Couple updates traditional drink

Capital Press

A Washington state couple has taken the tradition of mead-making and updated it with a focus on honey, pollinators and health.

Husband and wife Jeremy Kyncl and Michelle Scandalis opened Hierophant Meadery 10 years ago. Hierophant was an ancient Greek priest represented traditions.

Mead is a fermented beverage made of honey, water and yeast. It is often referred to as honey wine.

The couple makes mead in Freeland, Wash., on Whidbey Island. They have two stores, in Freeland and the town of Mead, Wash., north of Spokane. They also sell at farmers markets.

Both have studied herbal science. Those studies led to another question.

"How did we do medicine for the vast majority of our history as humans, and what is the science that actually informs that now?" Kyncl

As college students, they got into home brewing.

"Which a lot of people do, it's a pretty usual story," Kyncl added. "It's not as normal for you to take that and make a business out of it."

Looking at the Spokane market a decade ago, they felt it was nearing a saturation point with breweries. Since that time, the number of breweries has at least doubled, Kyncl said.

But the couple "liked a lot of different things about

"Honey tends to taste of the population still hasn't



Hierophant Meadery

Michelle Scandalis and Jeremy Kyncl have channeled their love of pollinators and plants into Hierophant Meadery, with locations in Freeland and Mead, Wash.

good with darn near everything," Kyncl said.

That gives him a lot of freedom with ingredients.

"I could pull off of all of these really ancient traditions to inform modern mead-making and really bring these ingredients to people's palates in a way that was approachable," he said. Except for 2020, the

meadery has had double-digit growth in sales each year, bolstered by the general interest in craft beer and

"People are looking to try new places and new things, they're looking for their experience with alcohol to bring value in the form of exploration, challenge and interest," Kyncl said.

Kyncl predicted the mead industry will continue to grow.

"A really heavy majority

tried it," he said. "If they have, they've only had one, most of the time."

Some meaderies stick to the traditional, 15th century English style of mead, which has a sweeter taste, Scanda-

"There are people out there that haven't tried a mead that they've enjoyed," she said. "We try to craft our particular line-up to complement cider, beer or wine."

The meadery works with the farmers who provide ingredients. The wildflower honey primarily comes from Eastern Washington beekeepers.

Adam and Ashli Manson, owners of Highland Honey Farm in Deer Park, Wash., supply honey to Hierophant Meadery. The couples met while selling their products at farmers markets.

"It's an art, it's an actual art," Adam Manson said of Hierophant's recipe. "I think it's very artistic, the way they do it.'

Manson marveled at the way his honey's flavors and colors play a part in the mead. Whether the honey's from Eastern Washington or Idaho or comes from canola or blueberries makes a difference, he said.

"It's a pretty cool deal," he said. "They're good at what they do."

The meadery grew from purchasing buckets of honey to buying 55-gallon barrels. They anticipate using more than 3,000 gallons of honey this year, Scandalis said.

It took several years of "intense trial-and-error" to learn to make a high-quality mead.

The company now produces 1,000 to 1,500 gallons a month. The volume in 2020 was the same as in 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic,



Western

Innovator

JEREMY KYNCL AND MICHELLE SCANDALIS

Ages: Michelle and Jeremy are both 37

Location: Freeland,

Education: Bachelor of science degrees in herbal sciences from Bastyr University, Kenmore, Wash.

Hometowns: Michelle is from Redmond, Wash. Jeremy is from Wheat Ridge, Colo

Family: Married 12 years; sons George and Leos

Website: https://www. hierophantmeadery.com/

but in 2021, the couple doubled the amount of mead they sold compared to the year before, Scandalis said.

"We're getting to that point where we're thinking, 'OK, how big do you want to get?" she said. The couple wants to be

as sustainable as possible, focusing on beehive health and the inputs they use.

"Choosing mead was really based around that," Scandalis said. "We are also very passionate about plants. Working with honey as a medium is a wonderful marriage."

Capital Press

Established 1928 **Capital Press Managers**

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An independent newspaper published every Friday.

Capital Press (ISSN 0740-3704) is published weekly by EO Media Group, 2870 Broadway NE, Salem OR 97303.

Periodicals postage paid at Portland, OR, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to Capital Press, P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR 97308-2048.

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Capital Press P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR 97308-2048

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We want to publish corrections to set the record straight.

E. Oregon fairgrounds get funding for improvements that the board needs to confirm whether there are any

By JAYSON JACOBY EO Media Group

BAKER CITY, Ore. — Several county fair boards in Eastern Oregon will get an injection of money from the state legislature to make improvements at their fairgrounds.

Among them are Baker, Vallowa, Grant, Harney and Union counties.

The Baker County Fair Board has received a \$2 million boost to help turn its 5-year plan for improvements to the fairgrounds into reality.

Oregon Legisla-The ture allocated the money in House Bill 5202.

114-page That's the spending bill, approved during the Legislature's short session that adjourned last week, that allocates tens of millions of dollars for projects statewide.

"It's very exciting for the fair to have this opportunity," Ron Rowan, chairman of the fair board, said on March 8.



Jayson Jacoby/EO Media Group

Baker County, Ore., has received \$2 million from the state legislature for improve-

Dean Defrees, the fair chairman, board's vice agreed.

ments at the county fairgrounds.

"We feel really fortunate to get it, as funding has been so hard to come by," Defrees

Rowan said the Oregon Fairs Association, which lobbied for House Bill 5202, asked county fair boards to send a list of priorities were

they to receive state dollars. Baker was among several counties that will get money to improve their fairgrounds. Grant and Harney counties each were allocated \$2 million, and Union and Wallowa counties each received \$1 million.

