STEM STUDENTS TOUR INSITU

Student STEM Tour brought about 100 high school age students from around the Gorge to Insitu's Eagle Point Production facility in Bingen. At left, Luke and Adam Harter, Hood River Valley High School juniors, help put the wing on a ScanEagle aerial vehicle with the help of Joe Cooper, a presenter with Insitu. The company plans to host its next STEM tour on May 18 for elementary school students grades 4-6.

LEGEND

Continued from page 11

Pressed Cider Fest on April 22 in Odell was their first chance to showcase their ciders. "Tyler pitched the idea and I was kind of hesitant, 'lots going on, baby on the way, I said,'" said Piel.

"But I twisted his arm about it," Bauman said. "And we came to Hood River and saw all the cider makers and saw how much of a community it is and how friendly it is. They said, 'There's room for growth, you're more than welcome.'"

They poured Coastal Cran (6.3 percent ABV), and the 5.5 percent POG — for pineapple, orange and guava. It starts fruity but finishes dry. They sampled wares from other makers, including Bauman's Cider of Ger-

vais.

"It's delicious — but no relation," Tyler said.

Hard Pressed Cider Fest connected them with 2 Towns Cider, who invited Piel and Bauman to visit their facility in Corvallis.

It's indicative of the reception they have received all along. At first they thought of setting up Legend in Bend, but found The Dalles far more receptive.

"The Dalles was great to work with, helping streamline things," Piel said. That extends to their neighbors. Arriving at their leased space at Crestline Construction to load up for the Cider Fest, they needed a forklift but workers had all left. Bill Ketchum, operations manager, came in after hours to open up.

"Nothing but great people there," Piel said.

Jail hiring plans aired

By NEITA CECIL

THE DALLES — A new jail contract with an as-yet unnamed county, and more beds rented for immigration detainees, has NORCOR officials poised to add a number of new positions.

The Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities is negotiating to rent 22 beds to another county.

"An additional 22 inmates increases the workload significantly," said Bryan Brandenburg, administrator.

He wouldn't name the county since the deal is not finalized.

Those guaranteed beds mean money the jail can count on. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is slated to use twice as many beds — 44 — but the use is not guaranteed.

Given those increases in jail bed use, the upcoming budget anticipates adding four control room technicians, increasing a

half-time nursing position to full-time, and adding a half-time maintenance person.

Hiring control room technicians will allow the four deputies who now work in the control room to "go on the floor so they can enhance our security," said Brandenburg. Control room technicians are less expensive positions than deputies.

The four counties that own the regional jail — Wasco, Hood River, Sherman and Gilliam — use about 90 beds. The roughly 44 ICE beds and 22 new-county beds brings the anticipated jail bed count to 156 beds.

The jail anticipates getting \$500,000 from the new county contract, with a possibility of it increasing another \$200,000, and \$1 million from ICE, according to draft minutes of a March 30 budget meeting.

While the use of jail beds by ICE has gone up significantly —



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NORCOR

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just \$200,000 is budgeted from ICE in the current fiscal year — the jail is leery of relying on the added income. ICE has been a steady customer in the past, only to pull completely out of the jail, forcing it to lay people off.

ICE does not guarantee it will use a certain amount of beds, and it has the right to stop using them at any time.

The regional jail just finished paying off the 20-year bond to build the jail. As an effort to seek more secure funding, it will ask voters at the May 16 election to continue paying that same level of taxation — 26 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation — as a permanent tax rate.

That would raise \$1.3 million from all four counties and help reduce pressure on each county to come up with its share of jail funding.

The jail costs \$8 million a year to operate, and the four counties contribute \$3.8 million towards it. Wasco County's portion is \$1.9 million.

At the March 30 jail board meeting, a group of 25-30 people attended, raising questions about the ICE detainees. While information about local inmates arrested in the four counties are posted on the jail's website, federal rules prohibit releasing any information about ICE detainees, Brandenburg said.

Sheriffs at the meeting said even they don't have access to information on the ICE detainees.

