

Staves for the brave: Veteran supporters honored with special wooden U.S. flag

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**
News editor

This flag stands firm. Hood River Police Department held a ceremony last week for an organization based in The Dalles known as Outdoor Adventures for Military Heroes.

Officer Kyle Zuercher presented the group with a special flag made from barrel staves, from Heritage Flag Company of North Carolina. "This is a local program that helps out and our department wanted to honor them," said Zuercher, a 2004 graduate of Hood River Valley High School who joined the police force last year after a career in the U.S. Air Force as a security officer.

Since 2013, Outdoor Adventures has provided about 20 fully supported hunting and fishing excursions — meals, guides, supplies, and firearms if needed — to wounded veterans including those experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Veterans are generally contacted through Veterans Service offices, and invited to participate, at no charge.

"I'm a hunting and fishing guy and a vet, and I wanted to recognize you for what

you do," Zuercher told the Outdoor Adventures members. "A lot of people don't know about you and we want to acknowledge what you for vets and all your hard work." Chief Neal Holste was on hand, along with several other officers, though several had to leave early when a call came over the scanner.

Zuercher had read about Heritage Flag Company's ongoing practice of donating the 2-by-3 flags to groups around the country, and when he heard about Outdoor Adventures, he presented the idea to his fellow officers. Zuercher applied and the organization accepted, telling him they wanted to reach out more to western states and that honoring a group that supports veterans is near and dear to the guys behind it — veterans who work at a North Carolina brewery and started making and giving away the honorary flags made from repurposed brewery materials.

Outdoor Adventures works with ranchers and property owners to gain access to lands and streams where wounded veterans can camp, hunt or fish, and enjoy



Photo by Kirby Neumann-REA

HOOD RIVER Police Officer Kyle Zuercher presents the hand-made barrel stave flag to Outdoor Adventures for Military Heroes board members Hal Woods, left, Fred Coleman and Lane Magill.

the outdoors for a few days.

"Sometimes they don't get anything in the field but what they usually tell us is that it didn't matter: the most valuable part was getting out, having that time with other veterans, and enjoying the outdoors," said board member and excursion guide Hal Woods.

Supporters, and veterans who could benefit from the experience, are needed in Hood River County, according to Coleman.

"We're trying to reach out to wounded veterans not involved via the VSO," Coleman said. He can be reached at medichunter@hotmail.com.

AniChe Winery hosts Green Drinks

Join Gorge Owned for a family-friendly Green Drinks at the scenic AniChe Cellars in Underwood. Sample and learn about local wine while enjoying appetizers from Stenberg Family Foods. Co-host Underwood Conservation District (UCD) will discuss the Gorge's current drought situation and give an overview of UCD programs and offerings related to water conservation practices for vineyards, homeowners and

businesses.

AniChe is a small family winery committed to community, family, and the craft of European blended wines. They source with local vineyards and produce minimally processed wines made the old fashioned way. Underwood Conservation District (UCD) helps landowners and land managers enhance and protect natural resources on a voluntary basis. Stenberg Family Foods is a full-service

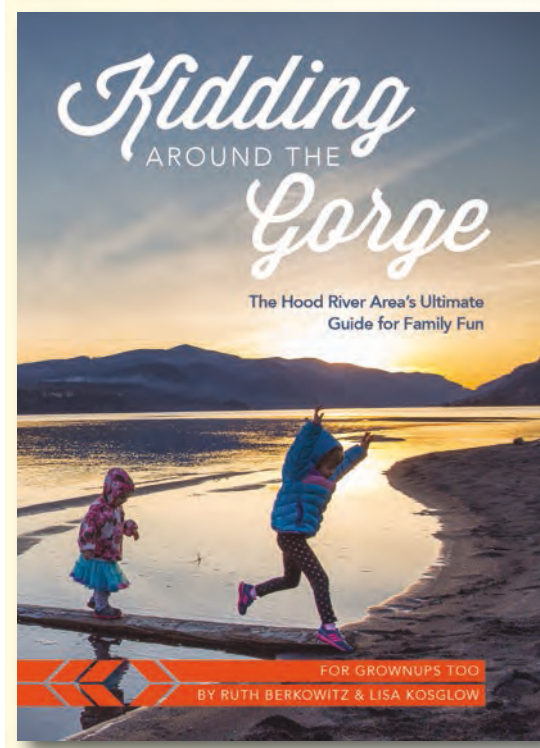
catering company in the Columbia River Gorge that reflects the bounty of the Northwest.

Brought to you by Gorge Owned and member businesses, Green Drinks is a monthly networking event that aims to raise awareness about environmentally friendly business practices while providing a quality networking opportunity for members of the community.

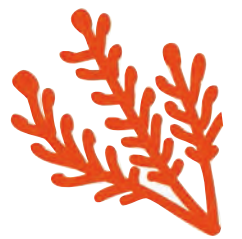
Learn more about Gorge Owned at GorgeOwned.org.

Kidding Around the Gorge

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Printed by Columbia Gorge Press.

Wines of the Gorge

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We couldn't be more thrilled this year to announce the completion of phase two for Jacob Williams Winery, in the opening of our new tasting room. It sits just above the beautiful Columbia River, boasting panoramic windows that offer amazing views of Mt Hood.

Inside, there resides a large U-shaped bar and cozy seating. Outside you'll find a new wraparound patio with plenty of tables and chairs, affording you the opportunity to sit back and relax with your friends while sharing a bottle of wine.

To celebrate our new tasting room we are offering LIVE music every Saturday afternoon from 1-4 PM. Check out our website to see a list of the very talented local musicians that will be performing.

We are also proud to announce the results of the 2015 Seattle Wine Awards: Silver for our 2013 Chardonnay, Gold for our 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon, and Double Gold for our 2010 Reserve Zinfandel. John Haw (winemaker) and Brad Gearhart's (owner of JW) years of dedication and

hard work isn't going un-noticed this year!

We are excited about the future of Jacob Williams Winery as we continue to expand our facilities while maintaining the vision that Brad had over 12 years ago. Offering high quality wines, excellent customer service and a beautiful destination...with the intent to give each of our guests an ultimate wine tasting experience, leaving them with delightful memories and a lasting impression.

We hope to see you all this summer! ~ Cheers!



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