

Remembrance: ‘He was such a good person’

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Hansen serves as the police department’s homeless liaison. He said he cares for the homeless and he takes a genuine interest in their lives. If he can, he helps people with emotional support and directs them to mental health resources. In his role, he has made many friends within the homeless community. “I’m a police officer, of course. But I kind of see myself as a parent to some of these people, too,” he said. “Everybody needs someone, I think, and a lot of these people don’t really have anyone.” Hansen said he has seen homelessness get worse over his 30 years in law enforcement in Clatsop County. He also believes it may get worse before it gets better. He said it is important for the community to see the homeless as people with friends and families.”They’ve ended up where they’re at for various reasons,” he said, “but every one of them that does pass has a family somewhere.” Kim’s closest companion was Robert Frier. For 46 years, they were friends. Frier has also known Han-

sen for decades and considers him a friend, as well. “I love the hell out of him,” Frier said of Hansen. “Todd and Robert were basically inseparable,” Hansen said. “And together they took care of Robert’s dog, ‘Smokey.’” They lived together off and on over the years and supported each other. “We pretty much grew up together and we were with each other every day,” Frier said. Frier said he was devastated to lose his best friend. He was with Kim the night he was hit and a police officer let him see Kim before he was flown to Portland. That was the last time he saw him. “He was so kind-hearted,” Frier said. “He would give you his sleeping bag ... he loved everyone and we helped everybody out.” Although it is hard to be homeless sometimes, he said, they were happy and content. “Yes, we’re alcoholics and we like to smoke the pot, but nothing’s wrong with that,” Frier said. He remembered how Kim loved to watch the sunset over the water. “He was such a good person,” Frier said.

Logging: Greater competition from foreign markets

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In central Oregon, the laws and regulations that protect the forests on public lands are nearly all managed by the U.S. Forest Service — these include the Deschutes, Ochoco and Fremont-Winema national forests. These forests, along with many others across the state, were heavily affected in 1990 when the northern spotted owl was added to the endangered species list — the listing led to a ban on widespread felling of old growth trees for commercial purposes. As a result, timber production on federal land tumbled 80% to 90%, shutting down mills and forcing thousands of loggers and mill workers to retrain for new careers. At the time, about 4 billion board feet of lumber was taken off the market, sending some rural communities into economic tailspin. In 1990, wood products and natural resources accounted for 12.3% of total private employment in Deschutes County — that share dropped to 1.3% in 2018. “In those days (the early 1990s), we blamed the Democrats,” said Bruce Daucsavage, general manager of Prineville-based Ochoco Lumber. “But really, the public decided. There needed to



Oregon Department of Forestry
A contractor sorts logs in southern Oregon.

be a rebalance.” Attempting to bring timber jobs back comes with risk. There’s greater competition from foreign markets, plus a strong dollar that makes Oregon timber harder to sell. An unstable housing market has sunk the price of lumber during the past year. On private lands, the amount of timber sold is a function of market forces. “When markets are good, we produce a lot of lumber; if the demand doesn’t catch up, we have too much,” said Daucsavage. Even if more logs were being harvested, that does not necessarily translate into more jobs, because technology advances have automated much of the tree-felling and milling process. These days, enormous mobile units can cut a tree and strip all the branches in less than a minute, eliminating many of the traditional lumberjack jobs. Oregon had about 32,400 jobs in wood products manu-

facturing in 2005. From 2005 to 2011, about 13,500 jobs were lost during the Great Recession. Since then, Oregon has added back only 3,500 jobs in the sector, according to Johnston. “Whenever we experience a constriction in manufacturing capacity associated with a down housing market, the rebound in manufacturing seems to mostly be a function of additive productivity,” Johnston said. “We put better technology in the mills so the jobs are not added back.” While bringing back jobs into the timber industry by cutting more trees may be off the table for now, there are opportunities to stimulate job growth and salaries, said Jim Geisinger, executive vice president of Associated Oregon Loggers. Geisinger believes technical jobs will be available for those who can operate and maintain the automated equipment being installed in the timber mills. “Jobs for the guy with the

flannel shirt and work boots may be fewer, but there are increasing jobs for the guy in the white coat and in the lab room,” Geisinger said. “And those technical jobs are well-paid compared to jobs in the mill.” Given automation in the industry and the steadfast environmental rules against increased logging on federal land, not to mention a recent downturn in the price of lumber, the odds are stacked against Trump’s 2016 declaration. U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, who visited the Deschutes forest on Friday as part of a tour to study forest restoration, believes Trump needs to focus less on profit and put more effort on restoring federal forests to healthier conditions that are less prone to out-of-control wildfires. In the Deschutes National Forest, federal and local agencies, as well as nonprofits, are collaborating to restore forests to more natural conditions before mass logging took place in the early 20th century. “I think that it’s easy to say we’d like to cut more timber. But how do we do it in a fashion that is going to keep us out of the courts and actually going forward?” the Oregon Democrat said. “That’s where the stewardship agreements and the collaboratives are paving the way for the future.”

Couple: Bar will include a rotating cast of wine pours, bottles available for consumption

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open in the coming weeks on 10th Street in the Occident Building. Parks previously worked as a wine representative for Galaxy Wine Co., securing bottles for businesses between Astoria and Neskowin. “It really grew my knowledge of wine,” she said. “It really grew my knowledge

of the area.” Parks came to the North Coast from Denver, where her transition from being a victim’s advocate with the local police to wine started in 2007 after she developed a hobby to help cope with a stressful job. “It’s hard to do for a long time,” she said. “It’s super-emotional. I’m in awe of anyone that does it. It’s a hard job, an important one.

But I just felt like I needed something a little more — I don’t know — lighter.” Parks worked at a local wine shop and eventually enrolled in a sommelier academy, where she learned about all aspects of wine, viniculture and history. Soon thereafter, she left Colorado for Oregon to be nearer to world-class wine. A year ago, Parks was introduced to Dix, a former civil and forestry engineer who spent 12 years sailing around the South Pacific before returning to be nearer to family. The two secured a narrow storefront in the Occident Building and started building out Brut Wine Bar, named after a term for dry champagne or sparkling wine. The bar, the second in Astoria after WineKraft Wine Bar at Pier 11, will

include a rotating cast of wine pours and bottles available for consumption on site or to go, along with a small selection of beers and cider. Brut will also serve small plates of cheese, charcuterie and smoked meats. The space sports a dark, 1920s feel, with a tin roof, brick wall and custom walnut bar. The couple had hoped to open by now but were stymied by health com-

plications throughout the summer. They hope to open within the next few weeks and advised those interested to monitor Brut’s social media accounts. “I’ve noticed that with my previous job, Astoria didn’t die off in the winter,” Parks said. “So I’m thrilled to be able to spend more time getting to know more of the locals who like wine.”

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