

Treatment and examinations at the mobile clinic are free

HEALTH from Page 1

It's fair to say Garside's work is widely admired within the wine and medical professions. One vineyard owner described her as "the rock of the whole place."

Garside said the work is rewarding. Routine blood pressure and cholesterol checks provide early warning of hypertension, cardiovascular problems and diabetes. Flu shots and tetanus vaccinations aid people who routinely work outdoors and handle sharp tools, wire and the soil.

Some workers migrate to jobs depending on what is in season, others juggle two or three jobs, both of which complicate the time and expense of traditional doctor appointments. Some put off seeking help with medical problems, which can become worse with lack of intervention. For others, hospital emergency rooms, open all hours, become the treatment option for even minor injuries or illnesses.

When she was asked to advise and then take over ¡Salud! in 1998, Garside insisted the service had to be holistic to be effective.

"For some workers, this is it," Garside said of ¡Salud! "Bringing the services to them fills the gap on that."

Treatment and examinations at the mobile clinic are free. If the patient is referred to a partnering clinic or agency for further care, a stipend is paid to the provider by ¡Salud! on behalf of the patient and the patient is responsible for the balance. Those treated at a facility designated as a federally qualified health center can pay on a sliding fee scale based on income.

¡Salud! partners with Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore., which sends a motorhome to accompany the Tuality Healthcare van. University students and faculty provide vision, dental and physical therapy exams and treatment. Tuality pays Pacific a stipend for its help; the students gain practical experience as they prepare for medical careers.



Andrea Lara Silva shares a laugh with a vineyard worker during a mobile medical clinic stop at Stoller Vineyards. Silva, who was a physician in Argentina, said the clinic experience of taking care directly to vineyard workers has opened her eyes to broader public health issues.

Other partners receiving stipends include community clinics and Medical Teams International.

"We collaborate with other agencies to bring services," Garside said. "We stretch that dollar until it's ready to snap."

Jose Reyna, a physical therapy professor at Pacific University, regularly accompanies the ¡Salud! van each summer. Vineyard workers often have lower back pain from stooping and lifting, and sore wrists and shoulders from repetitive picking or pruning motions are a common ailment. Reyna and his students provide massage and demonstrate stretching techniques.

The wine industry's financial support for the service shows it is invested in the people who do "very taxing labor," he said.

"Who else is going to harvest the grapes and tighten the lines?" Reyna asked.

Local solution

A 2014 survey by the National Center for Farmworker Health, based in Texas, showed poverty is "pervasive" among the nation's 3 million migrant and seasonal



Pacific University physical therapy professor Jose Reyna helps a White Rose Estate vineyard worker with stretching exercises to ease back pain. University students and faculty cooperate with Tuality Healthcare's ¡Salud! Services to give vineyard workers dental, vision and physical therapy checkups.

agricultural workers. About 30 percent of families reported total family income below national poverty guidelines.

"One of the biggest dichotomies with the agricultural worker population is that despite providing the hard work behind the foods that sustain us, they are a group that receives very few benefits and protections, and are frequently excluded from regulatory labor protections," the center concluded in a 2017 report.

Access to health care is a major problem, with workers hampered in some cases by language or cultural barriers,

a lack of money or transportation, low literacy and frequent mobility, according to the farmworker health center.

In the Pacific Northwest and California, agricultural workers had higher rates of asthma, hypertension and obesity than elsewhere. The Midwest had the highest prevalence of diabetes among farmworkers. Tuberculosis, hepatitis B and C, and sexually transmitted diseases are problems to varying degrees nationally.

¡Salud! grew from discussions in the early 1990s between a handful of vineyard

owners and Tuality Healthcare doctors who had become acquainted due to a shared interest in fine wine.

Nancy Ponzi, of the pioneering Ponzi Vineyards in Sherwood, Ore., said the idea of a fundraising event percolated and emerged as a commitment to "do something to help our workers, especially the field workers who are at the bottom of the heap in terms of having access to social programs."

"To my great surprise and pleasure," Ponzi said, "the wineries were all for that."

Ponzi said she originally presumed family planning would be one of the most important things the industry could offer Latino workers, but soon learned otherwise.