In Baker County, Rowan said the board is weighing its options for the funding.

"We're very excited about it," he said.

Rowan said the Fair Board's 5-year master plan, written by LKV Architects of Boise and adopted in 2021, will serve as the starting point for the discussions.

The overall goal, he said, is to make the 17.7-acre fairgrounds attractive for a variety of events in addition to mainstays such as the Baker County Fair in early August, and the Baker City Bull and Bronc Riding events in July.

"One of our focuses is to make this facility userfriendly to the public, a venue people will want to use," Rowan said. "Something we can all be proud

He emphasized, though,

restrictions on the money. Among the projects that board members have talked about are replacing the

green-painted dilapidated wooden fence around the rodeo grounds, improving the 750-person capacity rodeo grandstand and fortifying the crow's nest at the rodeo grounds to better accommodate the large video screen used during the

Defrees pointed out that the board made structural improvements to the grandstand several years ago, but minor work is needed on supports for stairs at the south end. Another goal is to repaint the grandstand and do other cosmetic work.

Other possible projects include adding more seating to avoid the need to bring in portable bleachers and installing restrooms, although the latter would be expensive and have longterm maintenance costs.

American Farm Bureau vice president, Dale Moore, to retire



American Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President Dale Moore today announced his plans to retire in 2022 after four decades as an agricultural leader in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere.

"Dale has been a tireless advocate on behalf of farmers and

ranchers throughout his career and has certainly contributed to American Farm Bureau's strength over the past four years," Zippy Duvall, Farm Bureau president, said in a written statement.

"He has become a trusted adviser to me and to many state Farm Bureau presidents and staff," he said.

"More broadly, Dale has dedicated more than 40 years of his professional life to being a champion for agriculture through his work on Capitol Hill, at USDA and in the private sector," he said.

"He certainly deserves to step back and enjoy time with family, but he will be deeply missed. I'm very happy for him and his wife, Faith, as well as their kids and grandkids as they open this new chapter together," he said.

'I know I speak for farmers, ranchers and elected leaders across the country when I thank Dale for his tremendous service,"

Moore has agreed to assist in the selection of his successor.

CALENDAR

Submit upcoming ag-related events on www.capitalpress.com or by email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

THROUGH SUNDAY MARCH 20

Oregon FFA State Convention: Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond, Ore. Oregon FFA members from around the state will gather to compete and to learn during their annual convention in Redmond. Website: https://oregonffa.com/ state-convention/

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY MARCH 23-26 High Desert Stampede: Deschutes County

Fair and Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond, Ore. This annual ProRodeo Tour stop is going forward the last weekend in March as one of the top 60 rodeos in the country. We are expanding to three nights to give contestants and fans additional opportunities to participate. Let's rodeo! For the full schedule, go to the website: https://bit.ly/33tT2hE Contact: 844-4142242, info@highdesertstampede.com

FRIDAY-SUNDAY **MARCH 25-27** Northwest Horse Fair and Expo:

10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Linn County Fair and Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road E, Albany, Ore. The Northwest Horse Fair and Expo is a huge horse expo packed with family-friendly fun, exciting equine entertainment and education. It features daily clinics with top-notch trainers and riders; Colt Starting Challenge USA; stunning stallions and beautiful breeds performing daily; giant trade show; and much more. More information: https://bit.ly/3rvKaA9

SATURDAY-SUNDAY MARCH 26-27

Central Oregon Agricultural Show: 9 a.m. Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond, Ore. Welcome to the first-ever Central Oregon Agricultural Show, featuring exhibitors, presentations, seminars and

more. See you in Redmond! Website: https:// northwestagshow.com/Phone: 800-882-6789

SATURDAY-TUESDAY MARCH 26-29 California FFA State Leadership Confer-

ence: Golden 1 Center, 500 David Stern Walk, Sacramento, Calif. More than 7,000 FFA members will gather for this year's convention in Sacramento. Website: https://bit.ly/3sgmiRr **TUESDAY**

MARCH 29 **National Cattlemen's Beef Association**

Legislative Conference. 5:30-8:30 p.m. J.W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C. The conference will focus on federal policy. Website: www. ncba.org **SATURDAY**

APRIL 2

Pendleton: Pendleton Convention Center, 1601

Westgate, Pendleton, Ore. The Oregon Depart-

ment of Agriculture through the Pesticide Stew-

Free Waste Pesticide Collection Event in

ardship Partnership is sponsoring a Free Waste Pesticide Collection Event. This event is an opportunity for landowners, farmers and other commercial pesticide users to rid storage facilities of unwanted or unused pesticide products. Registration for this event is required by March 23. Contact: Kathryn Rifenburg, 971-600-5073, kathryn.rifenburg@oda.oregon.gov Website: https://oda.direct/PSP

SATURDAY-SUNDAY APRIL 2-3 Spring Farming Days at Pomeroy:

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Garfield County Fairgrounds, 99

Fairgrounds Road, Pomeroy, Wash. Horse farming and antique equipment displays. No entry fee. Fun for the whole family. Contact: 509-566-7027 WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY

APRIL 6-9 2022 Idaho FFA State Convention: Col-

lege of Southern Idaho, 315 Falls Ave., Twin Falls, Idaho. More than 1,400 FFA members from around Idaho will gather for this year's convention. Website: https://bit.ly/3J2JAB1