Brandenburg told the Chronicle later, "I've been told I can't put them on my webpage. I'd like to put them on my webpage."

Amber Orion, a spokesperson of the group of people who attended the jail meeting, has taken a new interest in the ICE detentions at the jail since the election of President Trump and the increased push to deport illegal immigrants.

"I am born and raised here in America," Orion told the Chronicle. "I have a couple of kids; my oldest son, his father

became a citizen at 18, got his paperwork and what not, and my son was born and raised here. But my son is a six-foot-tall, 200-pound brown kid, and I worry about him.

"I worry about him being harassed, accosted, picked up. This is where my mind goes," she said.

Orion helped found the group Gorge ReSisters, a progressive group that organized the Women's March in The Dalles in January.

She said her group has provided help to families being contacted by immigration officers, but she declined to give specifics.

Orion and others questioned the board about how they know for sure that the ICE detainees being accepted at the jail actually have a criminal charge and are not solely being detained for being in the country illegally.

NORCOR has had a long-standing policy that it will only accept detainees who have criminal charges. But it became evident at the meeting, Orion said, that there was no certainty that that was the case, other than NORCOR stating its policy to ICE and believing ICE was following it.

According to draft minutes of the meeting, immigration attorney MariRuth Petzing asked what documentation accompanied ICE detainees, and whether it listed current criminal charges, and whether a criminal warrant was attached to the charges.

She said ICE's Tacoma detention facility, where most detainees lodged here come from, is not a criminal court, and the ICE detainees at NORCOR do not necessarily have criminal charges.

Jail Lt. Dan Lindhorst said "to his knowledge, and with the information that is available, all of the transfers have been held on criminal charges," according to draft minutes.

Orion said, "When ICE comes in, they don't even get to see the warrant. They literally said in the meeting they take their word for it, which

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NORCOR

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was just kind of shocking.”

When Petzing asked if it could be learned if the criminal charges were recent or old, Lindhorst said there was no way to know that.

Brandenburg told those at the meeting he would confer with ICE to verify that charges are criminal. He told the Chronicle he did get confirmation from ICE that all detainees lodged at NORCOR have faced criminal charges.

“They’ve been involved at

some point in time in the criminal justice system,” he said. He also learned that the detainees placed in NORCOR by ICE have “final removal orders” placed on them.

While jail officials said detainees had federal warrants, Petzing said she’s seen federal warrants, but they are “very rare.”

What is more common is what’s called an administrative warrant, which is not signed by a judge and is not a criminal warrant.

“They’re an administrative convenience but they don’t

meet a constitutional requirement for detention,” Petzing told the Chronicle of administrative warrants.

In the meeting, according to minutes, Hood River Sheriff Matt English said no jail in Oregon would hold someone on an administrative warrant.

It was learned that the ICE detainees come in with what’s called an I-203 form, but it is not public record. The form does list a person’s charges, Brandenburg said.

Brandenburg told the Chronicle that all detainees “have to have had a prior oc-

curing criminal charge in order for ICE to detain them. One of those charges can be alien inadmissibility.”

He said, “We’ve made it clear to ICE we only want people who have criminal charges, because we’re a jail. I don’t want to hold people who aren’t criminals.”

He said the jail only holds detainees who are legally in ICE’s custody.

“They have criminal charges, and those criminal charges range from drug dealing and assaults and homicides and DUI’s, and some

pretty petty things, That’s for ICE to decide,” he said.

He said the jail’s contract with ICE stipulates that the jail will hold ICE detainees under three conditions: “One, is those who are charged with federal offenses and are being detained while awaiting trial. Two, individuals who have been sentenced and are awaiting a transport to a bureau of prisons facility, and three, individuals who are awaiting a hearing on their immigration status or deportation.”

Citizens at the meeting asked about steps the jail was

taking to reduce jail population and cut costs.

Since being named jail administrator almost two years ago, Brandenburg has focused on reducing recidivism, which is when released inmates commit more crimes and end up back behind bars.

In his tenure, overall recidivism has dropped from 75 percent, where it had been for last three years, down to 64 percent so far this year, he said.

