

Traeger

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that Pit Boss posted a photo of a leftover turkey sandwich.

"Dansons admits it has posted images of turkey sandwiches on social media," the company said in its response.

The original suit alleges Traeger Grills sent a cease and desist letter Sept. 21, 2018 and Dansons counsel responded by requesting a telephone call to discuss the matter. Dansons alleges Traeger Grills did not respond to multiple attempts to set up such a meeting.

"In reliance on Traeger Grills' silence, Dansons continued to use Joe and Brian Traeger's consulting services," the response states.

In more recent marketing, Dansons is including the disclaimer, "Joe and Brian Traeger along with Dansons does not endorse, support, or market with Traeger Pellet Grills, LLC," when they appear in marketing materials.

Traeger Barn dispute

One of Traeger Grills' biggest points of contention is Dansons' use of the Traeger Barn in Mt. Angel in publicity for its announcement when it hired Joe and Brian Traeger, both of whom still live in Mt. Angel.

The Traeger Barn, where Traeger developed the first pellet grill and grew his fledgling company, is still owned by the Mt. Angel Abbey, according to court documents, and located next to Benedictine Brewery on Humpert Lane in Mt. Angel. The lease on the property is now held by Dansons.

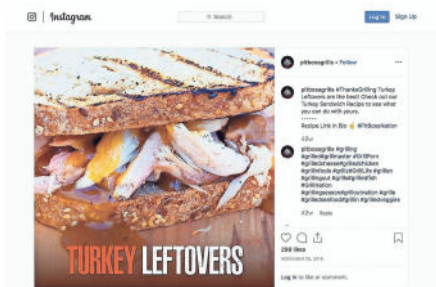
The response says approximately \$200,000 was recently spent to upgrade the barn and \$50,000 was spent in preparation and promotion for a Sept. 14 event in conjunction with the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest.

But the distinctive Traeger sign on the front of the barn was removed in August, according to the response.

Silverton man also sued

As part of the Arizona lawsuit, Traeger Grills is suing former employee George Koster alleging he stole trade secrets when he left the employ of the company in 2015, went to work for Dansons and developed a vertical smoker similar to one he helped develop while employed by Traeger.

According to his LinkedIn page, Koster has been the vice president of customer service for Dansons brand Louisiana Grills since June 2017.



This screen capture from the Pit Boss Grills Instagram account shows the turkey sandwich Dansons admits it posted to social media after Traeger Grills posted a picture of a turkey sandwich. STATESMAN JOURNAL



The TRAEGER name has been removed from the front of the Traeger barn, which is in the middle of a lawsuit over copyright infringement. BILL POEHLER | STATESMAN JOURNAL

Koster, who lives in Silverton, was one of Traeger Grills' longest serving employees, working for the company from 1983 to 2016, according to his LinkedIn page, when the company shuttered its Oregon operations and moved those functions to Utah.

According to the suit, Koster was involved in the design of a new vertical smoker for Traeger Grills called the "Whiskey Still," a vertical smoker design, but he denies that in the answer.

In a counterclaim, Dansons alleges Traeger Grills used the phrase "Be The Next Pit Boss" in advertising. Dansons has used the Pit Boss brand since 2012 and has had a trademark on the name since 2015.

Attorneys for Joe, Brian and Mark have not filed an answer to Traeger Grills' suit in district court in Florida, but a schedule has been set for the case in that jurisdiction.

The jury trial, anticipated to last 10 days, is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Aug. 3, 2020 in Tampa, Florida.

A schedule for the requested jury trial in Arizona has not been entered into the court record.

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Appeal Tribune

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The Covanta Marion facility in Brooks. DAVID DAVIS AND KELLY JORDAN/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Covanta

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ing the meeting.

If the incinerator closed, garbage haulers in the county would take waste to Coffin Butte Landfill north of Corvallis.

The contract extension will allow the facility to continue operating while Covanta tries to pass a similar bill during the February 2020 legislative session.

Cameron expressed frustration with the Legislature just before the vote.

"We run the best program in the state. Whoever beats us cheats, I know that," he said. "This state needs to recognize what we do."

"The whackos that are running things over there environmentally

don't recognize what is good for the state on an environmental basis," Cameron said. "It's just totally insane that they don't figure it out."

The incinerator's future has been a hot topic in the community.

Opponents say sending trash to the landfill would be cheaper and create fewer greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change. They also say the state should require more testing for pollutants near the facility.

Cameron dismissed those concerns. "We'll get an email saying we're killing people or hurting people, or whatever," he said. "And there's no evidence anywhere of any of that."

Contact the reporter at tloew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at [Twitter.com/Traey_Loew](https://twitter.com/Traey_Loew)



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Savings

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ment;

- Be listed as the beneficiary of the account;

- Indicate eligibility for the matching scholarship during the application process.

The match will only serve undergraduates at the College of Liberal Arts, beginning with students starting in the fall of 2020.

The match cannot retroactively apply to students already enrolled, officials said, but it will include those enrolling in one of the university's dual-degree programs with its business or law school.

Depending on the success and popularity of the program, university officials said they may consider later expanding it to graduate students.

J.R. Tarabocchia with the university's marketing department said they hope more Oregon colleges and universities form their own partnerships with the state to encourage families to save and help their money go further.

The money matched by Willamette is not coming from a set fund, Tarabocchia explained. Instead, he said to think of it as more of a discount.

Whatever families are able to save for the student, up to \$5,000 a semester for eight semesters, will be matched and subtracted from the individual student's total.

"The program wasn't designed for a specific economic class; it was designed for all Oregonians," Tarabocchia said. "No matter (their) income, we want them to save."

Expanding the program

According to state officials, about

"When more kids are able to meet their educational goals with less student loan debt, that's good for everyone."

Tobias Read, State Treasurer

113,000 individual students have the accounts that would make them eligible to apply. Of those, about 9,000 are currently between the ages of 17 and 18, meaning they are likely to start applying for colleges soon.

It's not known how many will apply to Willamette, or how many will fill out the specific form to receive the match. Nonetheless, university officials are optimistic the number of applicants will grow in time.

And with the Oregon Colleges Savings Plan starting accounts for babies and young children so families can begin saving sooner, even more may be eligible in the future.

"As a university, we care about student debt," Tarabocchia said. "Anything we can do to help that — this crisis happening throughout our country — is a good thing."

For more information, or to apply for the Willamette Savings Match, go to willamette.edu/offices/finaid/willamette-savings-match/ or call 503-370-6273.

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