

Sparks fly when veteran meets beekeeper

BY MARK GOSS

For the Spokesman

Kaleb Watson, a U.S. Marine veteran and pistol instructor, never figured he'd cross paths with Joan Sciacca, a diminutive powerhouse, organization design consultant and beekeeper.

Enter a MIG welder.

Watson, who left military service in 2002, has worked hard to re-enter civilian life. Like so many vets, he has a tremendous skillset, a commitment to service and unstoppable work ethic. But also like so many vets, his experiences left their scars.

"When I left the military, I found it hard to relate to people who hadn't served. And the chaos of civilian social relationships made it even harder to find a way in," said Watson.

Watson and Sciacca came together through School of Ranch, a Terrebonne-based nonprofit that runs workshops to help new property owners build skills. School of Ranch's mission is to inspire responsible land use, encourage relationships that strengthen our community, and open pathways to economic and social opportunities for veterans and others who may need a hand up.

"School of Ranch is one of the best ideas I have ever been a part of. I took for granted all the things I know about rural life skills. There's so much more to it than just: 'Plant seed in February,'" said Watson.

Watson recently led practical welding for farm and ranch, a workshop that teaches newcomers to use a MIG welder to repair things.

"Joan showed huge enthusiasm right away," he said. "I had to rein her in a couple of times. It surprised me given her, um, demographic. It was



Participants in a School of Ranch live workshop teach each other skills, like welding.

Photo courtesy School of Ranch

cool that I could relate to someone with an advanced college degree. She's a rocket scientist, literally."

"I only work to pay for fun," said Sciacca. "I moved here two years ago to a five acre ranch. Life here is very different." Sciacca has learned beekeeping, and took a School of Ranch workshop on welding so she could build a stand for her hive.

"Joan is a rock star," said Watson, pointing to the new welder Joan bought on a shopping trip to Harbor Freight with Watson. "How many workshops take you shopping?" said

Sciacca.

"I always wanted to weld, but never did anything about it," he said. "With School of Ranch I know I can learn with people at my level. You have to get together live to learn new skills. Take beekeeping. I read books on bees. You know what, the bees haven't read the books."

Both Watson and Sciacca feel strongly about passing on the core skills of rural life.

"If we don't pass ranch and farm skills along to people like me, they'll be lost," said Sciacca. While Watson

has many skills, he had never run a formal workshop before, much less taught welding.

"The experience was fantastic," said Watson. "I didn't realize how much I'd enjoy passing my skills onto other people. I didn't value how rare these skills are. I just figured everyone had them."

Watson worked with the School of Ranch team to develop his workshop. With the support of Ellie May, who donated the use of the facility, Watson led Sciacca and six others through a successful learning experience.

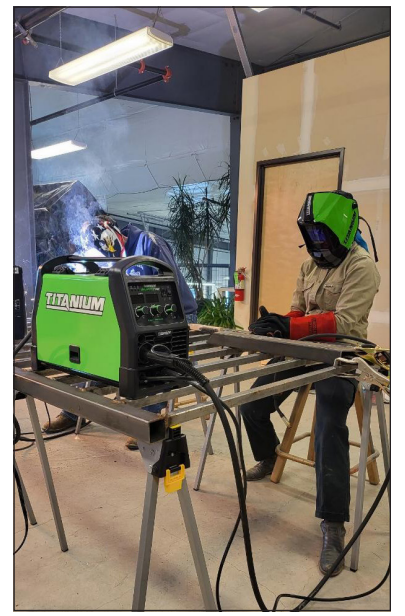


Photo courtesy School of Ranch

Participants in a School of Ranch live workshop teach each other skills, like welding.

School of Ranch helps with curriculum development, training, promotion, registration, credit card processing, facility, and insurance. Watson earned over \$90 an hour for running this workshop. School of Ranch gives instructors 25% to 55% of the workshop revenue depending on the cost to produce.

School of Ranch is looking for people like Watson who have skills and want to run workshops. The organization will train, develop a workshop plan, handle promotion and registration, supply facilities and equipment.

Submit this form <https://schoolof-ranch.org/instructor-application>. You can join School of Ranch for free on Facebook as well at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3231237387106294>.



Members of the Redmond Kiwanis gather donations from local residents for St. Vincent De Paul's food pantry. The donations set a record.

