# 'Unearthed' follows truffle hunters in Falls City

Discover Channel shares mushroom adventures in Western Oregon in show's Friday premiere

#### **By Jolene Guzman**

The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — If all you are seeing in Oregon's forests are trees, you need to dig a bit deeper. Seri-

That is what six men in the Falls City area do for a living as truffle hunters, and The Discovery Channel is premiering a show Friday "Unearthed" that examines the secretive world of black truffle foragers in Western Oregon.

The show, produced by Zodiak NYC for the Discovery Channel, actually came about not because of the mysterious — and potentially lucrative — nature of black truflandscape where the delicacies are found.

Joseph Schneier, Discovery's executive producer on the show, said after seeing photos and footage of Oregon, producers knew they had find a way to film here.

He said they were impressed with "how gorgeous Oregon is, especially Western Oregon."

"We wanted to tell a story about Western Oregon," he said.

Profiling the players in the black truffle world seemed a perfect way

### **Truffle treasure** hunters

What: "Unearthed." Where: The Discovery Chan-

When: Friday, 10 p.m.

to combine a compelling story with the beautiful backdrop of

Oregon's forests, Schneier said. "It's incredible that something that smells funny and looks like it should be trash is so valuable," he

Crews filmed the majority of the fle industry, but because of the footage last fall, in the run up to the busy holiday season when "the truffle men of Oregon," Roy Siegfried, Terry Drazdhoff, Ty Hale, Levy Schwartzendruber, Richie Maxfield and Justin Anderson were

> These guys range from "lone wolf" Maxfield to "truffle kingpin" Anderson, but they are all facing the same problem: a dry fall.

trying to collect their haul.

Black truffles are fungi after all, and require water to thrive. Dry weather threatens truffle "seams" that have taken years to find and

develop into productive patches. Dependent on the delicacy for their living, the season's fiveepisode span show how each hunter navigates the challenge.

"I think (the audience) will like the ingenuity and the lengths they go to," Schneier said.

Schneier also admires the relationship the hunters have with the forests.

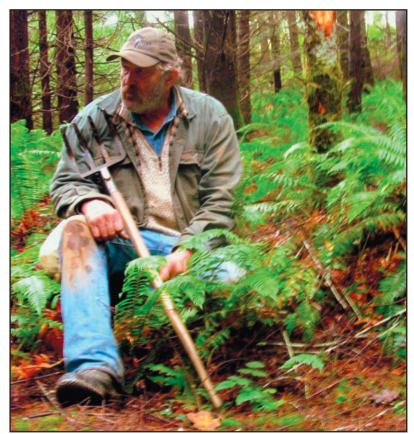
It's not just about finding and keeping secret areas with the perfect combination of trees, soil and water to produce the coveted fungus. Truffle hunting is a delicate art; disrupt the soil too much and the patch may die out.

"Old timers" Siegfried and Drazdhoff especially are interested in educating people in the right way to harvest truffles — anything else could threaten an industry they helped established.

"They have a 'do no harm' ethos," Schneier said.

He added he's hoping the show is a success, so Discovery can look into what other fascinating industries and characters can be found in the woods of Oregon.

"We think we are not done telling stories out there," Schneier



DISCOVERY CHANNEL/for the Itemizer-Observer

Terry Drazdhoff co-stars on the truffle men of Oregon, featured on Discovery Channel's new show, "Unearthed," which premieres on Friday. The show was filmed in Falls City for its striking beauty.

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## **Monmouth PD station costs wrapping up**

**By Emily Mentzer** The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — The Monmouth City Council approved an additional \$96,000 at its April 21 meeting to complete the renovations to the new Monmouth Police Station, located off Highway 99W.

"For whatever reason, we didn't have the best estimate for the station from the architect for the bond," said

City Manager Scott McClure. The council had already approved \$375,000 in July 2014, but it wasn't enough to com-

plete the project, McClure said. The original estimate was \$3.785 million to renovate the old Boise Cascade building,

done by Group Mackenzie, the architect that was ultimately hired for the renovation.

McClure said the voters approved a bond of \$4 million. "To try and save taxpayers a few dollars, we only issued \$3.935 million in bonds," he said. "Project costs aren't finalized yet, but we antici-

pate that the total project

will be \$4.406 million." "When we got everyone contracted and going, we only went with a 3 percent contingency," he said. "We knew we were low, and just through a whole bunch of

up off a little bit." One of the bigger issues that threw the budget off was making the building seismi-

different things, we ended

cally safe, McClure noted. "I think when the archi-

tects looked at (the building) initially, they thought it was stouter than it was," he said. "When they really started looking at it, they said no, we have to do more."

Other projects to renovate the old Boise Cascade building took longer than expected, which cost more time and money, McClure said.

"The project manager said it's probably just 80 different things that came up a bit more expensive (than planned)," he said.

One of the most recent issues was a problem with the building's sump pump, McClure said. "We have an emergency

electrical backup system,"

thorized \$4.0 million, Mc-Clure said, including bond costs, construction and buying the building itself.

he said. "The sump pump

had failed in the vault, and

the vault had rusted out all

be replaced before the back-

up generator could be in-

stalled, costing another

\$3,000 to \$4,000 more than

costs went over budget by

about 12 percent — only 10

percent above the voter-au-

All said and done, total

expected, McClure said.

Those components had to

the components."

much over budget, especially for remodel projects. "The fact is, we have a great

police station," McClure said.

He said 12 percent isn't









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