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HOPS SHAPED NEW ERA

How Oregon hops changed the beer that the world drinks today

BROOKE JACKSON-GLIDDEN
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Gayle Goschie, a third-generation hop farmer, walks through tall vines on her farm outside Silverton and shakes one of the vines, the way her father and grandfather did before her.

She can hear it: a hollow rattle; one she grew up hearing. She picks a small, green heart-shaped cone off the vine, snug between her pointer finger and thumb, and rips it apart.

They're ripe, Goschie thinks -- she'll know for sure after she dries a few -- but she's pretty sure.

The rattle of cones is the starting bell, marking the beginning of hops harvest: the picking and drying of hops, six days a week, 24 hours a day.

Soon, local brewers will rush to Goschie Farms for fresh hops, and dried hops will ship across the country. Goschie's hops, for example, will hit batches of brews in Michigan, Colorado, California, at local breweries in Portland, Bend, and down the street at Silver Falls Brewery.

Hops are crucial to beer as a bittering agent, and the ones grown in Oregon steep in brews everywhere from Japan to Mexico. We taste them constantly, in our IPAs and our cans of Coors.

But Oregon's biggest impact on beer has more to do with a specific hop: How it was created by a few people in Corvallis, and how it changed the way we brew and drink beer.

That hop is the Cascade, and contemporary craft beer would not exist without it.

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Gayle Goschie, a third-generation hop grower, admires the ripening hops on her farm in Silverton. PHOTO BY BROOKE JACKSON-GLIDDEN / STATESMAN JOURNAL



Councilor Plummer to lead transportation committee

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

How does a forward-thinking little town best serve its residents while planning for the future? Sometimes, by committee.

In Silverton, four committees research and recommend action to the City Council regarding the environment, budget, tourism and urban renewal.

Now there's a fifth, the Transportation Advisory Committee, led by Councilor Matt Plummer, with five seats available to volunteers who want to improve Silverton's transportation network.

It's largely seen as a replacement and expansion of the now-defunct Silverton Bike Alliance. Plummer said he hopes to focus on making Silverton more bike and pedestrian friendly, not necessarily on projects for motor vehicles.

"If you focus on cars in your transportation efforts, that's what you get," he said. "If you focus on the people, that's what you get ... I just want to make sure our emphasis is on people, not cars."

Two state-funded projects will be coming to Silverton in the near future, one a \$750,000 pedestrian-safety upgrade at the intersection of Highway 214 and Jefferson Street to the north, and the other a bike lane/side-walk addition along Water Street to the south.

The state's legislature's \$5.3 billion transportation package, passed in July, named the Jefferson Street project as a priority in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

"One of Silverton's main goals is connecting all our neighborhoods to schools and the downtown area," Plummer said. "The South Water project is looking at

Pioneer Village, and the Jefferson crossing is looking at the Webb Lake area."

Silverton's Transportation Advisory Committee can affect these and other projects by recommending changes and/or updates to the city's Transportation Systems Plan, Plummer said.



Plummer

In another part of town, he's interested in asking the committee to explore the bike path options between Coolidge-McClaine Park and the neighborhoods clustered around Eureka Avenue.

The Lottis Living Trust's May gifting to the city of a hillside parcel of property upstream from the park now puts 5 acres, zoned "public," at taxpayers' disposal. Now Plummer is curious whether it could be used for a switchback path for bikes and pedestrians.

The land is currently vacant, said Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu.

"This new committee will take a logical, thoughtful approach to our transportation needs," Plummer said. "At the end of a year, I'd like to have a good working list of projects that we've identified as priorities for the city."

Anyone interested in serving on the Transportation Advisory Committee can log on to www.silverton.or.us, where applications will soon be available.

Mayor Kyle Palmer will do application review and appointments. By ordinance, Public Works Director Chris Saxe will join Councilor Plummer on the committee, bringing its total membership to seven.

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To protect cabins, firefighters cut forest trail

ZACH URNESS
STATESMAN JOURNAL

For some, it was the obvious step to safeguard a community from wildfire.

To others, it was an unnecessary encroachment that marred a pathway through virgin forest.

The result, all agree, is ugly. A trail that once traveled through never-before-logged forest is now home to stumps from an effort designed to stop flames from spreading.

The question is whether cutting trees and snags along two miles of the Emerald Forest Trail system, to protect the Breitenbush area from wildfire, was necessary.

Forest Service and Breitenbush Hot Springs officials say yes, while other members of the community disagree.

"It was one of the best intact ancient forest hiking trails in Oregon," said Michael Donnelly, who helped build the trail in the 1980s. "This was a great loss."

The Breitenbush Community, which includes the hot springs resort and 72 privately owned cabins, has been threatened by multiple fires this summer.

Smoke got so bad the hot springs closed temporarily and laid off around 100 employees.

The biggest fire in the area is Whitewater, at more than 10,000 acres. But the one that's brought the greatest threat to Breitenbush has been the Little Devil

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Rick Lewis to run for District 18 seat

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

State Rep. Rick Lewis (R-Silverton) officially announced that he has filed to run for the House District 18 seat.

Lewis was appointed to the seat in February after it was vacated by Vic Gilliam due to health concerns. Lewis said recently that he accepted the appointment with the intention to run for the seat.

"Serving the people of House District 18 this year has been an honor," Lewis said. "Being appointed during the 2017 Legislative Session gave me an opportunity to learn a great deal in a short amount of time."

"I jumped in on day one to learn the issues and problems our district and state face," he added. "I am eager to continue working hard for policies that best serve my constituents in House District 18 and the people of Oregon."

Lewis, who has served as mayor of Silverton and the city's chief of police, said he's proud of the work he accomplished in his first legislative session. He was the chief sponsor of his first legislative session. He was the chief sponsor of House Bill 3427, a bill signed into law by the Governor, that creates greater safety measures for dams in the state that are considered "high-hazard."

Lewis is a strong advocate for the passage of the 5.3-

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Part 4 of a 5 Part Series

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*National Assn. of Realtors

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