

Future winery making strides

Industrial Park building now storing King Estate wines

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Preparations to bring a popular area winery to Cottage Grove are continuing in earnest, according to its owner.

Ed King, owner/founder of Lorane-based King Estate Winery, said last week that "things are going great" for the company in the Cottage Grove Industrial Park, where a former distillery is being transformed into the headquarters of King Estate's Acrobat label of wines.

King Estate announced the purchase of the former Side Pocket Foods building, which has been shuttered since its previous owner was convicted on charges of tax evasion, in late June. The building is slated to house the Acrobat label, a less costly version of King Estate's signature varietals that has been called the "fastest growing brand in Oregon history."

Shortly after the announcement of the purchase of the Side Pocket building, King Estate also purchased Lot 13 in the Industrial Park, a lot situated across R Street from the 3.9-acre facility. Its plans for that lot are as yet unknown. City Manager Richard Meyers noted that the purchases will take care of three years of debt payments on the Industrial Park; they also helped ease concerns the City Council shared about the need to make payments on the park.

Currently, King said, crews are working on the loading docks at the former Side Pocket facility, in addition to landscaping.

"We're drastically increasing the amount of insulation in the building and putting on a new roof and skylights," he said. "We're excited to start loading wine into the building, likely this week; it's a very exciting time for us."

Pallets of King Estate wine were stacked into a cooled storage facility

on Monday, and King said the warehouse should be "more or less full" of wine in six months. He added that King Estate has enlisted the services of California-based Summit Engineering to design and build a new tasting room in Cottage Grove, potentially on the same Industrial Park property. He said the company hopes to have that new facility in use by the crush/harvest of the fall of 2017.

"There are a lot of vendors and contractors working hard there right now," King said. "We hope to host a ribbon cutting before too long, and we're very happy to be a part of the community."

King Estate's Northwest Area Manager, Justin King, stated that the Industrial Park is "logistically a fantastic location" for the winery's new operation that will make shipping and trucking much easier than before due to its location near Interstate 5.

On Monday, Mark Dorman, who's in charge of construction at the site, said



photo by Jon Stinnett

Mark Dorman of King Estate Winery displays cases of wine at the new Cottage Grove facility.

the facility should be able to store about 260-80 cases of wine to make room at the main winery for its 2015 vintage. The new roof and insulation are costly but will make the new building much more energy efficient, he said, adding

that King Estate will save money utilizing the Cottage Grove storage facility as opposed to shipping its wine to a California distributor.



Main Street will once again be closed downtown for trick-or-treating on Friday, Oct. 30 from 3-5 p.m.

Halloween plans coming together

Downtown trick-or-treating will take place Friday, Oct. 30 from 3-5 p.m.

Cottage Grove's annual trick-or-treating and Halloween celebration will take place on Friday, Oct. 30 from 3-5 p.m. downtown, according to plans a committee decided on last week.

The occurrence of Halloween on a Saturday this year led to questions regarding when the downtown celebration would take place, and a committee formed of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, City of Cottage Grove, the Cottage Grove Sentinel and the Main Street Program has been meeting to out-

line plans for the event.

Main Street will be closed downtown during the event, according to Sentinel Publisher Gary Manly, who said that sentiment was reportedly split between those wishing to have the event on Friday or on Halloween proper. The Downtown Art Walk will follow at 6 p.m.

The Severed Armory, a haunted attraction that drew large crowds to the Cottage Grove Armory the past two years, announced that it has outgrown its space there and will move to the Eugene Fairgrounds.

Grant will fund P.E. at area schools

Schools haven't been able to fund P.E. instruction since before economic downturn

BY JON STINNETT
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The 2015-16 school year has already been a more active one for many students in South Lane School District, due to grant funding meant to place a physical education teacher in several area schools.

A grant from the state of Oregon has funded the addition of P.E. teachers at Latham, London, Dorena, Bohemia and Harrison schools. According to SLSD Human Resources Director Brian McCasline, the grant will give students at the District's smaller schools a P.E. period every day, while the larger schools — such as Harrison and Bohemia Elementary — will have a credentialed teacher capable of offering instruction several times per week. The grant also funded curriculum and materials for the new teachers.

It's been about seven years since the

District's elementary schools offered P.E. with the use of previous grant funding.

"We had offered P.E. before, but there were big budget cuts in 2008," said Harrison Elementary Principal Ali Nice. "All of the elementary programs ended up being cut. The classroom teachers love to teach it now, but it's difficult with one class at a time to have to set up an activity each time."

"The purpose of the most recent grant is the same as before," McCasline said. "The grantors want to offer P.E. every day for every child, particularly since there's a state law coming that regulates a certain number of hours of physical education for each student. This District also really values physical activity and the role it plays in education."

At Harrison, Nice said the grant will allow a full-time P.E. teacher to instruct students for an hour a week; a second time slot for P.E. will be overseen by classroom teachers. The schedule there will also include a "daily brain break," Nice said, a six-minute break from learning meant to "get the blood flowing."

At Latham School, Principal Anne Fisk said the grant will allow the school

to hire a credentialed P.E. teacher and redirect fundraising efforts previously dedicated to P.E. to other causes.

"Most of our fundraising has typically gone toward P.E. and music," Fisk said. "The grant has allowed us to free up some dollars and offer P.E. more than twice a week. The goal is to offer P.E. instruction every day."

Harrison and Latham will also be utilizing new C.A.T.C.H. curriculum, a program from Lane County's Public Health Department that comes prepackaged with nutrition and physical education instruction that can be taught from cards by any teacher. The County has funded \$5000 for the C.A.T.C.H. instruction materials, in addition to professional development to bring teachers up to speed on the new program. Nice said this will fund one hour of teacher time at Harrison.

Both Nice and Fisk said the funding is particularly welcome at their schools, where gym space and time are an issue with providing P.E. instruction.

"Sometimes space can be an issue, but we're going to work all that out," Fisk said.

"We know that the more kids move, the healthier they'll be," Nice said.

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