

OREGON

Alternative group forms to promote Oregon wine industry

■ Group put together by businesses unhappy with Oregon Wine Association

The Associated Press

EUGENE — Wine businesses unhappy with the Oregon Wine Association have created a second trade group.

The new coalition of Oregon wine industry stakeholders on Friday announced they had formed the Oregon Wine Council, the Eugene Register-Guard reported.

Members earlier this year opposed wine legislation they viewed as “anti-competitive.” The new group said it represents the interests of the entire state.

“We formed the OWC because a majority of large, taxpaying wine growers as well as many of small producers around the state don’t have a say in how their tax money is spent,” said Sam Tannahill, OWC board member and founder of A to Z Wineworks in Newberg, in a press release. “We haven’t been represented. Our goal with the OWC is to change that.”

Members of the older organization said it’s already a statewide organization for growers and producers.

“The argument that somehow

the OWA is a group of selfish people from one area of the state is patently false,” said board member Justin King, the national sales manager for King Estate Winery in Eugene. “We have reps from all over the state, from southern Oregon, more than a few, in fact.”

The southern Oregon wine industry has a different business profile than the Willamette Valley, King said. The valley has a large mix of wineries and wine grape growers. In southern Oregon, there are many more vineyards

than wineries, he said, and growers want to be able to sell their grapes widely.

A bill in the Legislature contributed to the split. The measure sought to more strictly enforce standards for labeling wines as from a certain region.

Standards say a certain percentage of grapes have to come from a region referenced on a label. For example, an in- or out-of-state winery buying some grapes from southern Oregon regions, but labeling its wines from the Willamette Valley AVA, could include no more than 5% of that southern Oregon fruit in its wine.

The standards already exist but enforcement by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission would have been ramped up the legislation, which did not pass.

The measure created divisions with Oregon regions that primarily sell grapes.

The bill was sponsored by the OWA and those who disagreed said the group did not take their interests into account.

Both groups said they seek to unify the Oregon wine industry.

King said the wine association has reached out to the new group with the intent of working together.

Baker City solar farm nears completion

By Samantha O’Conner
EO Media Group

Construction is nearing completion on Baker County’s first two solar power farms, the larger of which is near Sutton Creek Road about six miles southeast of Baker City.

That array of about 50,000 panels is about one mile east of the landfill and about 7/10th of a mile south of Interstate 84.

Enerparc Solar Projects LLC of Oakland, California, is building that solar farm as well as a second project near Unity, in southern Baker County.

Construction manager Douglas Stevens said work on the Sutton Creek project started Aug. 30, and company officials expect the farm to be online around Dec. 15. “This one is fast-paced,” Stevens said.

Currently, workers are driving in piles — the metal bars that will hold the solar panels. The piles have been driven a minimum of six feet



S. John Collins/EO Media Group

Workers are building a 15-megawatt solar power farm near Baker City.

into the ground.

Stevens said he hopes to have the 50,000 panels installed within two weeks. The panels are on motorized tracks that shift the panels as the sun moves, to maximize power production.

The Sutton Creek project will cost an estimated \$2.65 million, according to a permit

issued by the Baker City-County Building Department.

The company paid almost \$27,000 in permit fees.

The solar array will produce 15 megawatts of power. That’s enough to power approximately 3,000 homes.

The Unity project, which should be finished soon and

go online in mid-November, will produce about 2.75 megawatts.

Stevens said about 35 people are working on the Sutton Creek solar farm, including employees from contractor Vale Electric Inc.

Crews are also finishing a substation near Interstate 84 that will connect the solar farm to Idaho Power Company’s transmission line.

Work on the substation started in early July, according to Idaho Power, which is building the substation.

Both the solar farm and the substation are on property owned by Hat Brand Land & Livestock LLC of Baker City.

Brent Gyllenberg is Hat Brand’s manager.

Enerparc applied in March for a permit to divide Hat Brand’s parcel into two parts. The one where the solar panels are being installed is 549.6 acres, and the site for the substation is slightly larger than half an acre.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Brianna Wells, 29, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of violation of a no contact order.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident at K Avenue and Cedar Street on Friday. The accident was reported at 10:30 a.m.

Arrested: Cody Tanner Colton, 23, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging supplying

contraband.

Arrested: LaTrisha Maureen Williams, 28, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging first-degree theft, second-degree theft and fraudulent use of a credit card.

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Arrested: Joshua Taylor Gunshore, 22, unknown address, was arrested on a parole and probation detainer.

Arrested: Wesley Burgess, 27,

La Grande, was arrested on a parole and probation detainer connected to an original charge of a probation violation.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident Saturday on Hwy 203. The accident was reported 12:32 a.m.

Arrested: Amber Darlene Garcia, 37, unknown address, was arrested by the Klamath County Sheriff’s Office on a Union County warrant suspending post-prison supervision. The warrant was connected to an original charge of unlawful

delivery of methamphetamine.

