

ARLINGTON

Marina installs boater fuel dock

Only fuel stop on Columbia between The Dalles, Umatilla

By GEORGE PLAGEN
East Oregonian

A new fuel pump is open for business at the Port of Arlington Marina, providing the only service for boaters and anglers in 100 miles on the Mid-Columbia River.

About 40 people attended a ribbon cutting Thursday to celebrate several recent upgrades at the marina, including a new gangway and 18 new boats slips at the "B" and "C" docks. But the project's crown jewel is the on-water fuel dock, which finally gives boaters a place to fill up their tanks between Umatilla and The Dalles.

Port Manager Peter Mitchell said a fuel dock has been on the board's wish list since 1978. In 2011, the port conducted a survey of boaters that showed 93 percent of visitors from out of town were in need of fuel.

The entire project cost nearly \$550,000, most of which was paid for by grants through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon State Marine Board. Construction began in December 2014 and passed inspection in April.

"It took a lot of work and a lot of help to make this come about," Mitchell said. "It's been a really big project, and we're really appreciative of all the support we've received."

The dock now serves both diesel and non-ethanol gasoline. It was installed by Anderson Environmental Contractors of Kelso, Washington.

Janine Belleque, boating facilities manager for the State Marine Board in Salem, said Arlington's central location between Umatilla and The Dalles made it an ideal



Staff photo by George Plagen

Glen Cathers fuels up his boat Thursday at the Port of Arlington Marina's new fuel dock, which now provides the only service for boaters on the Columbia River between The Dalles and Umatilla.



Staff photo by George Plagen

The Port of Arlington paid \$515,000 in mostly grant money on recent upgrades at its marina, including a new fuel station for boaters and a gangway.

location to add a fuel station, whereas previously boaters might choose to avoid the area or risk being stranded.

"Without fuel, it really limits their capacity to go anywhere," Belleque said.

Adding another destination on the river should also help Arlington's economy,

Belleque said, as boaters stop not only for gas but to visit the city and shop at local stores and restaurants.

Gilliam County Judge Steve Shaffer said the idea of a fuel dock was first raised to him 13 years ago, and he is thrilled to see the project come to fruition.

"Boaters came into the area without enough fuel to get to Umatilla. ... You had this beautiful stretch of river that couldn't be used," Shaffer said. "It was a huge concern."

Mitchell said visitors who would stop at the marina were already spending, on average, \$45-\$50 in town. Now, he expects that traffic will only increase.

"It just makes it more convenient for them to utilize the services," he said.

One local boater, Glen Cathers of Goldendale, Washington, said he is pleased to see a station available closer to home.

"Hopefully here, this is going to solve our fueling problems," Cathers said. "This is really convenient."

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First retail pot shop approved in Walla Walla

Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

A hearing examiner has ruled in favor of allowing Walla Walla's first retail marijuana store.

The proposed pot shop at 927 W. Main St. expects to open this summer and go by the name Walla Walla Cannabis Co.

"I am shooting for end of August," owner Amber Cole said in an email. "I am very excited and proud to build this business in a way that will improve Walla Walla in a meaningful and positive way."

Cole said what remains is a build-out and remodel, followed by final inspection and licensure by the Washington State Liquor Control Board, to be renamed Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board effective in July.

On Wednesday, city officials sent notices of Hearing Examiner Leland B. Kerr's May 29 decision.

In his decision, Kerr said Cole's Tangletown Holdings LLC met all conditional requirements required by local authorities and that the business would "not endanger the public

health or safety" or "create nuisance condition" to neighboring properties.

Kerr's decision was made eight days after the May 21 hearing, which was held in a packed city hall meeting at which 19 people testified.

Opponents of the pot store slightly outnumbered supporters in comments during the hearing, with most stating the business should not be allowed in a neighborhood that is mixture of residences and retail shops.

In addition to the comments, a total of two petitions and 25 letters — including one by actress Susan Sarandon — were reviewed by Kerr in making his decision.

"Over the years, I have come to know that responsible and safe cannabis use as an adult is something that has elevated my own well-being, health and awareness," Sarandon wrote in her May 14 letter of support.

