Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

Rotary Roses Day

Tom Jenkins accepts his load of boxed roses from Cathy Carter Thursday in the annual Hood River Rotary Roses sale, as Lucy Gorman keeps count. Chris Strader, left, arrives for his bunches of flowers. "Rotarians have been 'making someone's day brighter' with Rotary roses for over 30 years," said project coordinator Gordy Sato. "This is one of the most fun Rotary fundraisers, which contributes between $7-8,000 into a pot, which allows approximately $35,000 in high school scholarships yearly for high school seniors going onto college." Sato said that this year Rotarians sold almost 900 dozen and recipients included caregivers at retirement homes. "Thanks to everyone that supported this great fundraiser," Sato said.

Pelinti Pizza opens in Pizzicato location

BY TRISHA WALKER
News staff writer

Pizzicato Hood River has a new name — but lots of familiar food and faces.

Owner Gabriel Head, who opened Pizzicato in May 2007, said when his franchise agreement came to an end this year, he decided not to renew.

Instead, he's ope ned a new restaurant, Pelinti Pizza, in the same location: 2910 Cascade Avenue #102, Hood River (between Walmart and Les Schwab Tire Center).

Now locally owned and operated, Pelinti Pizza has an expanded menu that includes new appetizers, salads and sandwiches.

But pizza still rules. "That's our main thing — that's what we're known for," said Head. Pelinti Pizza boasts 16 different combinations, or customers can build their own.

"I have all the ingredients to make all the favorites that people have enjoyed over the years," he said. "I can still create everybody's favorite dishes."

Head is "trying to seamlessly transition into our new identity," holding a soft opening on Thursday. A grand opening is slated for some time in May. "I want all our regulars to feel at home, like they always have." Staffing has not changed.

Head said he will honor "indefinitely" all of the Pizzicato Hood River gift cards and loyalty cards sold at the location. "And coupons, too — we still have things in print," he added. "Anything with the Hood River logo on it, we're accepting."

Photo by Trisha Walker

PELINTI PIZZA has opened in the Pizzicato Hood River location. Owner Gabriel Head, here preparing fresh balls of pizza dough, said the restaurant has expanded its menu but is keeping many aspects of the business the same.

He is looking forward to continuing service to the community. "I have a really loyal group of customers who have stuck with me over the years, and I want them reassured that we're still here to take care of their cravings," he said.

Pelinti Pizza is open daily from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Summer hours begin after Memorial Day, with the restaurant open until 10 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. While the new sign hasn't been installed yet ("they're building it as we speak," said Head), the restaurant is clearly marked with a new banner and sandwich board.

For more information, call 541-708-3055 or visit www.pelintipizza.com.

Jackie

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While the sale is one day only, Shaw and the garden club ladies work year round: the plants, shrubs and berries sold come solely from members' yards.

This year, the club will offer Shaw's raspberry, marionberry and strawberry starts in addition to the usual perennials and shrubs. She likes the plants to be potted to sell at least a week in advance because "if I did it today and sell it on Saturday, I wouldn't be sure if it was going to live, even though it probably would," she said. "I like everything to stand up and look pretty."

One thing she's known for is her ability to start plants from cuttings, such as roses, dahlias, hydrangeas and forsythias. She can't recall exactly how she learned to start plants from cuttings, "but it works," she said. "Some things don't work — I go by trial and error. Lilacs, they don't start from clippings. You have to dig down — they send out runners and you pull them up and cut them off and hope you get a couple of roots. But roses are really easy for me.

"They root and then the next year I put them in pots and we sell them for $3," she said. "That's mainly what I do."

Well, maybe not. Because she has a large property — the area where her daughter used to ride horses now holds plants — many members bring their seedlings for her to take care of in addition to her own.

"I keep (the plants) watered all year — all summer — and fertilized because no one else seems to have the property that I do," she said.

And for those who lost rose bushes in the November freeze, she'll have her starts available, which surprisingly survived.

"I had started four big planters full of rose starts, from climbers to just normal roses, and the weather didn't get them at all," she said. "I transplanted them and they're beautiful. But the big roses I cut them off of are dead. But those little bitty starts were happy. It's a miracle. It's nothing that I did."

Friday morning, Shaw joined other Odell Garden Club members in the Community Building to set up for the sale, which takes about five hours. It's her job to make sure everything brought in is labeled — and if she's not sure what a plant is, she finds someone who does.

"Some of the older ladies who have been in the Garden Club longer than me, they'll tell me what it is," she said.

At the sale, customers will find "anything from flowers to shrubs to berries at a good price," Shaw said. "The highest thing we have is $3, that's shrubs, down to $1."

