

MLK Day holiday closures

Schools and local government offices are closed on Monday in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday. Banks and the Hood River Library will be closed, and there will be no delivery by United States Postal Service. The Hood River News offices will be open.

The Hood River Aquatic Center will host a special \$1 open swim from 1-3:30 p.m. on Monday. The slide and rope swing will be open, and the party room is available for rental. (The Hood River Aquatic Center will be closed all day, Saturday, Jan. 24 for the Hood River Valley High School Invitational. The pool will reopen on Sunday, Jan. 25 at 10 a.m.)

RON

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Dunn has been with Hood River Rosauers for the past 18 years. He spent his first 10 years with the company as a cashier, transferring to the produce department in 2006, when produce manager Jim DeLong (who has been with Rosauers almost 25 years) told him of an open position and asked if he was interested.

He jumped at the chance. "Both positions have their challenges," he said. "It's a little easier in produce because you're dealing with that solely and not doing other transactions as well." (Patrons still might see him up front periodically, however — he works as a substitute cashier as needed.)

As a produce clerk, Dunn's day begins with the "wet rack," trimming leaf lettuce and prepping the other vegetables in that section of the store. He also rotates in new produce — Rosauers gets deliveries seven days a week — before moving to the organic wet rack and starting the process all over again.

From there, he moves to the salad rack, keeping it — and the refrigerated salad dressings — stocked throughout the day, and then to the "dry racks," company-speak for the fruits and vegetables that do not require moisture to keep them fresh, such as the apples, potatoes, mushrooms and tomatoes.

"We're constantly replenishing," he said. "That's a typical day for produce."

Between all the trimming and prepping and stocking, he's helping customers, answering questions or personally showing where a particular item is located.

He's most frequently asked about country of origin. Right now, a lot is coming from Mexico, which many people see as a negative, he said.

"But you have to get it out of the country when it's out

of season," he explained.

Rosauers does carry local produce in season, something Dunn said his manager greatly supports.

"Jim encourages that," Dunn said. "We have a lot of local stuff — you see what we have in our own backyard. We have a lot of relationships with growers in the valley."

Local food producers include Nature's Finest, Zion Farms, Hood River Organics, and Windsong Farm, providing everything from apples and pears to corn and zucchini.

"I'm amazed at the produce they can put out," Dunn said of these farmers.

Another frequently asked question is what something tastes like, and he enjoys offering free samples.

"Try before you buy, that's my motto," he said. "We'll cut an apple. Try a grape out, make sure it tastes sweet. You want to know before you eat it or feed it to your own family."

What makes Dunn a great produce clerk is his attitude, said DeLong.

"Ron is a great produce clerk because he's so personable with the customers themselves," said DeLong. "Not only does he know the first and last names, he's developed personal relationships with these people over the years."

"You build friendships," Dunn said. "We get loyal customers. I try to keep a positive attitude — I've always had that."

Dunn likes to ask how his customers are doing, wish them a good day, and call them each by name. He strives to be a positive, happy face in his department.

And he is.

"Ron is dependable, trustworthy, and loyal," DeLong said. "Ron is not only an employee, he's also a friend, as I consider all my employees. It's been a pleasure to work with Ron over the years, as well as my crew."

Know someone you'd like to see featured in the Saturday Spotlight? Email your recommendations to Trisha Walker at twalker@hoodrivernews.com.

The Hood River Rosauers location is the only such store in Oregon, Dunn said. Headquartered in Spokane, Wash., Rosauers also has stores in Washington, Idaho and Montana. The Hood River location opened in the 1970s, he said.

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

News editor

Logsdon Farmhouse Ales is coming to town.

Owner Dave Logsdon announced this week that after four years brewing award-winning Belgian-style ales in his farmhouse east of Odell, he's adding a taphouse at 505 Cascade, next to Knead Bakery in downtown Hood River. (The space, owned by Steve Bronsveld, had been a surf shop for a few years in the early 2000s.)

Logsdon said the taproom will be open, with minimal physical improvements, for the Zwickelmania weekend Feb. 14-15, and then close up for full renovations, for opening as early as May.

Everybody's Brewing owner Doug Ellenberger pointed out two other major developments with his White Salmon brewery:

■ In December Everybody's hired Jess Caudill, formerly of Wy'east Laboratory of Odell, as brewmaster. Caudill will oversee a brewing staff of four; Ellenberger concentrates on running the overall business, but still keeps a hand in the brewing.