The mental health population has gone from an average

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NORCOR*Continued from page 14*

of 45 a month a year ago to averaging 15 last month, he said.

"We're not gonna ever work ourselves out of a job, but the idea is we want people to be incarcerated who really need to be incarcerated — the ones we're afraid of vs. the ones we're mad at," he said.

He said wraparound services, including mental health and case management, are in place. "Where previously we just released people from the front door, like, 'Good luck!

Hope it works out!"

Jail board officials asked why the people who came to the meeting were suddenly concerned about the regional jail and who was lodged there.

Orion said, "Part of this is the political climate and part of it is I take full responsibility for not being as politically involved as I should have been. We weren't, but now we are, so let's work."

Wasco County Sheriff Lane Magill said immigration is one of the most challenging subjects he's had to deal with, and he gets calls from constituents

who are both for and against the current immigration climate. He said for the last eight weeks he's spent two to five hours a day dealing with immigration-related questions.

Orion learned that the jail houses both juvenile and adult ICE detainees, and that juveniles and adults are segregated, as are males and females.

Orion said she didn't like that the jail was using the ICE contract. "It's not stable, it doesn't feel particularly moral." She said she didn't know if her group would take

a stance on the jail tax rate issue in May.

According to draft meeting minutes, Jail board member and Hood River County Commissioner Ron Rivers "said he was not any bigger fan of the current presidential administration than anyone else in the room, but the fact of the matter is that to keep the doors of NORCOR open, contractual services of some kind are needed or the counties will not be able to afford it."

A few years earlier, one official said, the jail was at real risk of closing its doors due to

an inability by the counties to help pay for it.

Orion told the Chronicle, "If this is in fact the direction we're going in because we don't have a choice in the matter, then we want the public to know about it."

She said many people were unaware the local jail also housed immigration detainees. She said her group planned on continuing to attend jail meetings and learning more about the whole process.

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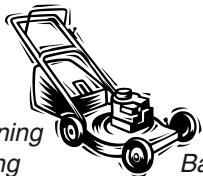
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Matt Swihart's cider start-up

With new Dry Cider, brewer does double duty

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

ODELL — Who better than a brewer to understand that cider takes time?

Matt Swihart, well known for his beer around here, stepped into the cider world, formally — his word — this year with his Dry Cider, made using Newtown apples he grows on his Odell area property: Double Mountain farm, which had its name before Swihart opened Double Mountain Brewery and Taproom 10 years ago in Hood River.

"It's a different animal, because you're not going through a brewing process. You kind of press and go," Swihart said of the cider process.

"Hood River is the best place to grow fruit — I know I'm biased but this is an amazing valley for growing fruit, and we should be known for it and for great cider and great wine, and cherry beer and all these things," he said, referring to the kriel (cherry) sour ales that are Double Mountain staples.

The ciders come mostly from local fruit, with Swihart's blended in, and pressed and fermented in leased space in the Diamond fruit building at Windmaster Corner. Swihart has a new block of pears just coming into production, and through grafting he is developing the rest of a 10-acre section to trees that will bear high-tannin cider apples with the idea of developing complex ciders.

Swihart, who worked at Full Sail before he and former partner Charlie Devereux (now running Wayfinder Beer in Portland) started Double Mountain in 2007.

The Odell property used to grow peaches, and Swihart for a time saw grapes as a possibility.

"I thought I was going to be a wine guy, but then I took some classes and quickly realized I knew I was not a wine guy. I was a beer guy," he jokes.

"I said, 'The orchard needs to be an orchard and I need to stay a brewer.' Now we've diversified to cider, and that's what we've got going on," he said.

"I like doing things slowly, and I said, 'Yeah, dry cider, we have some Newtowns,' and next year, maybe add a perry and have the opportunity to do more estate stuff down the road." He has in mind using the bees that pollinate his orchards to create an estate mead.

"We have this block of all pears, and we plan to do perry, but we wanted to start with cider, stick with that, and we'll get into perry this next season, and when this develops I'd like to do an estate cider that would just be the apples from here," in about five years, Swihart said. "It's a long-term game but that's the beauty of it. We can do it at this pace because it's not what's paying the bills."

