

A smokin' hit: Black Rock BBQ

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Lucky Halcom and Robert Coe were going nonstop on a recent Thursday afternoon.

As soon as one order was filled at the increasingly popular Black Rock BBQ truck, another person was in line trying to decide between a pulled pork and brisket sandwich.

"It's been busy ever since we pulled in here today," Coe said as he manned the stove in the truck.

Every Thursday for the last five weeks, Halcom has set up his truck — along with his impressive wood-fired smoker — at the Pill Box parking lot at 625 SE Miller Ave.

Halcom travels the county in his bright blue truck, making stops at Monmouth's Polk County Bountiful Market on Tuesdays and the Siletz Trucking parking lot in Independence on Fridays.

Dallas has been the fastest growing of the three locations, and that was evident on June 4.

"By the time we opened up today it's been nonstop,"



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
Lucky Halcom (left) and Robert Coe of Black Rock BBQ prepare to fill lunch orders on a recent Thursday in Dallas.

Halcom said. "We actually had to shut down because we were out of cut meat. We've never had to do that before."

Black Rock's pulled pork and brisket are slow cooked over 13 to 14 hours to prepare for the lunch rush, which begins about 11:30

a.m. in each location. Once they arrive, Halcom puts ribs in the smoker to have them ready for dinner.

"We go until we run out of meat. It's not going to be long today," Halcom said. "We'll be here waiting on our ribs to cook." His ribs are just as popu-

lar as the sandwiches, so much so that to guarantee an order, you have to reserve it ahead of time.

Once a hobby — Halcom and Coe are former loggers — Halcom would like to see his barbecue truck and catering business take off.

He's certainly equipped to take on the challenge.

"(When) I started out, I built a small little smoker pit. Then I built another bigger one. Then I built a bigger one. Then I built that," he said pointing out the truck window.

This latest in his line of smokers has its own trailer.

Halcom's recipes are a hit, too. He and his wife, Carmen, created the rubs and sauces and even the sides — cole slaw, macaroni salad, potato salad, and baked beans — are homemade.

"Everything is made from scratch," Halcom said. "Nothing is store-bought. All the sides, beans, anything we do is made from scratch."

For Black Rock's schedule and menu for the day, go to: www.facebook.com/blackrockbbq.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Museum to host authors of books

RICKREALL — The Polk County Museum is hosting the authors of "Oregon's Main Street U.S. Highway 99: The Stories" and "Oregon's Main Street U.S. Highway 99: The Folk History" on Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Jo-Brew and Pat Edward's books cover the entire length of the highway through Oregon, with information on communities and residents that can be found along the highway.

The event is free and light refreshments will be available. The Polk County Museum is located at 560 S. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall.

For more information, call 503-623-6251 or go to <http://polk-countyhistoricalsociety.org/>.

Merkley to hold town hall Saturday

GRAND RONDE — Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley will hold a town hall meeting in Grand Ronde on Saturday at 5 p.m.

During the event, Merkley will update constituents on his work in Washington, D.C., answer questions and take suggestions about how to tackle the challenges facing Oregon and America.

The town hall meeting will be at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde.

Man charged with illegal hunting

DALLAS — Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife troopers have cited a Dallas man on game violations.

On May 24, OSP trooper Heather VanMeter located an active bear bait site near Logsdon, in Lincoln County, according to OSP. Two days later, troopers found John Hamblin, 50, at the bait site. He was in possession of a rifle, compound bow, and a gallon bag of grain and tallow. Hamblin had a Southwest Oregon spring bear tag. He was cooperative with troopers and cited for unlawful hunting bear with the aid of bait, and spring bear hunting outside unit boundary.

Using bait to attract black bears is illegal in Oregon, as is the use of dogs to locate and chase black bears into trees. The public is asked to notify OSP if locating a bear baiting site, or any other gaming violation, at 800-452-7888.

No suspect in purse snatching

DALLAS — Officers are still searching for the man who stole a woman's purse at the Dallas Rite-Aid on May 28. Police are also still on the lookout for the purse, which contained a gun.

On May 28, Dallas Police responded to a report of a theft of a purse from Rite-Aid in Dallas. The victim reported a man grabbed her purse from next to her while she was in the garden center and ran in the direction of the field west of the store.

During the investigation, police learned the purse was designed to carry a concealed pistol and did have a firearm inside of it. Police ask that anyone finding a discarded purse to use caution. It is very common for thieves to do a quick search of purses for money and other valuables then discard it.

In this case, it is possible the thief may have disposed of the purse without knowing it contained a gun. Anyone with information about this case or who has found a purse should call Dallas Police at 503-831-3539.

Broken power pole causes outage

DALLAS — Saturday morning at 11:47, 4,539 Pacific Power customers in Dallas went without power after a farmer in Perrydale caught a phone cable on his tractor, which broke the power pole and sparked a small fire on the lines, according to a spokesman from Pacific Power.

By 12:30 p.m., 667 customers remained without power. Power was restored to the majority of customers by re-routing power around the damaged lines.

Power wasn't completely restored until 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Ducks receive nod from Monmouth council

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Monmouth City Council approved expanding the city's chicken ordinance to include ducks.

Under the new rule, which will go into effect sometime this summer, the ordinance, which allows five hens per residence, will be altered to allow ducks as well. The number of total poultry will remain five, but property owners may choose to have a mix of fowl.

Marianne Novotny of Monmouth testified at the council's June 2 work session that she hadn't come across any issues with poultry, including ducks, in her research of city codes that allow the birds.

"If there was a noise problem, they (other cities) handle it just like a barking dog," she said.

Novotny had approached the coun-

cil with the idea of allowing ducks in 2014, when the council was deciding whether or not to make the temporary chicken ordinance permanent.

She explained that she has an allergy to chicken eggs, but may eat duck eggs, which are very costly.

Having her own flock would let her enjoy baked goods and other egg-containing things more economically.

Councilors had a few concerns about expanding the ordinance.

"I was opposed to expanding at that time (2014) because this was new territory. We hadn't gone down the poultry path, as it were, but if we can write it in such a way that it is only ducks and not geese — geese are a different deal — I would guess that there's not going to be a huge stampede to the duck shop," Councilor Jon Carey said.

Councilor Steve Milligan asked if allowing ducks was opening the door to "menageries."

"I know some people who have chickens, who also have a couple of dogs," he said.

Milligan continued by noting that a homeowner could have five fowl, four dogs and an unlimited number of cats.

"Are we going to get to the point where we have to set boundaries where people have to set a limit on domesticated animals?" he asked.

When Monmouth enacted its first chicken ordinance, it was on a trial basis. Some councilors suggested a trial basis with ducks, also.

Councilor Marshall Guthrie made the motion to make the modification to allow ducks without a trial period. The motion passed.

Another animal brought to the council on June 2 was backyard goats. A citizen requested that the city allow pigmy goats within city limits.

The council decided not to discuss it.

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