OREGON STATE POLICE

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident on Highway 22 in the Elgin area Saturday. The accident was reported at 9:50 a.m.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters responded to six calls for medical assistance on Sunday, five on Saturday and eight on Friday.

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Health Speaker Series features EOU professor

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University and the Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center invite EOU students, high school students and community members to the first Health Speaker Series presentation of the season. On Oct. 30, the presenter will be EOU’s own Dr. Kyle Pfaffenbach. Come to Huber Auditorium (Badgley Hall, Room 102) to hear his story and learn about career opportunities in health and human performance. The free talk begins at 5 p.m. Contact Britany Hargrove at 541-962-3422 or bharrove@neoahc.org with any questions.

Learn about parent-child interaction therapy

ELGIN — An informational open house explaining parent-child interaction therapy will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 30 at Stella Mayfield Elementary School, 1111 Division St., Elgin. PIT is available to caregivers with children age 2-6 who have behav-

ioral issues. The service is provided by Center for Human Development. The open house will include light refreshments. For more information, call CHD at 541-962-8800.

Turkey shoot set for Sunday

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club’s annual turkey shoot will be held Nov. 3 at the Highway 244 River Range. Registration opens at 9 a.m. and shooting begins at 10 a.m. Shooters may use any center-fire hunting rifles or muzzle-loading rifles, or any center-fire or muzzle-loading pistol with iron sights. Cost is \$20. Contact Darrel Plank at 541-910-4132 for more information. The public is invited, and harassment is encouraged, according to the organizers.

‘Essentials Drive’ gathers non-food items

LA GRANDE — American Family Insurance is hosting an “Essentials Drive” to collect non-food items to be

distributed to those in need this winter. The community is encouraged to drop off any of the below items at American Family Insurance, 109 Depot St., La Grande, through Dec. 15. Call 541-663-1919 for more information.

Paper products: toilet paper, paper towels, tissues.

Hygiene products: bar soap, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, razors, shaving cream, feminine products, diapers, combs and brushes, lip balm.

Cleaning products: dish soap, laundry soap, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, baby and body wipes.

Sleeping items (new or used): blankets (easily washed, not comforters), sleeping bags, single fitted or top sheets, pillows, pillow cases.

Misc. (new or used): small tarps, backpacks or zippered bags, rain gear, waterproof ponchos, socks (especially needed), reusable water bottles, phone chargers or battery packs, tents and tent stakes, camping gear of any type, small camping cookware, hand warmers, emergency blankets.

TEN DEPOT STREET

Mon-Fri Blue Plate \$12:
Roast Pork with mashed potatoes, gravy and vegetables
Annual Halloween Party and Costume Contest with the **Wasteland Kings**
Thursday, October 31st

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OBITUARIES

Virginia ‘Tobie’ (Thompson) Williams

Elgin

1938-2019

Virginia “Tobie” Williams, 81, of Elgin, died Oct. 23 at Grande Ronde Hospital. A



Casual dress is preferred by the family.

Known as Tobie, she was born March 15, 1938, in La Grande, to Emmett and Eva Mae (Rollins) Thompson. She lived on Cricket Flat as a child and resided in Elgin the rest of her life. She attended Elgin High School. Tobie married Chuck Williams on July 3, 1956.

Tobie’s interests included playing guitar, piano and organ. She enjoyed hunting and fishing. She especially enjoyed watching school sporting events and traveling to her grandchildren’s and many school-aged kids’ sporting events all around the Northwest.

Tobie loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The last few years in her home, she particularly appreciated time sitting on her patio in her favorite swing.

Surviving relatives include her sons and daughters-in-law, Brent and Leone Williams of Elgin and Keith and Stephanie Williams of Island City; daughters and sons-in-law, Kelly and Glen Griffith of Ione and Kanda and Steve Gresham of Elgin; brother and sister-in-law, Larry and Betty Thompson of Elgin; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Chuck; parents, Emmett and Eva Thompson; and sisters, Peggy Kennedy, Dixie Stanton and Bobbie Horn.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Elgin Stampeders.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Thomas G. Hiatt

La Grande

Thomas G. Hiatt, 83, of La Grande, died Oct. 25 at Grande Ronde Hospital. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Tyler J. Kahut

La Grande

Tyler J. Kahut, 25, of La Grande, died Oct. 24 at his residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Donald W. Morris

Formerly of Baker City

Donald William Morris, 60, of St. Helens, died Oct. 2. A service will be held at a later time. Donald was born and raised in Baker City and has family in La Grande. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

Sponsored by
LOVELAND
FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

Nov. 2 Virginia ‘Tobie’ Williams:

2 p.m., celebration of life, Elgin Stampede Hall; casual dress preferred.

Nov. 12 Phillip Mendiguren:

2 p.m., Rosary and Mass of Christian Burial, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, La Grande.

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