

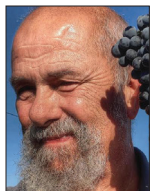
Los Rocosos Vineyards opens second tasting room in Milton-Freewater

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — Los Rocosos Vineyards has opened a second wine tasting room at 500 E. Broadway Ave. in Milton-Freewater. Los Rocosos on Broadway offers tastings and hospitality Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, plus small bites inside and on its covered patio area. Reservations and drop-ins are welcome.

The original tasting room at 84038 Eastside Road also is available, by reservation only, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, for those seeking a vineyard and winery experience.

“There is a multitude of reasons for adding the second tasting room,” owner and vigneron Roger Lemstrom explained. “The vine-



Lemstrom

yard tasting room is tiny, but well-appointed. It’s 13 by 13 feet, the smallest in the Walla Walla Valley. It’s a two-season room, spring and fall, when the temperature is moderate.”

The difficulty in finding the 7.2-acre vineyard is another reason for setting up a new tasting room just two blocks off Highway 11, Lemstrom said. Los Rocosos on Broadway also is more spacious, heated, air-conditioned, accessible to guests with disabilities and offers adequate off-street parking.

Lemstrom established Los Rocosos Vineyards in Milton-Freewater’s Rocks District in 2017. It grows grenache, syrah, mourvedre, grenache blanc and viognier. All grapes are sustainably grown.

“For me, it’s all about the grapes,” Lemstrom said. “This is a late third career for me. I went to Southern Oregon Wine Institute in



Los Rocosos Vineyards/Contributed Photo

Los Rocosos Vineyards has added this second tasting room at 500 E. Broadway Ave., Milton-Freewater. The second room is two blocks of Highway 11 and larger and more accessible than the tasting room at the vineyard.

Roseburg at age 60. Wine-making is less exciting to me than growing grapes.”

Los Rocosos produces less than a thousand cases of its estate- and neighbor-grown wines a year, he said, and also sells fruit to a number of local wineries that value its careful approach to viticulture.

“The Rocks District rocks,” Lemstrom enthused. Its grapes are noted for their minerality and concentration of flavors, due to its unique terroir, according to Los Rocosos’ website.

The Rocks American Viticultural Area is perhaps the most interesting and challenging region in which to grow grapes, the website stated. Vintages produced by this AVA’s wineries have consistently won awards, and offer premium wines to people who

know what they want.

“In the Willamette Valley, pinot and chardonnay predominate,” Lemstrom noted, “but the Walla Walla Valley has 47 types of wine grape. There are 6,000 varieties in the world. Two of my varieties have written records for 4,000 years.”

High fuel costs don’t seem to be hurting tourism in the Walla Walla Valley, Lemstrom reported.

“A couple cooped up in Bellingham in a 600-square-foot condo for two years want to get off the couch and on the road,” he said.

Lemstrom was, however, shocked by how much he had to pay to make a delivery to Rogue River Valley in Southern Oregon. But surging agricultural chemical prices have not harmed his operation’s

bottom line, he said, while some of his orchardist neighbors have been hammered.

“We’re organic, so that helps,” he said.

Wineries have however been affected by supply chain issues, such as glass, Lemstrom reported.

Staff shortages plaguing so many small businesses also have not affected Los Rocosos either.

“Being such a small operation, my significant other and I do 90% of our own work,” Lemstrom said. “A friend recently came to our aid. For agricultural procedures, such as pruning, we hire reliable people who have full-time jobs, but help us out on evenings or weekends.”

Lemstrom also operates without a line of credit, paying as he goes out of receipts.

Stanfield superintendent recognized for achievements

East Oregonian

STANFIELD — The superintendent of the Stanfield School District is the 2022 Administrator of the Year for the Oregon Small Schools Association.

The association recently announced the selection of Beth Burton to receive the honor.

“When Burton took over the helm at Stanfield, the district was struggling with academics and facility issues,” according to a statement from the OSSA. “Under Burton’s leadership, facilities have been updated and tremendous improvements made with student achievement and growth.”

Burton during the last three years has prioritized investment in early learning, and the Stanfield School District now offers kindergarten readiness programs

for students ages 3 and 4, according to the association.

And under her leadership, the district has seen an increase in enrollment and provided 1:1 technology for the first time. The district also completed its strategic plan with a community steering committee and now is able to focus on its primary mission to “Educate. Empower. Inspire,” according to the OSSA statement.