"We've known each other since we worked at Full Sail, and he was ready to make a change and I was anxious to bring on an old friend," Ellenberger said.

■ Meanwhile, construction is almost complete on the brewery expansion, with plenty of more room on the outside deck, and a doubling of brewing capacity from 3,500 barrels to "a little more than the 7,800 barrel range," Ellenberger said.

Nora's Table Restaurant sold to new chef owner

Stu and Kathy Watson announced this week that Chef Roman Deingruber and his wife, Amy Kaefer, have purchased Nora's Table. The new owners intend to keep the farm-to-table format, and expand hours.

"We searched for a long time for the right buyer who loves local food, spirits, wine and beer as much as we do, and we and our staff are very excited to welcome Roman and Amy. They will bring a lot of youthful energy and experience to Nora's," said Chef Kathy Watson.

The new owners will take over on Feb. 7. The restaurant will be open under the Watsons' management through Feb. 6.

The Watsons opened Nora's

in May of 2007, two years after opening Viento in Bingen.

"This has been an incredible 10 years, and we are so thankful for our many fans in Hood River, Portland and Seattle, and our strong, dedicated staff. I am sure there are many days I will miss the kitchen something fierce, and Stu will miss seeing our many friends in the dining room, but it's time for us to travel and spend more time with our daughters and grandson," Kathy says.

Deingruber studied culinary arts in his native Czech Republic from 1987-1990, and moved to New York in 1992 at age 18. He trained under Chef Geoffrey Zakarian at the Royalton Hotel, and moved with Zakarian to Aretsky's Patroon

as a line cook, returning later to the Royalton as sous chef. He then spent nine years managing both Café Gitane and Bread Restaurant in New York. He was asked by the chef of Gjelina to come to Los Angeles to manage the kitchen and expedite at this highly-regarded Venice Beach restaurant, and remained for six years.

Kaefer was owner and general manager of Ruorganic Events in Los Angeles, specializing in natural and organic wedding coordination and catering, from 1986 to 2011.

In the near future, the new owners will add lunch and expand breakfast to seven days a week year round, as well as remaining open seven nights a week year round.

The Ale List

Logsdon adds downtown taproom

links Stoked Roasters on the Hood River waterfront and Everybody's Brewing. The expansion on the existing porter (5.6 percent/45 IBU), is pouring now at Everybody's on Jewett Street in White Salmon, and Stoked will have it on tap within about a week.

Stoked owner Jax Mariash Koudelie said the ale uses actual Bluebird blend dark roast coffee grounds — not just flavoring, as is often the case in "coffee" beers. Bluebird, a dark roast, is about to become Everybody's house roast, Mariash Koudelie said.

"It's been my dream. I love beer and a big reason why I applied for a liquor license, so we could do collaborations," Mariash Koudelie said. "It's really fun to create premium roasted coffee and beer." A

dedicated Hefe drinker, she said she took an immediate liking to the Stoked porter. "I really like it and had never explored dark beers before, and it was so good."

"It'll be gone within a week but we plan to do it again," said Everybody's owner Doug Ellenberger. "You taste our normal hoppy note and then a chocolatey sweetness in the aroma more than the taste. It's a nice addition to what was already a pretty smooth drinking porter. We're very happy with the result."

"I've known Jax and Lance (Koudele) awhile and we're just excited to help support another local business," he said.

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Special districts filing begins

The filing period has started for the Special District election on May 19, 2015.

Filings for special district seats are accepted through March 19, which is also the deadline for districts to file a measure for the May election.

Potential candidates can find the filing form on the Hood River County Elections website. All applications must be in our office no later than 5 p.m. on March 19.

For details contact the Hood River County Elections office at 541-386-1442.

Destiny Theatres Fri - Tue, Jan. 16 - Jan. 20, 2015 Subject to change. Check times daily.

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Fri - Sat & Tue 12:30 3:30 6:45 9:00

PADDINGTON (PG) 1:15 4:15 6:30

BLACKHAT (R-17)
Friday - Tuesday 12:45 3:45 7:00
Fri - Sat & Tue 12:45 3:45 7:00 9:15

TAKEN 3 (PG-13)
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Fri - Sat & Tue 1:00 4:00 6:30 9:30

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