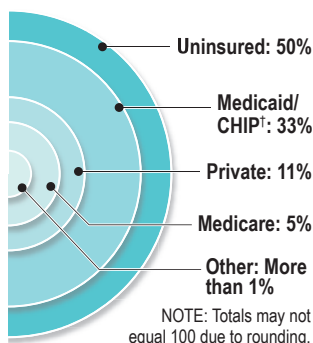
"This culture does not want to discuss family planning," she said. "What they need help with is health."

Then, as now, the vintners heard angry grumbles about health care costs, immigration policies and illegal "aliens" taking "American" jobs. Providing them health care was controversial.

"We were aware it was a political statement at the

Western migrant worker insurance coverage, 2014*

(Aged 18 years or older)



NOTE: Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding.

*Study includes 70 migrant health centers treating 574,687 patients.

†Childrens Health Insurance Program

Source: National Center for Farmworker Health

Alan Kenagal/Capital Press

time," Ponzi said. "We knew it was political, which was the reason I was happy to see the wine industry step up in spite of possible repercussions."

Convincing the cautious medical bureaucracy to go along also took some doing. Ponzi said she and the other advocates countered with, "Look, if we can give service to this population and keep them out of the emergency room, that's a big help to the hospital."

The industry's two-day ¡Salud! auction and black tie gala, held in November, provides about 90 percent of the funding needed to staff and pay for Tuality Healthcare's mobile clinic, the staff's case management work and partner agency stipends. A "Summertime ¡Salud!" fundraising dinner and tasting has been added as well. It's on July 27 this year at Stoller Family Estate, tickets are \$175 per person.

Ponzi said the program could be adopted by other ag sectors, such as the nursery industry, but so far it hasn't been replicated. She said the workforce deserves support.

"We respect what they do," she said. "This is not charity. It's an obligation to protect these workers and their families."

'Public land is not a political issue, it's an American issue'

ZINKE from Page 1

Any changes to the national monument would be based on science — specifically, which areas contain watersheds, plants, animals, soils and geological features that should be protected, Zinke said.

Zinke is also examining how the boundaries affect traditional economic uses, such as grazing and timber, as well as recreational uses, including hiking, snowmobiling and horseback riding.

A top concern is that managing the land as a wilderness increases the amount of fuels that can contribute to a catastrophic fire, he said.



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, left, and Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., speak Saturday about the borders of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument at Hyatt Lake, which abuts the monument.

"Burning habitat down is not acceptable," Zinke said.

Grazing is an important industry in the region, but it's

also a tool to keep those fuels in check, said Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., who accompanied Zinke on the two-day trip.

"Cattle can play a productive role," Walden said.

Legal precedents have made clear that presidents can modify national monuments — it has occurred 18 times in the past, Zinke said.

The law is less certain when it comes to an outright rescission of a monument, Zinke said.

Such a decision would have to be substantially justified by the science, he said.

National monuments have been controversial since the first one — the Devils Tower in Wyoming — was designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, Zinke said.

Such designations have

protected some of the greatest national treasures in the U.S., he said.

At the same time, Zinke said he's a strong advocate of multiple uses for public lands.

"Public land is not a political issue, it's an American issue," he said.

During a stop at Hyatt Lake, which abuts the monument, Zinke was greeted by supporters and opponents of the monument.

Robin Haptonstall said he didn't believe the expansion was legal because much of it encompassed "O&C Lands" that the federal government dedicated to timber production.

As a rancher, Haptonstall said he's also worried about the previously proposed Siskiyou Crest National Monument, which could affect his property.

"I'm trying to stop this disease," he said.

Bonnie Johnson, a monument neighbor who supports the expansion, said the Cascade-Siskiyou is a major tourist draw.

"It's like a cathedral," she said. "It's a spiritual experience."

The expansion is necessary to ensure the survival of native plants and animals, Johnson said.

"You can't confine them in a little island of protection," she said.

Seasonal harvest need peaks at about 100,000 workers in early September

LABOR from Page 1

"There are no more migrant seasonal workers. All of them are local, domestic people who prefer full-time jobs and are getting them in agriculture and construction," said Dan Fazio, director of WAFLA in Olympia, formerly known as the Washington Farm Labor Association.

Seasonal harvest need peaks at about 100,000 workers in early September in Washington and there appears to be around 50,000 local, domestic workers willing to do seasonal work, he said. About 15,000 workers will come via the H-2A visa foreign guestworker program, mostly operated in Washington by WAFLA.

"So we will be short big time during peak harvest and I'm hearing it won't be uncommon for growers to ask domestic workers to work seven days per week. They can ask domestic workers," Fazio said.