As a seasoned beer pro but new to cider, "I'm really happy with what's coming out in the valley, and that was our approach, didn't want to go to market with something I couldn't reproduce," consistently, he said. "It had to get to a certain level where I was comfortable doing it in a larger way. That's why I'm a little late to the game but that's okay, because it's an orchard; you don't plant an orchard and harvest it right away. It's a long-term proposition."

There's a definite personality to the terroir — the combined soil-topography-moisture-weather equation — on his land. Pointing up the hill, to the northwest, he says, "That block

in front is the best in the site for tree fruit because you have the southern exposure," but he explains that it's not quite that simple in terms of maximizing the trees for cider fruit. "Up here, as the frost in the valley can be quite a challenge, the beauty of this is great cold drainage, it just spills so well off this parcel. We're at 1,100 feet, which you would think would be more vulnerable but it's not, it has the slope, and the cold air spills down into the valley. We don't use smudge pots, or fans."

It's about the ripening time, north to south, he said. "Over the hill, on the north side, ripening comes later, and in terms of picking and spray programs you start on this side and finish on the other, whether you're pruning or picking or what have you.

"The stuff that hangs on the tree longer has the most flavor. This may seem kind of spiritual or something, but it seems to me that if it's a little cool, it just seems the longer it's on the tree, the more flavor development you get, but I think that's generally true. It's the beauty of it, and the same way with our cherry beers: If you're picking stuff for Rosauers you're grabbing it early and letting it ripen in cold storage, whereas we're letting stuff hang on the trees as long as possible for better flavor development, and when that happens it makes it more difficult to transport, but for us it's all going into cider. We don't need a pretty cherry or apple, we're just going for the flavor."

Swihart buys fruit from area orchards and from Rich Hanners, who operates Swihart's orchard.

"I can direct where the fruit goes," he said. "Rich doesn't mind if I buy it myself to make

