

GREATER GORGE

Joseph O'Sullivan appointed to Bingen City Council

By ELAINE BAKKE
White Salmon Enterprise

On Feb. 18, Bingen City Council welcomed its newest member to join the board, Joseph O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan, who works as the head distiller for Clear Creek Distillery in Hood River, was recently appointed to Bingen's empty council seat following a vote by the council after former Councilor Laura Mann's stepped down from the position. Mayor Betty Barnes swore in O'Sullivan at the Wednesday night meeting. O'Sullivan will serve the remainder of Mann's term, through the end of the year 2023.

O'Sullivan said he applied after seeing the comparisons between the City of Bingen and his hometown on Cape Cod, where he was raised by a family who was active in the community.

"As the influence of Boston, Connecticut and New York progressed down the Cape and started to get into the areas where the people who actually lived there lived, it was clear that it would behoove us to

have a little bit more control of how our towns changed," O'Sullivan said.

He said upon hearing comments about how the town should "be more like Portland or Southern California," and upon seeing the larger political scene, he put his name in for consideration. He also made clear that the irony was not lost upon him, the man from Massachusetts who wanted power to stay in the hands of locals. O'Sullivan and his wife, Janet, moved to the area after finding work here two years and some change ago. Janet owns Tokki Art Supply in downtown Bingen.

"This is the first time that I know that I'm going to be here for hopefully the rest of my life, and I want to be a part of it because now I have the opportunity of making a difference," O'Sullivan said.

"I just wanted to make sure that there was interest, and enthusiasm and passion from the people who want that choice to be made by the people who live here and not by people who can put retail and finance here but then walk away with

the money," O'Sullivan said. "I want the money to stay here."

With that, he said he sees the main priority for Bingen to focus on is local economic development, which includes having retail options for locals to shop at "that'll keep them from ordering from Jeff Bezos and Amazon" and keeping shoppers on this side of the river. At the same time, he said he does not want to see retail in Bingen price out local consumers.

"We don't need to send our shopping (to Oregon). We have our own schools and our own infrastructure to look out for," Sullivan said. "It's not a new problem ... but it doesn't mean that just because it's hard you don't try."

O'Sullivan said he plans to listen and learn from the other councilors initially as he gets used to the role, and that his background in science may be beneficial for certain committees. He is currently working on the city's parks committee.

O'Sullivan made his first decision as councilor Wednesday night to second a motion to approve a \$2.6 million SRF

loan from the Department of Ecology for the wastewater facilities improvements project.

Looking forward, O'Sullivan said he sees success in his role measured by how much the group achieves.

"If one playground gets designed and I can be involved in that, that's fantastic. It's not my success, it's the success of a multitude of people, it's the success of the support of the state or the nation, depending on where the economic driver's coming from," O'Sullivan said. "I'm only one person in a large group. It's going to continue on without me and it started way before I got here."

O'Sullivan, 42, is a graduate of Wheaton College in Massachusetts with a degree in biology. His previous experience includes working for the Department of National Resources in Massachusetts and at the Harvard Center of Comparative Medicine. O'Sullivan cites carpentry and reading fiction novels as pastimes.



Photo by Elaine Bakke

MAYOR BETTY BARNES swears in new Bingen City Councilor Joseph O'Sullivan, who works for Clear Creek Distillery in Hood River.

Bicoastal radio auction is Saturday

The Bicoastal Media Radio Auction presented by Chamness Auctions will return on March 14, offering over \$200,000 in goods and services from some of the area's most prominent and popular businesses at substantial savings.

Listeners can bid on items including appliances, home

improvement, lodging, automotive service and accessories, vision and dental services, health and beauty, recreational sites, pet services, hobbies, musical instruments, ski gear and more.

"Instant auction" opportunities are also offered, to purchase gift certificates for area

restaurants and stores.

