

Selma's Gary & Ann Garnett gratified by growing variety of great wine grapes

Deer Creek Vineyards offers tasting room, other items in addition to an attractive location for weddings

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

During the late 1980s, Gary and Ann Garnett knew that they wanted to trade the hustle and bustle of Southern California for something quieter.

Gary started thinking about owning a vineyard, although he was hardly an expert in the field.

"I didn't know that much about grapes," he said. "But it was something I really wanted to try."

The couple began looking for property in California's famed Napa Valley, noted for its assortment of vineyards. But that area's high real estate values proved to be cost-prohibitive, and in September 1988, the Garnetts began looking to Oregon.

Now, nearly two decades later, Ann is glad that they did.

"This area is perfect for pinots," she said.

Deer Creek Vineyards, at 2680 Deer Creek Road in Selma, grows grapes for chardonnay, pinot noir and



Gary & Ann Garnett (Photo by Scott Jorgensen, Illinois Valley News)

pinot gris wines. The 8-acre property wasn't always used for such a purpose, though.

"It was a hay farm when we bought it," explained Gary.

The Garnetts began planting their first grapevines in 1991. That came

after a solid two years of converting the property for vineyard use, including installation of drip irrigation.

"We put in the entire vineyard by ourselves," said Ann, with a hint of pride.

During 1993, Deer Creek Vineyards had its first

harvest. All the grapes were picked by hand, just as they are now, and put into totes that hold anywhere from 1,000 to 13,000 pounds.

Deer Creek Vineyards grows a total of 25,000 grapevines, all of which are pruned by hand.

"It's one of the most labor-intensive crops there is," Gary said.

Although the harvesting occurs during the fall, the Garnetts spend the entire year weeding, mowing and performing other maintenance. Last year, the vineyard produced 150 tons of grapes. Once they're harvested, the grapes are shipped to Foris Vineyards in Cave Junction for processing.

During 2005 the vine-

yard added a tasting room, featuring a variety of merchandise. Also, Deer Creek Vineyards recently has begun hosting weddings.

The wine-tasting room is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily during summer. During wintertime, it is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information, visit deer creekvineyards.com or phone 597-4226.

State using research data to curb substance abuse

Survey funded by federal government shows Oregon has high rankings in misuse of drugs, alcohol

Using the most comprehensive data Oregon has ever assembled on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, state officials say that they will design more targeted means to reduce their use and the disease and death they cause.

The data include startling findings such as Oregon youth smoking marijuana at rates higher than tobacco; Oregon ranking fourth in the nation for alcohol-induced deaths; and the state's drug-mortality rate double that of the nation's for five consecutive years.

"In the past we've undertaken preventive measures based on good rationale but far less supporting data," said Bob Nikkel, Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS) assistant director for addictions & mental health.

"The new data," he said, "will permit us to target prevention dollars and energy where they are most needed."

He said that DHS would involve treatment providers, stakeholders and others in developing a multiyear plan.

The data were compiled from 11 sources during the first phase of a three-year, \$200,000 annual grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which says it wants states to make greater use of data to drive decisions.

Oregon, one of 13 states in the project, also hopes to produce county-level data this summer.

Among the findings, details of which can be

found at oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/resource_center.shtml#seow on the DHS Website:

*Oregonians, who consume more alcohol than the national average, rank fourth nationally in alcohol-related deaths. The rate of such deaths rose by more than 50 percent during five years.

*More than one in 20 Oregon adults can be classified as heavy drinkers, with males 21 to 29 most likely to be heavy users.

*The rate of Oregon eighth-graders reporting having consumed alcohol during the past 30 days is 76 percent higher than the national rate.

*Oregon eighth- and 11th-graders are more likely to light up a marijuana cigarette than one containing tobacco.

*For the first time since 1998, the rate of Oregon 18- to 24-year-olds who report smoking tobacco every day exceeds the national rate. Adult deaths from lung cancer, emphysema and chronic lower respiratory disease exceeded the nation's rate for five consecutive years.

*Indicating that methamphetamine use is spreading across the state

are data showing that although half of Oregon's 2002 meth-related deaths occurred in metropolitan Portland, by 2005 only 25 percent did.

*Oregon's rate of youthful use of inhalants, which like alcohol often are easily obtainable at home, was 50 percent higher than that of the nation.

*Although the state's smoking rates have declined during the past decade, the use of smokeless tobacco, whose health hazards are less well known, has remained at approximately 6 percent.

The new data show not only rates of alcohol-caused deaths, but also that early death cuts an average of 27 years from women's life expectancy and 20 from men's among those people whose deaths are attributable to alcohol.

Positive findings included significantly reduced use of the drug "ecstasy" in Oregon as well as fewer adolescent males reporting that they drive after drinking, dropping that rate well below the national average.

