

People & Places

Couple updates traditional drink

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press



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 cider.

"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 of the population still hasn't

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, Scandalis said.

"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 logo and contact information for Jeremy Kyncl and Michelle Scandalis.



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Anne Long Advertising Director
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To Reach Us

Circulation.....800-781-3214
Email.....Circulation@capitalpress.com
Main line.....503-364-4431

News Staff

Idaho
Carol Ryan Dumas208-860-3898

Boise
Brad Carlson208-914-8264

Western Washington
Don Jenkins.....360-722-6975

Eastern Washington
Matthew Weaver509-688-9923

Oregon
George Plaven406-560-1655
Mateusz Perkowski800-882-6789
Sierra Dawn McClain503-506-8011

Designer
Randy Wriughthouse.....800-882-6789

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E. Oregon fairgrounds get funding for improvements

By JAYSON JACOBY
EO Media Group



Jayson Jacoby/EO Media Group

Baker County, Ore., has received \$2 million from the state legislature for improvements at the county fairgrounds.

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

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

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.

He emphasized, though,

that the board needs to confirm whether there are any restrictions on the money.

Among the projects that board members have talked about are replacing the dilapidated green-painted 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 rodeos.

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 long-term maintenance costs.

American Farm Bureau vice president, Dale Moore, to retire



Dale Moore

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.

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

Faith, as well as their kids and grandkids as they open this new chapter together," he said.

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/33t2Hze Contact: 844-414-

2242, 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 or 765-720-2098.
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 Conference: 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
Free Waste Pesticide Collection Event in Pendleton: Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton, Ore. The Oregon Department of Agriculture through the Pesticide Stew-

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: College 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