Listen to bid beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing into the mid-afternoon on KIHHR-AM 1340/98.3 FM, 105.5/96.9 FM KCGB, 93.5 FM KACI, Newsradio 1300/103.9 FM KACI, and on-line at Gorgeradio.com, with updates on our Gorge Radio Facebook page. Go to

Gorgeradio.com for a complete listing of items available.

When you hear items you want to bid on, call 541-386-1511 or 1-888-786-1511.

For faster bidding, bidder numbers to present at the time of bid are available in advance by calling 541-296-2211.

March 19 'Night Out' helps WS Valley Education Foundation

Beneventi's, Everybody's, Feast, Harvest Market, Henri's, Pioneer Pizza, and the White Salmon Valley Education Foundation (WSVEF) invite the community to shop and dine locally to support education with the annual "Night out for Schools" event Thursday, March 19.

On this special evening, each of these local businesses will donate 5 percent of net sales made from 4 p.m. until close to the WSVEF.

"As a local business, we feel it is crucial to invest in White

Salmon's future," said Harvest Market owner Jeff O'Neal, "and helping out schools is one way we can all contribute to our community."

Night Out For Schools brings the community together for a good cause. Over the past decade, funds raised from the community have enabled the WSVEF to contribute over \$4 million dollars to White Salmon's schools. Over \$606,000 in grants has been awarded to the schools directly from the WSVEF, and the foundation has brought in over \$3.3

million in grants from outside funding sources.

"This is a great way to get out into our community, reconnect after a busy winter and have some fun while we support our schools. So invite your friends, and join us on March 19," said WSVEF's Executive Director Amanda Lawrence.

While stocking up on groceries and dining out, visit Rose City Astronomers, who will set up telescopes near Pioneer Pizza at 7 p.m. to provide some star gazing opportunities for the community.

This evening is supported by a sponsorship from Skyline Medical Clinic.

The WSVEF is a 501c3 on-profit corporation dedicated to enhancing the quality of public education within our community by creating a stable source of supplemental funding for curriculum enhancement and investment in our teachers. Email amanda@wsvef.org to get involved, donate or learn more.

Earth Week seminar April 25

Scholar, biologist and author Dr. Robert Michael Pyle will be guest speaker at an Earth Day seminar, "People in Nature: Interactions on Mount Adams in a Warming Earth" on April 25 in the Columbia High School Gymnasium, 1455 N.W. Bruin Country Road, White Salmon, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Host is Friends of Mt. Adams (mtadamsfriends.org).

The event is free for all to

attend. Other speakers will be discussing the physical, biological and cultural impacts to be expected on Mt. Adams.

On the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day, this science-based Friends of Mt. Adams Community Seminar will explore the impacts of climate change-induced environmental changes on the biological communities that depend upon Mount Adams.

Spanish convos weekly in Bingen

A new weekly Spanish-language conversation group meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for intermediate, advanced and native speakers, at Society Hotel, 210 N. Cedar St., Bingen.

Hablanos nativos especialmente bienvenidos.

The sessions are free and for those 18 and over.

HOOD RIVER NEWS (ISSN 07465823) is published twice weekly, every Wednesday and Saturday. Subscription rates: \$45 per year prepaid (\$39 for senior citizens, 65 and over) in Hood River County and western Wasco County, Oregon; and Klickitat and Skamania counties, Washington. Elsewhere, \$71 prepaid per year. Known office of publication, 419 State Ave., Hood River, OR 97031-2031. Periodicals postage paid at Hood River, Oregon. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOOD RIVER NEWS, P.O. Box 390, Hood River, OR 97031-0103.



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Full job descriptions and required application can be obtained at the main office located at 4865 Hwy 35 Hood River, OR 97031.

Job postings can also be found on Indeed.com

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	4							3
			6		1	7		
7	3				8			2
	6		4		1		3	
9	1				5			6
	9	2		5				
6						9		
1	8	3	7				6	

Fill in all 81 squares on the puzzle with numbers 1 to 9. You can use each number 1-9 only once in each nine square section, in each horizontal line of nine squares, and in each vertical column of nine squares. The puzzle is completed when you correctly fill every square.

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