

Wy'Eats dishing up 'veggie-centric' cuisine

Meal delivery service coming next week

By **PATRICK MULVIHILL**
News staff writer

Soon, veggie lovers won't have to pine for the same home delivery treatment their carnivorous counterparts enjoy.

Wy'Eats, a "veggie-centric" meal delivery service, is launching in Hood River on Tuesday, July 28. The business plays with "Wy'east," the Multnomah name for Mt. Hood.

Sarah Scaruto, founder and chef at Wy'Eats, said the goal is healthy meals without a hassle.

"The whole point is that it's healthy. It's plant-based foods that are nutrient dense," said Scaruto.

The entrées will change

every week, but Scaruto has already planned out a few. Among them are the Nouveau American Beet Burger and the Samosa Sweet Pea Curry. The ingredients come from local farms including Hood River Organic, Grow Organic, and Tumbleweed Farm in Parkdale.

There are no de facto headquarters for Wy'Eats, but Scaruto will rent out the commercial kitchen at River of Life Assembly on Tucker Road for meal prep.

The business will function on a subscription basis — customers will choose a plan of one or two meals, offered Tuesdays and Thursdays, and then opt to either pick up the meals at a central location or have them delivered to their homes.

For the pick-up option, Scaruto will be setting up red "drop-off" boxes at businesses around town, the first being Hood River News. Customers can pick up their

meals in labeled totes from the insulated lock-boxes. All packaging will be made of glass in order to cut back on environmental impact.

"No one's doing exactly this," said Scaruto. She said there are plenty of catering companies in the Hood River area, and some farms that do their own sales, but none that deliver prepared plant-based meals comprised of locally grown ingredients.

She called it an "off-shoot" of community supported agriculture (CSA), and hopes to set up at the Hood River Farmer's Market in the future, once the business has picked up steam. She also plans to broaden her service area to White Salmon.

Scaruto hails from upstate New York. Her background is in Human Resources, which took her to Powder Pure in The Dalles last year. However, her passion has always been rooted in food — she went back to school at

Well Springs School for Healing Art in Portland to study holistic nutrition.

"I always had this love of food," said Scaruto. "I was one of those latchkey kids who grew up on the Food Network, and cooking for my younger siblings while my mom was at work."

"It doesn't feel like work to me. It's the part of the day that's not a job," said Scaruto.

For more information about Wy'Eats, or to sign up, go to www.wyeats.com or follow the business at www.facebook.com/wyeatslo calfoods. The company's first meal delivery is slated for Tuesday, July 28.

Telephone scam alert

Pacific Power is warning its customers and the public of a phone scam targeting utility customers in the Northwest where criminals posing as utility customer service agents are trying to get money and steal personal information.

The fraud is occurring nationwide, but recent days have seen an upsurge in the Northwest. The thieves sometimes use sophisticated deceptive tactics that make it appear to Caller ID systems that the scam call is coming from the utility when it is not. If customers receive such a

call, hang up and instead call 1-888-221-7070 to verify the call's origins.

Pacific Power call centers can be reached any time day or night, toll free at 1-888-221-7070. That is the only number to call for any customer service need or if you suspect a scam.

"So far, this has affected a relatively small number of customers, but any customer being taken advantage of in this way is one too many," said Valerie Smith, director of customer service. "We encourage anyone who has been contacted to call law enforcement."



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

DISTILLERS' TASTING ROOM OPENS

Server Doug Powrie greets visitors to the HR Distillers' new tasting room at 304 Oak St., which opened last week. The downtown outlet offers up to five one-ounce pours of the beverages made by the Hood River company and its associate company Clear Creek Distillers, and features a separate room with a timeline and videos giving a detailed history of the 70-year-old company. The tasting room (across the courtyard from Doppio) is open seven days at noon. A previous article on the business should have stated it is a tasting room; for a \$5 fee, limited samples are available to taste on premises, with packaged goods and gifts and glassware sold for take away.

Cascade Locks Charburger changes name to Bridgeside, 'freshens' menu and decor

Bridgeside is the new name of the former Charburger, a Cascade Locks restaurant with a history stretching over a half-century. The fresh name reflects a new vision for this popular tourist stop, while much will remain the same and be familiar to long-time customers.

It's never an easy decision to rebrand an established restaurant, especially one of regional significance along the historic Columbia River Highway, and the new Bridgeside brand is no exception. "Owners spent a great deal of time weighing pros and cons of a name change, and ultimately decided the Charburger name limits the vision we have for the restaurant," said Chuck Hinman, general manager at D.M.

Stevenson Ranch. "The name Bridgeside tells a better story about the restaurant's incredible location, and allows more flexibility to promote breakfast, lunch, dinner, and banquets."

The new name highlights the restaurant's location next to regional landmark Bridge of the Gods (named after the natural dam of Native American folklore) and alludes to the stunning views overlooking this special pocket of the Columbia River Gorge.

(The name of the Hood River Charburger Restaurant remains unchanged.)

The 200-seat Cascade Locks Charburger restaurant underwent extensive renovations last year, shortly after D.M. Stevenson Ranch's purchase in July 2013. Those

improvements included a new kitchen installation, freshening of the building interior and exterior, and an expanded menu. The kitchen remodel included installation of all-new equipment, a complete makeover of floor, ceiling and wall finishes, plus new HVAC and hood ventilation systems. Interior and exterior improvements included deep cleaning, painting, new tabletops, and bathroom remodel.

The 7,500 square-foot complex consists of the dining room, a gift shop, and lower level banquet-special event space. The updated special event space, formerly Sam Hill's Den, is renamed "Bridgeside Terrace."

For more information, visit BridgesideDining.com.

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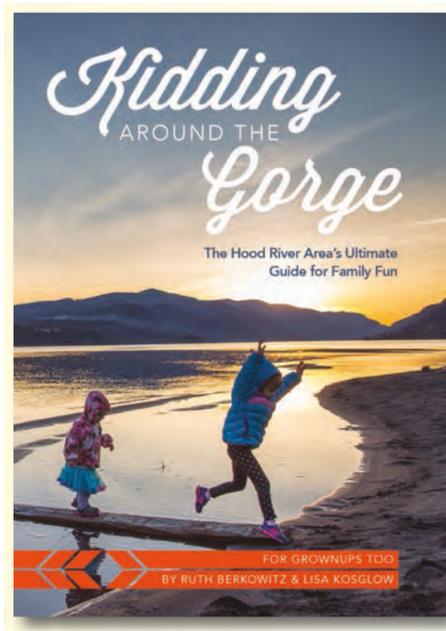
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