

Marion County Dairy Women crown princess and ambassador for '17

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

Marion County Dairy Women announced that Donata Doornebal was crowned as the group's 2017 princess/ambassador during a May 2 ceremony held at Red Lion Inn in Salem.

The daughter of Joe and Astrid Doornebal of Scio, Donata works as a tax preparer in Salem.

Marion County Dairy Women spokeswoman Betty Bielenberg said Donata was raised on her family's 200-cow organic dairy farm where she was home-schooled and had number of farm tasks, including feeding calves and mowing pastures.

The new ambassador is also a violinist with the Salem Youth Symphony and

active in music through Immanuel Reformed Church. She plans to attend Chemeketa Community College and study foreign languages and business accounting.

Betty said as part of the ceremony, Donata delivered an entertaining speech titled "No Farms. No Food!" She also presented a TV commercial about cheese and answered questions. She was formally crowned by Oregon Dairy Princess Kiara Single who presented the tiara that Donata will wear while representing the county's dairy families.

She will also compete for the Oregon Dairy Princess/Ambassador in January.

"Donata did an excellent job and will be a very

fine representative of our county dairy industry," Betty said.

Betty added that Donata will receive scholarships from Marion County Dairy Women, Woodburn Livestock Exchange, Cascade Dairy Service, VandeBurgt & Co., Ernst Irrigation, Buchanan Cellars/Valley Feed, Ag West Supply, All West/ Select Sires, CHS Nutrition, Purina Nutrition and Oak Lea Mixers.

The 2016 Marion County Dairy Princess/Ambassador Emma Coleman, of St. Paul, received the \$2,500 college scholarship awarded by Marion County Dairy Women. Emma is a freshman at Cal Poly.

To schedule an activity with Donata, contact her advisor, Jessie DeJager at 503-588-9092.



MARION COUNTY DAIRY WOMEN
Marion County Dairy Princess and Ambassador for 2017 Donata Doornebal of Scio is crowned by 2017 Oregon Dairy Princess and Ambassador Kiara Single.

Gas tax

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enacted local fuel taxes over the last 30 years to address deteriorating streets and skyrocketing repair costs.

Silverton residents already pay taxes to the state and federal governments every time they buy fuel. For example, on every gallon of gas sold here, the U.S. government collects about 18 cents and the State of Oregon 30 cents.

But, like other cities, Silverton doesn't receive enough revenue from these taxes to substantially help with local street maintenance. Even with a fairly new \$5-per-month "street fee" on customers' water bills, the city is sitting on a project backlog that in-

cludes everything from small repair jobs to major overhauls on roads that have deteriorated too far to repair.

"Our roads are an investment," Palmer said. "We know this tax will hurt a little, but we have to protect our investment or it will hurt a lot more in the future."

He said he hopes Silverton residents will see a fuel tax the way he does — as one of a limited number of ways to gather revenue from those passing through.

But Ann Soentpiet, who owns and operates Silverton's TNT Market and 76 Station, said she'll vote against any local fuel tax because it will cost her local customers more too. After 10 years in business here, she's gotten to know her clientele, and it's mostly locals, not visitors, she said.

"I'd say that less than 10 percent of our customers are from out of town," she said. "Most of them are from here, and I'd hate to pass along a tax to them."

Even a small price difference can convince drivers to buy gas elsewhere. She's known people who will drive miles to save a few cents per gallon. In the case of the proposed tax, the difference on a 20-gallon fill-up would be 40 cents, but some customers will "absolutely" make their choice based on something like that, she said.

Neither Mt. Angel nor Salem levy local fuel taxes, while voters in Stayton decided on a 3-cent-per-gallon fuel tax in the May 16 election.

For his part, Palmer said he notices many visitors coming to Silverton on their way to Silver Falls State Park and the

Oregon Garden, or simply passing through.

"Not only are we tourist destination, but we sit at the convergence of state and county highways so there's a lot of traffic that takes a toll on our roads," he said.

The fuel tax's proposal in Silverton next month is the first step in a long process. If it's approved by the council, the city is then required to publish a notice "allowing for a challenge" from the public before it's added to the November ballot, said City Manager Christy Wurster.

"Councilors have been looking for ways to make the necessary improvements to our streets without placing all of the burden on our local residents," she said. "We want to be able to maintain a quality of roads that our residents deserve."

