



BY KELSEY ANNE RANKIN

ISAAC JOHNSON (LEFT)
AND ANDREW ALEF

NEWS

DING DING!

Who ya gonna call for a flat bike tire?

“On your left!” is a mantra on Eugene’s streets (along with a few other phrases I can think of). Biking is a part of our town’s bloodline, a matter of passion or necessity or both. It’s foremost a lifestyle of momentum and velocity — OK, that and flat tires.

Ding Ding Cycles, owned and founded by Isaac Johnson, is a mobile bike repair shop that keeps Eugene and Springfield cyclists on the go.

“Eugene doesn’t need another bike shop,” Johnson explains, so he started his mobile bike repair company. His get-up is minimalist: a bag of bike tools, a pop-up tent and cyclist gear sorted and strapped onto a decked out cargo

bike, all based out of a garage space behind David Minor Theater.

Johnson started in fall 2016 when he downed some cold brew, dropped \$2,500 on bike tools and set out to nearby areas that lacked accessibility to bike repairs.

Two years later, Ding Ding Cycles is pitching tents and fixing bikes whenever, wherever, rain or shine, as a public-benefit corporation partnered with David Minor Theater and sponsored by a handful of local businesses, including Morning Glory Cafe, Oakshire Brewing, EugFun! and more.

Ding Ding charges for its services, but also solicits donations through GoFundMe to support its community work.

From Ding Ding Cycle’s first events in the rain outside of Plank Town Brewery to Johnson’s summer-long presence at Party in the Parks, Johnson and his team of three volunteers repair and tune up bikes while walking folks through each greasy detail.

“People who rode their bike to an event would throw it up on the bike stand,” Johnson says. “We’d ask them what was wrong with it, teach ’em how to do a couple of things, tighten their chains, pump up their tires and off they went.”

Ding Ding Cycles is a frequent presence at Oakshire’s Hellshire events, works with local trail advocacy group Disciples of Dirt and teaches at the Bethel Bike Lab program at Cascade Middle School.

In December, Johnson and his (self-titled) chief mechanical officer Andrew Alef devoted several days to fixing up dozens of children’s mountain bikes.

“We tuned up 40 kids’ bikes,” Johnson says. “The bikes had never been tuned up and were almost 10 years old. That event was just us, eight hours a day for three days fixing up mountain bikes.” ■

Learn more and keep up with Ding Ding Cycles at dingdingcycles.com or visit the company’s main office at 180 E. 5th Avenue. Ding Ding Cycle’s next event will be at Disciples of Dirt’s mountain bike day 11 am Saturday, Mar. 17, at Carpenter’s Bypass in Lorane.



HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

JENN CLEMO

“My dad went to Creswell High School,” says CHS alum Jenn Clemo. “I grew up here and my husband grew up here. We were both in FFA [Future Farmers of America] and in the same friends group. We started dating in college.” Clemo entered college at Western Oregon in Monmouth, and finished at the University of Oregon in 2009 with a degree in English literature. “That area of study helped me to be a good writer of grant applications, sponsorship letters and donor appeals,” she says. “I did a lot of student group and volunteer activities in high school and college. The nonprofit sector was an easy transition.” She took a part-time job while still in school with Eugene-based Rural Development Initiatives, a nonprofit focused on economic development in rural communities across the Northwest. She was hired full-time at RDI after graduation. “I was there for eight years,” she says. “I arranged meetings and facilitated workshops for partners and funders in Washington, Idaho, Northern California and all of Oregon.” She also contracted as an independent consultant for grant writing and continued her volunteer efforts. She led a fundraising campaign to relocate the local food pantry, Community Food for Creswell. She and her boyfriend Chris Clemo were married in 2011. “When our son Sawyer was born in 2015,” she notes, “I took a break from volunteering.” Last month, at age 30, Clemo took on a new job as executive director of the Center for Nonprofit Stewardship in Corvallis, offering training and resources to nonprofit board members. She drives to Corvallis three days a week. “The job was advertised on Craigslist, and the description seemed to apply to me,” she says. “I took the leap to a smaller organization.”