The H-2A program is expensive, requiring growers to provide housing and pay workers' transportation between the orchard and their

country of origin.

Processing of H-2A visas by federal agencies sped up this year under the Trump administration, which has been a big help, Fazio said.

Reggie Collins, general manager of Chelan Fruit Cooperative in Chelan, Wash., said he was short 400 job applicants for packing cherries, three weeks before start of cherry harvest in June. He advertised in other states and got all the help he needed. He also paid higher wages, \$12 per hour for day shift and \$13.38, the minimum wage for H-2A workers, for night shifts, plus overtime.

There's more of a shortage in orchard pickers but not to the point that crops aren't getting picked, said Tom Riggan, general manager of Chelan Fresh Marketing.

B.J. Thurlby, president of the Washington State Fruit Commission and Northwest Cherry Growers, said he hasn't heard of any labor issues.

"There will never be enough (pickers), but I haven't heard of a single grower who couldn't get picked," Thurlby said.

Doug Drescher, a small-scale cherry grower in Orondo, Wash., said picker turnover is heavy in his Rainier cherries. Pickers would rather pick red cherries because they are faster since they don't have to sort out culls or separate stems, he said.

He's had enough workers, he said, because he's one of the later orchards in the area due to mountain shade. Some 12 to 15 pickers per day were stopping at his place looking for work the first week of July but by the second week they had moved north, he said.

Drescher pays piece rate but said a neighboring grower with H-2A workers experienced slower production because he was paying the \$13.38 per hour H-2A minimum instead of a higher piece rate.

Not all growers have experienced reduced productivity when shifting from piece rate to hourly and no surveys have assessed it, Fazio said.

"We're seeing more H-2A workers used in cherries this year than last and the year before there were none," Fazio said, noting that's an

indicator of a shortage.

He knows of one grower, he said, who uses domestic workers on piece rate for red cherries and H-2A workers on hourly rate for Rainier because the fruit bruises easier and he wants slower picking for quality.

Many Washington tree fruit companies have turned increasingly to H-2A in recent years to meet their labor needs. Zirkle Fruit Co., Yakima, employs about 3,000 H-2A workers annually and Gebbers Farms, Brewster, hires 2,000.

Broetje Orchards, in Prescott, Auville Fruit, in Orondo, and Orchard View Farms, The Dalles, Ore., say they still make it solely with domestic workers by paying well but may have to turn to H-2A in coming years.

Broetje is the largest of those three with more than 5,000 acres in the Tri-Cities. Broetje employs about 2,200 workers for picking and packing cherries and about 4,000 during apple harvest, according to Chuck Zeutenhorst, general manager of First Fruits Marketing of Washington, in Yakima, Broetje's marketing arm.

"So far we're getting along OK, but I've heard inklings of guys struggling on labor," Zeutenhorst said.

"The real deal is apples. We're still very, very concerned about that because hops have gotten bigger and others competing for workers. I don't think there's enough labor to harvest the apple crop, industry wide and including our company," he said.

He has said someday the company may turn to H-2A.

Auville Fruit hires about 220 workers for cherries and 600 to 700 in apples.

"We just finished cherries and we had plenty of labor, but as we get bigger it could be a shortage," said John Baile, Auville's assistant orchard manager.

For the moment, the company believes it can get enough apple pickers but is investigating H-2A for possibly 2018 or 2019, Baile said.

Auville does a lot of color picking, multiple passes through its orchards to pick fruit at the right maturity for optimum quality. Some pickers don't like that so turnover can be heavy, he said.

Orchard View Farms is the largest cherry grower in Oregon with about 2,400 acres. It pays well with piece rates averaging \$20 per hour.

"We've been fine. Pickers are picking a lot of fruit and doing well. The packing house has a lot of good hours," said Brenda Thomas, president.

The company is not experiencing a shortage this year but there are no extra people looking for work, she has said.

"Labor is tight but we're getting by," said Kevin Corliss, vice president of viticulture at Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, Prosser, the state's largest winery.

Mike Williamson, tree fruit and grape grower in Caldwell, Idaho, said labor is fairly tight and demand is up due to increases in hops, grape vine retraining and a strong pull in construction.

He's cautiously optimistic he'll have the 30 seasonal workers he needs at peak in late August and early September and hopes his crew of 15 for vine retraining now stays on through then.