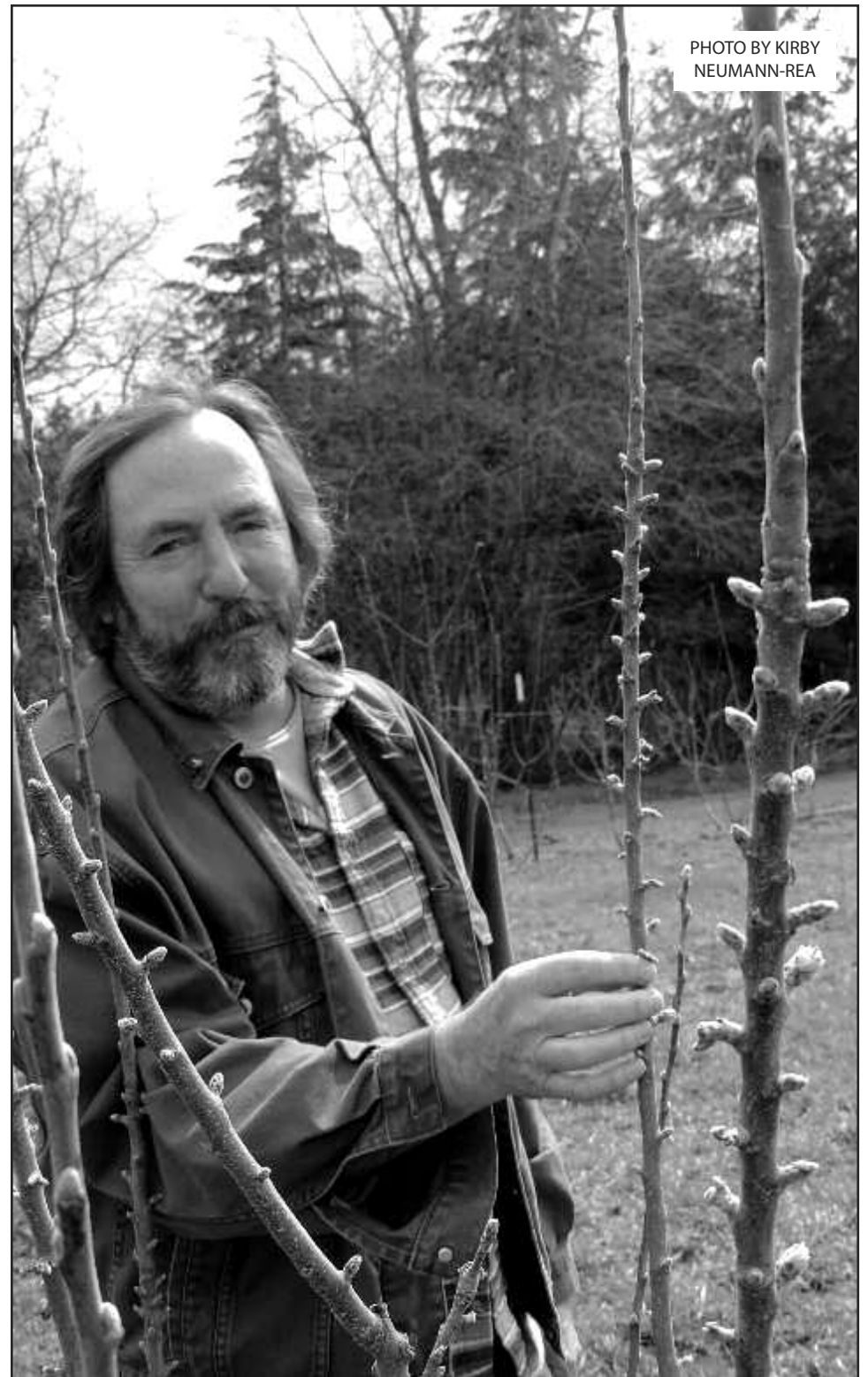


PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

Grower, brewer and now cider maker Matt Swihart examines the bud break on young pear trees on his Double Mountain farms property off Sylvester Road near Odell.

cider or sell it to the packing house." The 40-year-old orchard is mainly red and green Anjou and Boscs, all tended by Hanners.

The relationship has benefited both men: last year Hanners

had a sizeable portion of his pears damaged by hail, ruining them for the packing market. Swihart bought them and turned them into a pear cider that was available for a time at the pub, with a name riffed from

Swihart's popular stout "Hell Yeah." He called it "Hail Yeah." While the Dry Cider is the pub standard, Hail Yeah is an example of the seasonal or one-off brews that just might crop up at the taproom.

Main Street working on 'historic' grant

PHOTO BY
JESSE BURKHARDT



Victor Johnson has a vision for the old Herbring House on Fourth Street that includes residential units and a café.

By **JESSE BURKHARDT**

THE DALLES — The Dalles Main Street will soon learn whether a grant the organization applied for in mid-March will bring funds to help in the “preservation and adaptive reuse” of the historic Herbring House at 313 W. Fourth Street in The Dalles.

Victor Johnson, a native of The Dalles, said he purchased the Herbring House property in October 2015, and has a vision for how it can be repurposed. He is working to convert the old house into a mixed use building with three residential units and a commercial area with a café and ice cream shop — while at the same time maintaining the house’s historic character.

The combination of uses is

one reason Johnson believes the grant will be awarded for the project. “Our application covers a lot of bases,” Johnson explained. “It’s historic preservation; it’s also housing, which is desperately needed in The Dalles; and it’s job creation. This is going to be my gift to The Dalles.”

According to Johnson, they asked for close to the maximum grant amount of \$100,000 to renovate the structure and help to realize his dream. “That would be enough to do the façade work and basically take care of any structural issues and interior rehab, except for the downstairs,” Johnson said.

Johnson said he has three goals for the project: Restore the building and grounds to serve for the next 150 years; redevelop the property for modern uses; and establish the space as the heart of The Dalles for community, connection and culture. If the grant comes through, Johnson believes most of the work could be completed by June 1, 2018.

