

Show 'unearths' beauty of Falls City

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — For just a brief moment, Lori Jean Sickles, the owner of The Boondocks in Falls City, was on television.

"I missed it!" Sickles said of her short "cameo" on Discovery Channel's "Unearthed," which was filmed in and around Falls City.

Friday night, the bar was showing the second episode of the reality show about competitive professional truffle hunters who live in the area.

Spending much of the evening in the kitchen, Sickles walked up front just seconds after her "scene" in the episode.

That segment of the episode followed "Unearthed" hunter Richie Maxfield into The Boondocks to conduct a transaction.

Friday's showing drew a few people to The Boondocks to watch the second installment of the five-part series. The more dramatic parts, complete with intense music, produced some skeptical reactions from viewers, but for the most part people were happy to see Falls City get the attention.

"It doesn't seem like it's all that realistic, but it's pretty cool," said The Boondocks bartender Gil Markel.

Markel said he knows Ty Hale, Levy Schwartzendruber and Maxfield, three of the truffle hunters featured on the show, and said they are pretty serious about their trade, as the show portrays.

"They do it all the time,"



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
About a dozen Falls City residents gather at The Boondocks to watch Discovery's "Unearthed" Friday night. The show follows Falls City black truffle hunters.

he said.

He added even after just one episode, people are asking questions about black truffle hunting

"(People are) asking if you really can find them out here," he said.

Sickles said it appears Discovery may have "enhanced" some of the personalities of the six men the show follows, but not too much.

"I know most of the guys, and that's basically how they are," she said.

Sickles said she's excited about the show and has been telling as many people as possible about it.

"I think it will be great for the city," she said. "Even if it makes us look goofy, people will still want to come out

Truffle hunting stories

What: Discovery Channel's "Unearthed."
When: Fridays at 10 p.m.
Of note: The Boondocks in Falls City, 318 N. Main St., will be showing "Unearthed" each Friday night at 9 p.m.

here. I'm thrilled about it."

Falls City resident Amy Houghtaling — who was trying her best to ignore the episode so she could watch it with her family later — said the film crew was the talk of the town last fall when the majority of the show was filmed.

Discovery and producer

Zodiak NYC kept a pretty tight lid on details, however, until recently.

"It was a 'top secret show,'" she said.

Houghtaling said she agrees with Sickles about what the show will do for the community.

"I think any exposure for Falls City is good," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Call before you dig this spring

POLK COUNTY — Pacific Power reminds people to call 811 two days before doing any digging on their property.

Installing a mailbox, post for a deck or planting a tree are activities that should trigger a call to 811, Gene Morris, Pacific Power's director of health, safety and equipment, said in a press release.

The number is the nationwide toll-free Call Before you Dig number. It is a Federal Communications Commission-designated number that connects people to a local call center. People at the local call center can alert underground facility owners of possible digging so any lines may be marked with paint or flags. For more information: www.call811.com.

Statewide traffic 'blitz' coming

MONMOUTH — The Monmouth Police Department will conduct specialized traffic safety enforcement operations from May 18-31.

Along with law enforcement agencies throughout the state, Oregon State Police, sheriffs and local police will work to increase proper safety belt and child car seat use during a statewide traffic enforcement "blitz." Officers will also be checking for persons riding illegally in the open bed of pickup trucks.

This enhanced "Click It or Ticket" enforcement is paid for by dedicated funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and will focus on increasing awareness of laws regarding safety restraint use, speed and impaired drivers.

Court St. sidewalk repair underway

DALLAS — Work has begun to replace the sidewalks on the south side of Southeast Court Street in Dallas.

The project, paid for with Dallas Urban Renewal Agency funding, will replace 160 feet of sidewalk and remove and replace street trees.

Businesses in the area will be open during construction. However, the sidewalk and parking area on the south side of the 100 block of Southeast Court Street will be closed most of this week (May 11-16, weather permitting).

"This continues the urban renewal district's vital investment in the downtown," said Dallas Community Development Director Jason Locke.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department at 503-831-3571.

The Itemizer-Observer
Your community news source

TWO LOCATIONS!

POLK COUNTY
Bounty Market
MONMOUTH

Tuesdays
May - October
10:00am - 3:00pm
at Main Street Park
120 Main St E, Monmouth

POLK COUNTY
Bounty Market
DALLAS

Thursdays
May - September
10:00am - 3:00pm
at Academy Lawn
182 SW Academy St, Dallas

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