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blanc, cabernet sauvignon, pinot noir and zinfandel at his Hillcrest Vineyard in the Umpqua Valley.

David Lett is credited for the first rooted pinot cuttings near Corvallis, in 1965.

These first plantings in the Willamette Valley were followed by a parade of names: Charles and Shirley Coury, David and Ginny Adelsheim, Dick and Nancy Ponzi, Dick Erath, Jim and Loi Maresh, Susan Sokol and Bill Blosser, Philippe and Bonnie Girardet and the Wisnovsky Family. I don't know any of them, but I've seen their names on labels.

According to the 2017 Oregon Vineyard and Winery Census report, wines are grown now through the state, including parts of the Columbia Gorge, Walla Walla Valley and Snake River Valley. Pinot noir holds an unchallenged dom-



Photo by R.J. Marx

Buddha Kat in Seaside is family- and dog-friendly.

inance: with almost 18,000 of the state's 27,000 acres — about two-third of all Oregon wine is pinot noir, and another 3700 acres produce pinot gris.

Here is how Doyle describes the flavors of pinot noir, with help from his guide, winemaker Jesse Lange of Lange Vineyards: "cherry, plum, raspberry, strawberry, chocolate, smoke, truffles, almonds, cedar, roses, licorice and mint."

Doyle adds to this: "elegant, velvety, earthy, musty, pungent, fragrant, brilliant, glistening, shimmering, sparkling, aromatic, mysterious, discreet, harmonious, honest, clean, refined, ethereal, romantic and urbane," among a couple of

dozen equally as enticing adjectives.

At one point I would somehow convince myself that I needed to spend \$35 on a bottle of wine, with the result I learned to love beer, too.

There are so many good ones in the \$8-12 range. At Ken's grocery, I can find Underwood, Eola Hills and Duck Pond.

One of my favorite wines — alas, from California — is Rex Goliath, named after a 47-pound rooster, "His Royal Majesty, Rex Goliath," an early-20th century circus attraction. A bottle of pinot noir or cabernet sauvignon goes for \$6.49.

When I am ready to dip deeper into the pocket, Gearhart's Pacific Way

Restaurant's wine list is as well-considered as any, with Cooper Mountain Reserve, Erath Vineyards, Willamette Valley, King Estates, Panther Creek, Archery Summit, Domaine Drouhin Pinot Noir Dundee Hills and The Eyrie Vineyards.

Along with such fine offerings at local restaurants and tap rooms, tastings of Oregon and Washington wines can be found in Seaside at the Wine and Beer Haus, Naked Winery, Buddha Kat and Westport Winery.

Oregon wines may even bridge the daunting "urban-rural divide" in Oregon. In the book "Toward One Oregon: Rural-Urban Interdependence and the Evolution of a State," the development of specialized agricultural activities like winemaking, beer making and specialized crops offers routes for closing the distance between urban and rural economies.

Portland's foodie culture values local food, wine, brewpubs and coffeehouses, and "depends on a vital rural periphery," authors write.

Did I mention that Seaside Wine Walk takes place Saturday, May 18, from 3-7 p.m.?



Diversity and inclusion show on the big screen

ASTORIA — The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council screens "The Year We Thought About Love." The movie features young gay, trans, lesbian and queer youth and allies who share their experiences coming out and navigating as part of the LGBTQ community. The DEI Council is collaborating with the Q Center and has connected with the Gay-Straight Alliances at the local high schools.

The goal is to provide a platform that centers LGBTQ voices, identifies local support resources and helps allies understand how to support LGBTQ youth. The movie will begin at 6 p.m., with a panel discussion to follow in Columbia Hall, Room 219. This is a free event and open to the public.

For additional information, contact Mindy Stokes at mstokes@clatsopcc.edu

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