Jeremiah Paulsen, executive director of The Dalles Main Street, said the application was for an Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant, and he is confident the project will win funding. “At the beginning of May, hopefully, we’ll have an official answer,” said Paulsen. “Absolutely, I’m looking forward to the news we won some funds.”

Johnson pointed out that the house was built in 1864, while the Civil War was raging across the nation. “Abraham Lincoln was president when this house was built,” Johnson said. “That’s pretty amazing history.” Johnson said he has selected what he termed a “placeholder” name for the coffee shop for permitting purposes.

“The Dalles Coffee Company is our placeholder name,” Johnson said. “I couldn’t believe no one had taken that name.” The grant program Johnson and Paulsen applied for is open only to communities that participate in the Oregon Main Street Network, of which The Dalles is a member.

The grants, which are administered through the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, can be used to acquire, rehabilitate, and construct buildings on properties designated in downtown areas that will serve business district revitalization efforts.

“This is the first year this grant has been available to Oregon Main Street organizations,” said Paulsen. “There is a reserve of nearly \$2.5 million to be awarded, with a cap on \$100,000 for each project selected. A program requirement states that 50 percent of the funds must be awarded to rural areas.” While the grant is essential to help jumpstart the project, Johnson said he has already been doing a lot of work on the house and even if the grant falls through, he’ll keep it going.

“We’d start right away, but actually we haven’t ever stopped,” Johnson said. “We work to make it better every day. My main job is to make every dollar stretch to two or three.”

Johnson said he is proud his project has been nominated for the grant. “I’m also grateful for incredible community support and appreciate the willingness of local agencies and departments to help this vision become a reality,” Johnson said. “It feels like a time of change for The Dalles, and it’s vital to preserve our historic property and breathe new life into the downtown.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO:
MAX SCHREMPF/HERBRING
FAMILY ARCHIVE

History is alive at the historic Herbring House, shown here in the late 1890s. The house was built in 1864, during the Civil War.

Solar project planned at HR Public Works

HOOD RIVER — A new solar energy array has been planned for construction atop the city of Hood River public works building on 18th Street.

Making Energy Work in Rural Oregon team, led by Sustainable Northwest, in partnership with Hood River, Lake, and Douglas Counties, announced Wednesday they were selected among the winners of the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative's "Solar in Your Community Challenge," a \$5 million competition aimed at expanding solar electricity access.

Awarded up to \$50,000 in cash and \$10,000 in technical assistance, Making Energy Work will use the money to guide and build community solar projects on non-profit and municipal buildings in target communities.

"We are thrilled that our team was selected to join the challenge," said Lee Rahr, energy program director of Sustainable Northwest. "We will work with our partner communities to advance Oregon's emerging community solar models."

Rahr noted that benefits from solar development typically go to urban communities, while rural communities "continue to fall behind."

The group's first project will be a 30-kilowatt community-financed solar array installed in Hood River, in partnership with the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative (OCPC) and the City of Hood River. OCPC's cooperative-ownership model is based on 2014 legislation enacted by the Oregon legislature, which allows residents to finance renewable energy via clean energy projects.

City Public Works Director Mark Lago said, "We are work-

ing to ensure the benefits of community solar stay in Hood River. By investing in community solar, the city can help create new jobs, and increase tax revenue, while lowering the city's energy costs and carbon output."

The Hood River Public Works Building solar system, installed by Common Energy, is projected to save the city about \$11,000 in electric costs in the first 10 years, and nearly \$97,000 over 25 years.

"Through OCPC, community members may now participate in Hood River's first community solar project, which will provide the city's Public Works Building with more than half of its electricity from the sun," said Joe Giordano of Hood River, OCPC board member.

For more information about the project, visit www.oregoncleanpower.coop.

"This is about more than just clean energy," says Dan Orzech, OCPC general manager. "It's about investing in your community. People are interested in alternatives to Wall Street. They're looking for ways to put their money to work closer to home."

The Making Energy Work in Rural Oregon team plans to complete 10 projects by the end of 2018, focusing on energy development in rural communities, driving socioeconomic and ecological benefits in otherwise underrepresented areas.



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