Courtesy photo

Redmond Kiwanis smashes food pantry donation record

By SPOKESMAN STAFF

When Earl Fisher, Redmond Kiwanian who organizes their food pantry donation program, challenged the club to contribute 1,000 pounds of food to a local pantry, some club members thought he was a little bit too ambitious. After all, the previous record was 750 pounds.

But, in Kiwanian style, the club responded. Three van loads and 1,864 pounds later, there is now a new club record.

"We are thrilled to contribute to St Vincent De Paul Food Pantry in this way," said club president Chris Richie. "Many

families will benefit and that is why we serve."

Among the donations were eight turkeys. A number of residents outside the club chipped in to contribute.

"When I was purchasing items for the food drive, the cashier asked what the food was for and when I told her that it was for the Kiwanis food drive. She said a customer came in the day before and paid for two turkeys," said Kiwanis member Amber Wilson. "The customer told the cashier to donate the second turkey to someone she thought deserved

it and so the cashier gave it to us. It shows how generous our community is."

The Kiwanis Club of Redmond's mission is to improve the lives of youth and families in Redmond and the surrounding communities through service, contributing to and supporting organizations who serve youth and families and acting as positive role models. The club meets on Wednesdays at noon at the Juniper Golf Course clubhouse. More information can be found at www.redmond-kiwanis.org.

Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity wins awards

By SPOKESMAN STAFF

Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity has won two Earth Advantage Awards, one for "Most Net Zero Homes" and "Project of the Year: Affordable Single Family."

Both awards are connected to the Northwest Cottages community in Redmond, which was built by Habitat for Humanity.

The Earth Advantage Awards (formerly Green Builder of the Year) are awarded to builders across the state of Oregon who are exceeding requirements for energy efficiency and indoor air quality. This also includes building zero energy homes, which generate at least as much energy as they consume.

Winners were chosen by third party judges from within the green building industry.

"We are immensely grateful to our community and their demonstration of a commitment to equitable energy efficiency," said Grace Weger, Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity's director of land ac-



Courtesy photo

Earth Advantage presents two awards to Habitat for Humanity. Pictured (from left to right) are Scott Brown, Matt Douglas, Viki Wooster and Grace Weger.

quisition and development.

In addition to the Northwest Cottages Net-Zero community, Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity has 30 additional energy efficient homes completed or in development, and plans to continue to build homes with these standards into the future.

Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity builds energy efficient homes using advanced framing methods, super insulation, and air sealing to reduce energy consumption. Water conservation is addressed with efficient plumbing fixtures, short plumbing runs and xeriscape landscaping.

Windermere Real Estate accepting donations of cold weather gear

By SPOKESMAN STAFF

With the coldest months of the year upon us, brokers from Windermere Real Estate are teaming up to "share the warmth" and help provide winter necessities for those in need.

As part of the annual campaign, the Windermere office in Redmond will be collecting donations now through Friday, Dec. 16 to benefit Jericho Road and the Family Access Network. The organizations are specifically asking for blankets, hats, gloves and coats in all sizes for both adults and children, as well as sleeping bags and tents.

Those who want to help can stop by participating Windermere offices to drop off donations. The Windermere office in Redmond is located at 821 SW 6th St. and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The public can also make monetary donations to help purchase needed items via the secure donation portal on the Share the Warmth website.

"Our real estate brokers have always been committed to their

local communities, and Share the Warmth is a prime example of that. We look forward to collaborating with the community each year in order to help our neighbors," said Scott Mitchellson, president of Windermere

Services Company in Oregon and SW Washington in a release. "I'm always amazed by the generosity this campaign inspires and proud of the ways we come together to take care of each other."



Get great service & great rates.



Joe A Lochner Ins Acy Inc
 Joe A Lochner, Agent
www.joelochner.com
 Redmond, OR 97756
 Bus: 541-548-6023

Read and recycle



Partners In Care

Managing Grief Through the Holiday Season

For most people experiencing loss, the holiday season is the most painful time of all. This four-week class will provide suggestions for reducing holiday stress as well as support for members during a very emotionally challenging season. **Please call to preregister.**

Virtual Group: Now - December 20 - Tuesdays, 10:00AM - 11:30AM

In-Person Group: Now - December 20 - Tuesdays, 1:30PM - 3:00PM

Open to the community at no cost!

Register by calling (541) 382-5882 and a Zoom registration will be emailed to you.

(541) 382-5882 PartnersBend.org

Hospice | Home Health | Hospice House | Transitions | Palliative Care | Grief Support