Burton also helped the district pass a bond in spring 2019 and oversaw the bond construction projects to improve district facilities.

Burton in a statement from the InterMountain Education Service District shared the spotlight.

“I am honored to be recognized by my peers, especially during this incredibly challenging time for all of us,”

she said. “I am fortunate to be surrounded by such a fantastic group of administrators

in our region and around the state. It takes many people to make things happen in small schools, and the collective efforts of our staff in Stanfield continue to make good things happen for students.”

IMESD Superintendent Mark Mulvihill expressed happiness about this announcement.

“I am thrilled Beth received this award,” he said. “She is a key member of our regional superintendent family. I’ve always admired her work ethic, intelligence and dedication to improving the lives of students.”

Burton will receive her Oregon Small Schools Association award on June 24 at the Coalition of Oregon



Burton

School Administrators annual conference in Seaside.

The Oregon Small Schools Association recognizes one school administrator each year who excels in his/her leadership position. Criteria include integrity, leadership, commitment to community, scholarship, and student achievement. OSSA serves as an advocate for the benefits of rural education and small schools across the state. For more information, visit www.oregonssa.org.

Kip Moore to headline 2022 Round-Up concert

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Chart-topping country star Kip Moore will bring his troubadour lifestyle and timeless sound to Eastern Oregon for the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Kick-Off Concert.

Presented by Integrity Corps, the event is Saturday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m. at Happy Canyon Arena. Tickets, which are now on sale, range from \$51-\$90. In addition, VIP packages are available for \$156, which includes dinner prior to the event and water, soda and malt beverages during the concert.

In 2021, Moore released his fourth studio album, “Wild World,” a revelatory collection written as he traveled the globe in an effort to make sense of a world battling nothing short of an identity crisis. While searching through isolation and nature, Moore said a simple peace emerged.

“Music is the one thing where I really try to unveil where I’m at mentally, where my soul is,” Moore said in a press release. “As you get

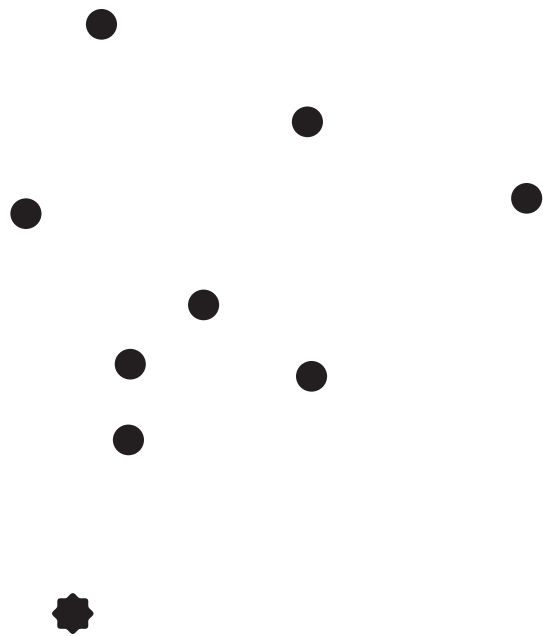
older, you start thinking about bigger concepts and where you fit in the grand scheme of this whole thing.”

Moore splashed into the mainstream in 2012 with the double-platinum “Somethin’ Bout a Truck.” That was followed up with three best-selling No. 1 hits — “Hey Pretty Girl,” “Beer Money” and “More Girls Like You,” as well as a trifecta of critically acclaimed albums and two gritty EPs.

While touring across the globe, Moore was met with a fierce following. Round-Up President Karl Farber said it will be great to have the country star kick off Round-Up week.

“We’re excited to kick off the week with Kip Moore’s energy, heart and soul,” Kenzie Hansell, Happy Canyon president, added. “He’ll bring entertainment for all generations to enjoy in the Happy Canyon Arena.”

An opening act will be announced at a later date. For more information or to reserve tickets, visit www.pendletonroundup.com.



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New transit facility and routes are possible

PENDLETON TRANSIT
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Another chance to weigh in: Learn more about the possible design ideas for the proposed new Bus Barn Facility and potential new bus routes planned for Pendleton.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE #2: Arrive at any time, stay as long as you'd like and talk to City staff again about these new projects

Pendleton Convention Center, Room 4 | June 2, 4:30PM-6PM

For more information about the Open House and the projects, please contact Karen Kendall, Transit Coordinator at karen.kendall@geodc.net or call Karen at 541-966-0201