The results of the hearing can be appealed with the Walla Walla County Superior Court. Individuals have 21 days or until June 19 to make their appeal.

Ordinance Brewing opens Boardman tap room

BOARDMAN — New beer-maker Ordinance Brewing will open its Boardman tap room to the public on weekends.

The business at 405 N. Olson Road in the Port of Morrow will be open Saturdays from 2-10 p.m. and Sundays from 2-6 p.m.

Brewmaster Logan Mayfield will feature popular flagship brews on the tasting room's 15 taps. The brewery hopes to add more hours this summer.

Ordinance Brewing was founded in 2014 by Hermiston neighbors Craig Coleman and the late Mark McLeod.

Wal-Mart keeps it all in the family, chair passed to son-in-law Penner

By ANNE D'INNOGENZIO
and CANDICE CHOI
AP Retail Writers



AP Photo/Danny Johnston

New Wal-Mart chairman Greg Penner speaks to the Wal-Mart shareholder meeting in Fayetteville, Ark. on Friday.

married to his daughter.

Penner had been the chairman of the company's technology and e-commerce committee since it was formed in 2011 and has been instrumental in guiding the company on the technology front.

"You've been a great mentor. No one can fill your shoes," said Penner, referring to Walton. Penner joined Walton on stage as well as Doug McMillon, the company's CEO, and former CEO David Glass who served at the helm from 1988 to 2000.

Walton said that Penner "brings an ideal blend of finance, technology, and international business expertise — as well as a deep knowledge and love of Wal-Mart — to this role."

The announcement was not a surprise after Walton named Penner as vice chairman at last year's annual shareholders' meeting. The Walton family controls about 50 percent of the company's shares.

Keeping with Wal-Mart's practice of showcasing celebrities at the annual event, the meeting was being hosted by actress Reese Witherspoon. Singers Brian McKnight, Rod Stewart and Ricky Martin also performed on stage. Entertainer Carol Burnett was on stage, too, and did her trademark Tarzan call.

U.S. hiring jumps in May as businesses get bullish

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers added a robust 280,000 jobs in May, showing that the economy has regained momentum after starting 2015 in a deep slump.

The unemployment rate ticked up to 5.5 percent from 5.4 percent in April, the government said Friday. But that occurred for a good reason: Hundreds of thousands more people began seeking jobs in May. Not all of them found work and so were counted as unemployed.

Last month's strong job growth reflects a vote of confidence by employers, a sign that they foresee a broader rebound for the U.S. economy after it shrank during the first three months of the year. The government also revised up its estimate of job growth during March and April by a combined net 32,000.

The steady hiring should help drive the economy through the rest of the year, overcoming the drags caused by a stronger dollar hurting exports and cheaper oil slashing into revenues for the energy industry.

BRIEFLY



AP file photo

A row of Google self-driving Lexus cars in Mountain View, Calif.

Google will make reports on self-driving cars

NEW YORK (AP) — Google will release monthly reports on the performance of its self-driving cars, and it disclosed summaries of the 12 accidents that involved the vehicles.

Google described all of the accidents as minor, saying no injuries were reported. The company said Friday, as it has in the past, that its cars were not to blame for any of the accidents.

The advocacy group Consumer Watchdog has pushed Google to release the accident reports, and The Associated Press has asked Google and the California Department of Motor Vehicles for the reports. Both

have refused, citing privacy concerns.

The Mountain View, California-based company says the cars have driven about 1 million miles in autonomous mode since 2009, and Google's drivers have been in control for 800,000 additional miles.

Safety agency admits flaws, starts reforms after GM

DETROIT (AP) — The U.S. government's auto safety agency acknowledged Friday that staffers' failure to understand technology and lack of skepticism prevented them from rooting out a deadly problem with General Motors ignition switches for more than a decade.

The mea culpa came Friday as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration outlined actions designed to make itself more aggressive in finding and solving safety problems among the 240 million cars on U.S. roadways. It's the first time the agency has admitted fault in failing to discover the switch problem and link it to a series of fatal accidents, although regulators still blame the automaker for hiding the defect.

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