

Brewing

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a year until it closed for good.

But he grew the soda operation to include root beer, hazelnut cream, marionberry and orange cream flavors.

“I saw a chance here and did my due diligence and research and a ... lot of little experiments in that first tank trying to get it all right,” Oien said.

The operation’s biggest moment came in 2012 when it was awarded the silver medal in the National Open Root Beer Competition.

But the entire time the brewery has been in operation he’s been doing the majority of distribution – he picked up some distribution from Corvallis-based Point Blank Distribution a few years ago.

And he’s been the company’s main employee with help from friends and family members as needed.

“It’s because of who he is,” said Nehemiah Huffman, one of many friends who have worked for him at the brewery. “He’s helping people, so in turn people like to help him.”

Oien was developing a hard root beer and had created a recipe, but decided the application process through the Oregon Liquor Control Commission was

going to take too long to make it practical.

“By the time they get done with that I’m going to be 74 years old,” Oien said. “I got better things I’m going to be doing, but man, let me tell you, it’s good stuff.”

There are still a few tap houses that have soda from Mt. Angel Brewing Company on tap, but once they run out, there will be no more product.

Oien said he plans to use up the remainder of the inventory, beyond what it will take to fill the remaining orders, to bottle some soda to give to friends.

Oien will continue to work 25 to 30 hours each week as a manager at Wallery’s Premium Pizza, where he has been employed the past 10 years.

His brother, Hal, sold the building years ago and it was transformed into the Mt. Angel Events Center. But the Mt. Angel Brewing Company has continued to occupy a room on the south side of the building.

Oien admits the soda business never made a lot of money because he plowed most of the profits back into the product.

“There’s not many 72-year-old guys who can take a 166-pound keg and throw it in a truck,” Oien said. “It’s helped me with my other stuff to keep me healthy.”

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Social

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second-grade classroom at Silver Crest School; she wrote a letter to the board, recommending its purchase.

“My students loved it,” she said. “They looked forward to our class meetings, and I noticed them using the language structures that we had learned in the lessons later in the day when they were mediating their own issues with their friends at recess.

Another committee member, Dawn Roth, who teaches middle schoolers at Pratum School, also gave the curriculum a favorable review. She’s been running similar meetings with her classes for years, but they’re needed now more than ever because,

“There is a change in kids; there are elevated levels of stress and anxiety,”

she said.

“The premise is setting up your classroom so that your kids feel they have a voice in problem-solving,” she added. “It’s what I’m already going in my classroom, just with a little more structure ... it helps you set your class norms and teaches engagement strategies.”

The five outcomes the curriculum addresses are: self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making and relationship skills. The State of Oregon doesn’t require public schools to teach to separate SEL standards, but it has embedded some requirements into its counseling guidelines, Hannan said.

“Research says that those five skills will determine your success in a classroom, a school system, a job, a relationship – life,” she said. “We love them for school and teachers because they are skills, not beliefs or values or opinions.”

Home

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happened upon the organization’s office. She filled out an application and was chosen by the organization's board.

“Kim and Shawn stood out to all of us because she’s just such a hard worker and a great mom,” said Wendy Patton, executive director for North Willamette Valley Habitat For Humanity.

“The need was there, and the immediate need was there.”

Betker was required to put 250 hours of “sweat equity” into the build of the house.

She performed tasks such as sanding walls, flooring, cutting out windows, painting and roofing.

“I tried to be a part of every little thing at least once,” Betker said.

When she was in the worst of her addiction, she would perform tasks like putting in flooring and fixing what broke in apartments because she had free time, and those self-taught skills came in handy.

For the first time in his life, Quamme is going to have his own bedroom.

“I have a space where I can sometimes watch cartoons in my underwear,” Quamme said. “No one will judge me.”

Betker said her son doesn’t seem excited about the move because he will be leaving friends behind.

But he also will have freedom.

“That’s just so important for a kid’s development and just feeling like they have their own space,” Patton said. “I think, too, for him, I think he’ll find some independence from her.

“I think, too, they’re going to have a little adjustment getting used to the space.”

Patton said families who are chosen for a Habitat For Humanity project repay the organization the cost of the property and building materials with a program that essentially is a no-interest mortgage.

She said that money goes to fund building houses for the next family.

Betker said she is anxious to volunteer in the future with Habitat For because she sees how life-changing the organization has been for her.

“What this house means to me is stability, a future for my family,” Betker said. “It’s really kind of overwhelming to think that you told me 10 years ago I’d be owning a house, I would have told you you’re crazy.

“It means a whole lot that people came together and built us a home.”

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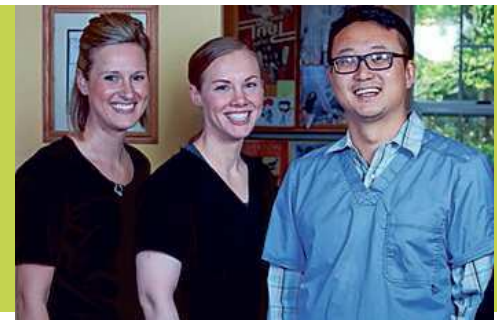
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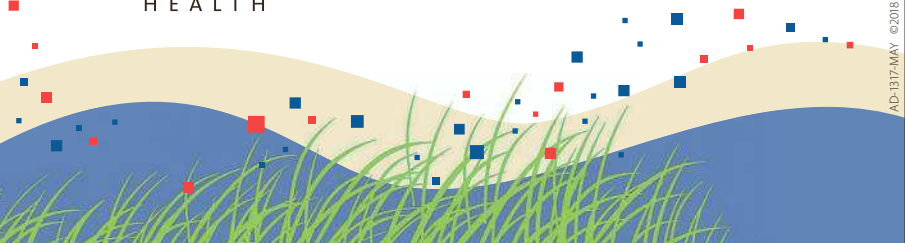
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