OBITUARIES

Virginia Ann Ascherl



Dec. 15, 1932 — May 9, 2017

Virginia Ascherl, 84, died May 9 with her

family at her home in Sublimity. She was born in Glen Ullin, North Dakota, and moved to the Mt. Angel/Silverton area when she was 14.

Virginia married George Ascherl on Oct. 17, 1959, in Mt. Angel, and they were married 58 years. She enjoyed doing arts and crafts and having fun with family and friends.

Virginia is survived by her husband George of Sublimity; children Amy Ascherl and Dawn Nelson of Elmira, Richard Ascherl of Lincoln City and Tom Ascherl of Seattle, Washington; brothers Ted (Mary) Geck of Stayton and Larry (Linda) Geck of Jefferson; sisters Eunice (Larry) Beyer of Molalla, Vangie (Fred) Ripp of Sublimity, Maxine (Walt) Beyer of Salem and Betty Young of Stayton; three grandchildren; and two grand dogs.

A celebration of life will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 21, 2017, at Maurice's Bistro at Marian Estates in Sublimity. All are welcome to celebrate the life of this amazing lady.

Serving the family, North Santiam Funeral Service, Stayton.

Betty Gutierrez

Jan. 11, 1937 — May 3, 2017
Betty Gutierrez, 80, passed away in Salem. She was born on Jan. 11, 1937, to Jesse and Dolores Heard in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was one of three children.

Betty married Jose Gutierrez in 1952. Together they had seven children. They moved to California for five years before moving to the Willamette Valley to farm. They settled in the Silverton/ Mt. Angel area.

Betty was an amazing homemaker that loved to shop and enjoyed nature's beauty. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Betty will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Betty is survived by her children: Carlos Gutierrez of Scio, Robert Gutierrez of Aumsville, Bertha (George) Ortiz of Silverton, Lucy Garza of Silverton, Dolores Gutierrez of Waldport, Martha Arndt of Mill City and Rebecca Gutierrez of Salem; 18 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; and her brother, Lefas Santillanes, of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A private family service will take place at a later date at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Mt. Angel.

Assisting the family with arrangement is Unger Funeral Chapel, Mt. Angel.

Lawsuit filed vs. Corrections Dept.

WHITNEY M WOODWORTH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Inmates at four Oregon prisons were fed "green meat and moldy, spoiled food" and bait fish marked "not for human consumption," according to a class action lawsuit filed against Oregon Department of Corrections officials.

The complaint, which was filed May 9 in U.S. District Court in Portland, listed current and former inmates as plaintiffs. It alleges the unsafe, unsanitary and neglectful behavior took place in the kitchens of the Oregon State Penitentiary, Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Two Rivers Correctional Institution and Columbia River Correction Institution.

Combined, the four prisons house about 6,000 inmates — almost 40 percent of the state's prison population.

Oregon Department

of Corrections spokeswoman Betty Bernt said it is the department's policy to not comment on matters of pending litigation.

The inmates named in the complaint said they were given two options: Eat the "putrid food" or starve.

One former inmate, Bridgette Lewis, said she witnessed spoiled food being prepared and served to her fellow inmates when she worked in Coffee Creek's kitchen. She handled boxes of bait fish marked "not fit for human consumption" and watched as the fish was ground up and served on a plate that reeked and tasted horrible, according to the complaint.

When she complained to prison officials, she was allegedly ordered to keep serving the substandard food.

Inmates also reported seeing green and gray spotted meats, sour milk, wilted lettuce, moldy

bread and rotten chicken.

After eating, the inmates reported regularly feeling nausea, pain and intestinal distress.

The complaint also alleges that before state health inspections, officials would direct inmate workers to remove the unfit and spoiled food and put it in mobile refrigerator trucks. After the inspection, they were allegedly ordered to return the food back to the kitchen.

The complaint said the actions of the named defendants, which includes DOC Director Colette Peters, acting deputy director Brian Belleque and OSP superintendent Brandon Kelly, were outrageous, showed deliberate indifference and allowed ongoing, long-term pain, suffering, likely illness and malnutrition.

By providing spoiled and substandard food to inmates, officials treated them as "though they

were farm animals," according to the complaint.

The lawsuit alleges these prison conditions violated inmates' constitutional rights.

The former inmates, represented by Portland lawyer Leonard Berman, are seeking damages.

For questions, comments and news tips, email reporter Whitney Woodworth at wmwoodworth@statesmanjournal.com, call 503-399-6884 or follow on Twitter @wmwoodworth.

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