

BREWERIES

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like the winegrower's alliance, is that something you guys would be into?" She sent out e-mails and made it happen," said Jon Warszynski, tap room manager at Double Mountain.

The coming-out party for Breweries In The Gorge will be the annual Zwickelmania event, Feb. 14, held at breweries around the state, including several in Hood River. Whiteman said BITG will give incentive to Zwickelmania visitors to also check out the Washington side breweries while they're in town, or at a later date.

"That will be our first opportunity to showcase what we're doing as Breweries In The Gorge," Whiteman said.

"As we become a more formal organization, we'll do more things, including a beer festival, possibly this fall."

The map will include a passport for brewery patrons to get stamped and, in time, receive a BITG mug.

"The idea as well as holding events, is to provide a conduit for communications relative to the beer community in the Gorge, opportunities for pooled advertising, and drive people to visit more than one brewery," Whiteman said.

Several members are three years old or younger: Thunder Island, pFriem, Acadian, and Backwoods; two of the alliance members - Big Horse and Full Sail - have been in existence 25 years or more; Walking Man, Everybody's and Double Mountain started 10 or so years ago,



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

BREWERIES In The Gorge includes all seven Hood River County breweries, including Thunder Island in Cascade Locks. Just as Thunder Island serves as a recreational information hub for the western Gorge, Breweries In The Gorge will tie together beer businesses throughout the region.

Solera is in its fourth year but it existed as a brewery (Eliot Glacier) for 15 years before that; Logsdon Ales is five years old but its owner, Dave Logsdon, is a craft beer industry charter member.

Warszynski said organizing will give an off-season boost to all the breweries, most of which double as restaurants.

"The idea is to promote the off-season, getting people stoked about our beer and our town," Warszynski said. "People definitely do that in the summer time, but we were trying to get more people to come through, and also to promote each other."

Warszynski said the relationship between breweries "is not competition, it's the

totally opposite.

"It's just nice to get to know each other in the industry. We get together once a month, we talk an hour; we do it at different locations, drinking each others' beers," Warszynski said. "I have made some amazing connections with people I didn't know who were in the industry, which I thought was pret-

BITG FACT SHEET

Web site address (coming soon): breweriesinthegorge.com
 Members: Acadian Farms, Carson; Backwoods, Carson; Big Horse Brewery, Hood River; Double Mountain, Hood River; Everybody's, White Salmon; Full Sail, Hood River; Logsdon Farmhouse Ales, Hood River; pFriem, Hood River; Solera, Parkdale; Thunder Island, Cascade Locks; Walking Man, Stevenson.
 Leadership: president Christine Ellenberger, Everybody's; vice president David Murrell, Double Mountain; secretary Tabitha Wiggins, Walking Man; treasurer John Hitt, Solera.
 This April, BITG will host a visit by national Craft Beer Conference, meeting in Portland.

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COUNCIL

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lands inventory" study. All this will create a basic set of information to help the city make policy decisions, along with other agencies, to improve the affordable housing picture, according to planning director Cindy Walbridge. She has convened a community-based technical committee to begin looking at specific measures involving zoning, fees, and changes in ordinances. Options also include changes to ordinances governing vacation rentals, which affect long-term rental availability and are believed to drive up rental rates.

Meanwhile, Wheeler said he has reached out to 30 building contractors in the area for their perspectives on how the public and private sectors can work together to create more affordable housing. Local builders Doug Beveridge and Mike Kitts appeared Monday, and asked for time before council next month to present their ideas.

"It finally feels like we're getting somewhere on this," councilor Kate McBride said.

See Jan. 31 edition for details on the housing presentation.

The information-filled meeting was also the first time the full council had met in public session since the election that brought in Peter Cornelison, Becky Brun, and Susan Johnson, along with new mayor Paul Blackburn.

"It's great to be at full power," Blackburn said. "Last meeting only four of us were able to meet."

Each council meeting, "council call" comes at the end of the agenda, giving councilors and mayor the chance to talk about whatever they want.

Returning member Laurent Picard, who had missed the previous meeting, limited his remarks to welcoming the newcomers. "It's good to be with you all, and I welcome those of you who are new. I'm really looking forward to working with you," he said. Brun used her time to clarify her committee positions - she'll share Visitor Council with Blackburn - and Johnson noted it was her first meeting and had nothing to report.

Cornelison used his time

to make a three-part request for the council to take steps as a group and as individuals on the subject of global warming: joining the group Safe Energy Leadership Alliance, passing a council resolution asking for carbon tax or cap-and-trade legislation, and to consider joining the advocacy group Climate Communications, which focuses on enacting federal funding on energy and climate issues.

"I also want the city to realize what its carbon footprint is - and know how to deal with it," Cornelison said. "I would also like to find out what other cities are doing, perhaps via a group such as Climate Change Action Network" (CCAN, formed last year in Hood River).

Blackburn said he welcomes such information, if it came with the assistance of an outside organization,

rather than devoting staff time.

Blackburn, who served on council from 2004-08, said, "I want each of us to have agenda items that are important to us, things that you want to get talked about - and work with Steve Wheeler on ways to get those discussed. It's about agenda access. I want to make sure you all feel you have access to the agenda."



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