Money earned goes to the many organizations and charities the club supports, including Hospice, the Hood River County Fairgrounds, St. Francis House, the Hood River Valley High drug-free graduation party, and 4H scholarships.

"We try to keep (the money) mostly in Odell," Shaw said.

Anything that doesn't sell at the April sale is held over for the club's second sale in June, located at Shaw's house "to babysit … We sell lots of stuff that way, too."

Shaw joined Odell Garden Club 12 years ago, after retiring from Diamond Fruit, where she worked as a bookkeeper for 44 years. She's always been interested in gardening, and "always had flowers and flowers and flowers," she said. "I think that's how they got me joining — somebody said, 'I'm having a plant sale,' and I said, 'I have lots of this and lots of this, do you want me to bring it?' and they said, 'yeah.' I did that for a year and got hooked and joined. It's really lots of fun.

"I like doing the plant sale and making more plants and making more plants. And I love the people. Everybody in Garden Club is very nice."

The plant sale isn't the club's only activity; they also create bouquets for Hospice patients every Friday, make Mother's Day bouquets for Hood River Care Center residents, and create all 28 of the Christmas wreaths and swags that decorate every business in downtown Odell.

"It's a great club to belong to," Shaw said. "If somebody else is bored and needs something to do, we do a lot of work, but have a lot of fun, too."

Quilt , flowers and more: Weekend at the fairgrounds

April 18-19 marks the annual Blossom Craft Show at the Hood River County Fairgrounds. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, vendors from around the Northwest will offer arts and crafts, plants, garden art, handcrafted home furnishings and decorations, photos, paintings, and gourmet food products. Parking and admission are free.

The Odell Garden Club will hold their plant sale on April 18 in the Community Building; Gorge Strings will perform Sunday afternoon. Hood River Valley High FFA, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers and Special Olympics will also have booths.

The Blossom Quilt Show is held in the floral building during the Blossom Craft Show. Quilts will be for sale and show. Admission is free, with donations for Hood River Adopt A Dog accepted at the door. Those attending can vote for their favorite blocks to include the annual Harvest Quilt fundraiser. The blocks are created using one main and a variety of coordinating fabrics from ETC in Hood River. This year's sale proceeds will benefit Hood River Adopt A Dog; watch for the finished quilt to make its rounds to various business window displays in the coming months.

Linden

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gion Corrections Facility the following morning, his bail originally posted at $84,000.

Linden was arraigned at the Hood River County Courthouse Thursday. He appeared before Judge John Olson via video feed from Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility. While the judge read the charges stacked against him, Linden shook his head and cursed.

The Judge asked Linden if he had an attorney, or the means to hire one. After Linden replied that he was currently unemployed, the court appointed Brian Starns as Linden's defense attorney.

Olson raised the bail to $100,000 and ordered that Linden have no contact with the alleged victim, even by phone.

Linden will appear again for a hearing before a grand jury at the Hood River County Courthouse Monday, April 22.

CGCC

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gram fee, a $25 increase to the welding course fee, and establishment of a $100 medical assisting lab fee, according to the report.

Additionally, the college will begin to charge normal tuition and fees for CG101 college readiness courses. These courses were previously taught by student advisors and offered to students free of charge.

Due to staffing reductions in Student Services, these courses are now taught by part-time instructors. Each of the above fee increases were recommended by the respective department director of the affected program as a strategy to reduce the need for program reductions. The board voted to adopt the new tuition and fee schedule — and expressed regret that they had to do so — was unanimous.

New revenue anticipated from the tuition and fees increase was used to close 7 percent of the college's projected gap for the 2015-16 academic year.

The tuition and fee increase is part of a proposed budget that closes a roughly 20 percent deficit through a combination of expenditure reductions, new revenue, and limited continued use of operating reserves, according to a budget message provided by CGCC President Dr. Frank Toda. The largest reductions will be in the areas of administration, student services, and facilities. Instruction and academic support functions were largely shielded from reductions, Toda said.

"The 2015-16 Proposed Budget continues every academic program, degree, and certificate," Toda wrote in his budget message. "Reductions to course offerings are expected to raise average class sizes from the mid-teens in 2014-15 to the low-twenties in the next 2015-16 academic year."

The proposed budget will now go to the Budget Committee for review and approval. The public is asked to provide input at hearings on April 28, May 5, and May 7 at 6 p.m. in the college boardroom on The Dalles campus.

The full budget document and the condensed community budget book can be accessed online at www.cgcc.edu/budget.

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