Nevertheless, Nikkel said that the data show a sharp departure from the

national decrease in drinking by eighth- and 11th-graders and calls for redoubling efforts to reduce underage drinking. Those efforts have included media advertising, prevention work in schools and a three-community pilot in Newport and Lake and Wallowa counties.

He said that rates of youthful use of alcohol, inhalants and prescription drugs, all frequently found in the home, also are an indicator parents need to continue to receive prevention messages.



Weeping Spruce Herb Farm

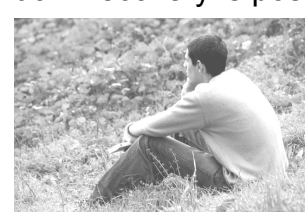
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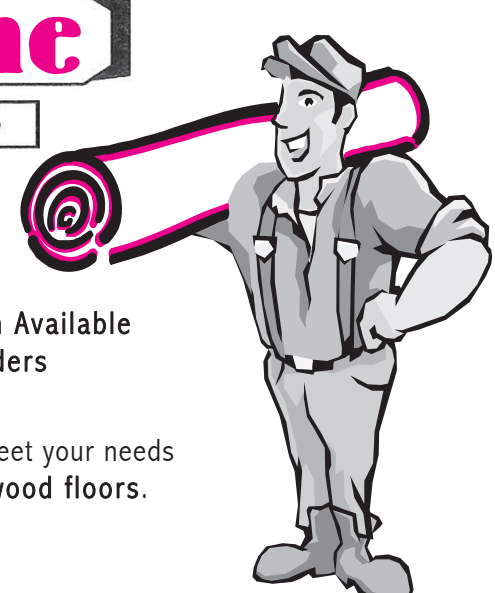
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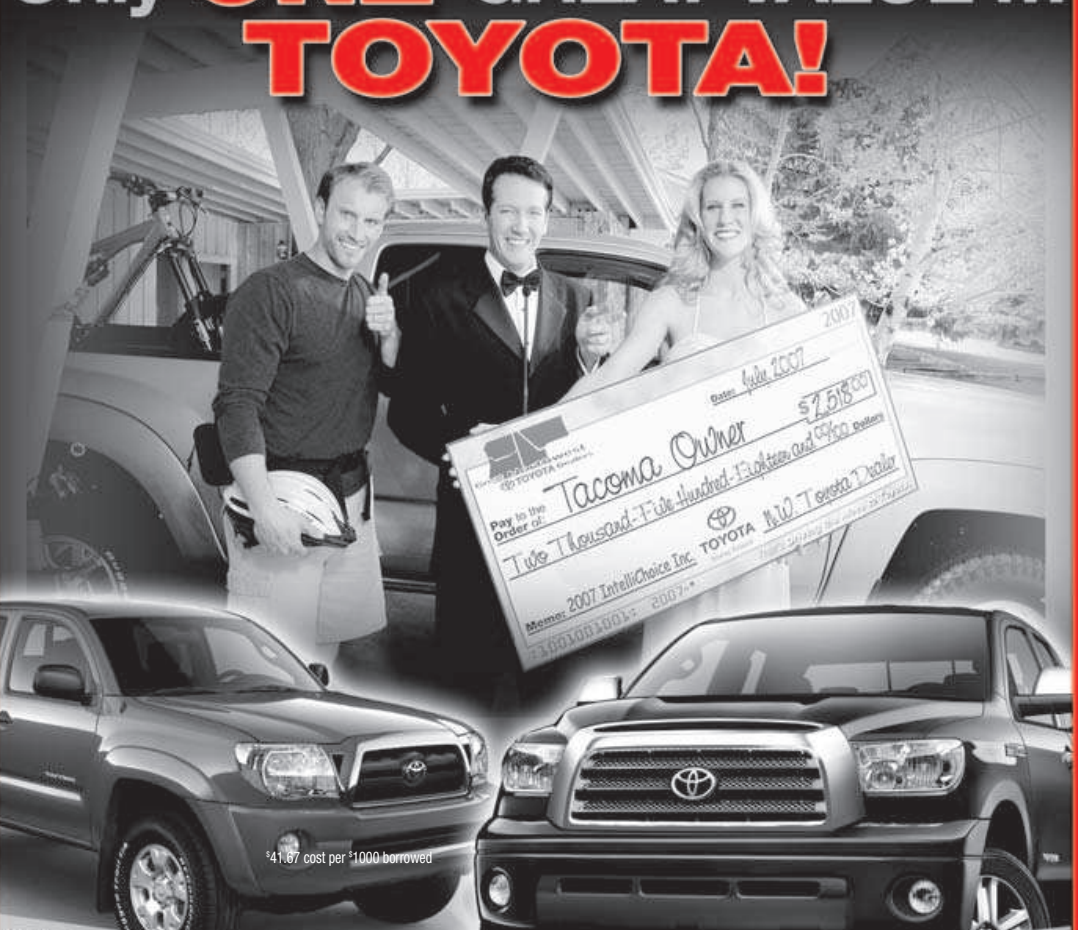
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