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Ratchet Brewing Silverton opens new digs

Emily Teel
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's not a full opening, and especially not a grand one, but this weekend Ratchet Brewery co-owners Dan Miletta and William Mary will quietly welcome the first guests to their new space in Silverton.

Coinciding with the nearby Mt. Angel's annual Oktoberfest weekend, they're inviting visitors in for a preview of the brewery.

Ratchet Brewery Silverton is located at 990 North First Street in the space that, for eight years, was home to Seven Brides Brewing.

From 3 until 9 p.m. Thursday, September 12 through Sunday, September 15, visitors can check out the new-

ly revamped space.

For the time being, Ratchet Brewery Silverton will be closed on Mondays. Operating hours for the coming weeks have not been set.

To drink

Adding the Silverton space represents a tremendous jump in brewing capacity from a half-barrel system in Salem brewing 15 gallons of beer at a time, to a 15-barrel system brewing 400-plus gallons at a time. Miletta and Mary are brewing in the new space, but their 20-tap bar is still in need of finishing touches.

During this weekend's preview they'll be pouring

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Ratchet Brewery in Silverton on Sep. 12, 2019. The brewery is opening with a preview this weekend. ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

MOUNT ANGEL OKTOBERFEST



Richard Moles, 82, of Silverton, and a self-described strolling minstrel, plays his accordion during Oktoberfest in Mt. Angel on Sep. 12, 2019. The 54th Annual Mount Angel Oktoberfest took over the town last week, drawing more than 300,000 visitors. The festival continues through Sunday. **More photos inside on page 4A.** ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Funeral home oversight falling short in Oregon

Ben Botkin
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oregon mortuaries and crematories are supposed to be inspected by state regulators at least every two years.

State law requires it. But Oregon doesn't come close.

Oregon has nearly 200 mortuaries, 66 crematoriums and more than 400 operating cemeteries. But only about 10 percent of licensed facilities were inspected in 2018, state data show.

Regulating the funeral home and cemetery industry falls to The Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board, a state agency.

Funeral homes in Oregon rarely attract publicity for shoddy operations. Still, records of facilities that have faced fines and other sanctions from the state show that planning and executing a loved one's funeral and burial carries potential pitfalls.

One inspector found unsanitary equipment in the preparation room for bodies. In another instance, a crematory accidentally switched the cremains of two people. One family member found out months later after opening the urn and finding a bag of ashes labeled with a different name.

The most common violations come from consumer complaints and often deal with issues like fees, the services provided and whether the agreement was fulfilled. Another common complaint is over delays in headstone installation at cemeteries.

There are few state public records available for Oregonians to gauge the quality of a funeral home's services if it hasn't faced a formal board action for violations.

Consumers can't get copies of complaints filed with the board.

The public also is not allowed to view results of inspections because of a decades-old state law. The public is only privy to the details of inspections disclosed in public board actions like fines or other sanctions for violations.

Not all shortcomings become public.

The board reviews summary inspection reports in closed-door sessions. And a funeral home is allowed to take voluntary correction action to fix any violations, which essentially keeps them confidential.

So unlike other state-inspected operations, such as restaurants, nursing homes and school cafeterias, there are no publicly available records showing how

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Supreme Court case questions countless convictions

Whitney Woodworth
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A case soon to be argued in the U.S. Supreme Court dealing with a man convicted of murder in Louisiana may seem far removed from Oregon.

But the case, which takes a 47-year-old ruling involving a Salem man to task, could "invalidate convictions in hundreds if not thousands of cases," in Oregon and Louisiana, according to a brief filed by the Oregon Department of Justice to the Supreme Court.

In the case at hand, *Ramos v. Louisiana*, Evangelisto Ramos, an oil rig worker, was convicted by a non-unanimous jury of stabbing a woman to death in 2014 and stuffing her body in a garbage can. After the jury convicted him in a 10-2 split, Ramos was sentenced to life in prison.

Split verdicts of 10-to-2 and 11-to-1 are allowed in Oregon on all felony cases except for murders and aggravated murders.

Before Louisiana voters opted to end its non-unanimous system in 2018, defendants there could be convicted of murder by split juries.

Ramos appealed his conviction in Louisiana to no avail, but in March, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to consider the constitutionality of his non-unanimous conviction.

The court is scheduled hear arguments on the case on Oct. 7 and determine whether it should overrule *Apodaca v. Oregon* and hold that the sixth amendment of the constitution guarantees a state criminal defendant the right to a unanimous jury verdict.

Salem man takes case to Supreme Court

Apodaca v. Oregon refers to Robert Apodaca and two other Oregon men convicted of felonies whose cases went before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1972.

Apodaca, then 23, of Salem, was convicted by a

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A visitor brings flowers to City View Cemetery last Thursday. PHOTOS BY KELLY JORDAN/STATESMAN JOURNAL



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