

Falls City searches for code solution

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The city of Falls City is zeroing in on a code enforcement solution.

Mayor Terry Ungricht said a Western Oregon University professor and student team are going to help with researching and building a plan to have the Falls City City Council judge cases. The only roadblock at this point is finding a qualified officer. Ungricht has had little luck getting in contact with the Oregon Code Enforcement Association, but may soon meet with the city's former officer.

"I feel we have a plan in place if I can find a code enforcement officer," Ungricht said at Thursday's council meeting.

Falls City may have potentially good news on code enforcement, but received a disappointing response to its application for sewer system improvements.

"We were declined," Ungricht said. He said Community Development Block Grant administrators said it was a strong application and encouraged the city to try again in March. In the meantime, Ungricht will research grant and low-interest loan options to cover the \$800,000 in project costs not paid for by the \$2.5 million CDBG grant.

In other business, the council:
• Applied for a grant to purchase 10 "self-contained breathing apparatus" units for the Falls City Fire Department. The cost of the equipment is \$69,500. The city will provide 5 percent, or \$3,311.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Jaysen Ridout brings a taste of Hawaii to Independence through his new restaurant.

Restaurant brings 'hearty' Hawaiian delights to Indy

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — When owners Jaysen and Sylvia Ridout opened their doors to the Keeaumoku Hawaiian Grill, located at 268 S. Main St., Independence, on Dec. 3, they expected a chance to settle in.

"We were actually thinking we were going to have a soft opening and get the kinks out in the kitchen," Ridout said.

But word spread throughout the community and Keeaumoku's "soft opening" turned into the talk of the town.

"We were really unprepared for that," Jaysen said. "Word spread, and we didn't even post anything on social media or pass out fliers."

There's good reason the community has been chomping at the bit.

The Ridouts previously ran the Pandan Leaf food cart out of Salem.

"We were doing Filipino

Aloha

What: Keeaumoku Hawaiian Grill.
Where: 268 S. Main St., Independence.
Hours: Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Of note: Owners Jaysen and Sylvia Ridout bring Hawaiian flavors to Independence.
For more information: 503-420-6695.

fusion food," he said. "It had Vietnamese, Korean and Hawaiian influences, but we wanted to make that transition to a restaurant."

Food is more than Ridout's profession. It's helped him become closer to family.

Growing up, Ridout's father wasn't a part of his life, but thanks to a shared passion for food, the two became closer when he was 16.

"The way we got reconnected was basically through food," Ridout said. "He would tell me his dreams and his passion about owning a restaurant."

Keeaumoku is a realization of both their dreams.

"I would say people can expect a really hearty plate," Ridout said. "Hawaiian food is known for that. We want to offer really hearty plates at affordable prices."

Independence was always high on the Ridouts' list of places to make a family dream come true.

"It has this really cool small-town atmosphere," Ridout said. "This seemed like one of the best spots to open a restaurant in, and then this spot became available. It was a bit like fate."

The Ridouts are open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., but are considering expanding to Sunday mornings, as well as trying a breakfast menu.

As for an official grand opening?

"I think it's probably too late for that," Jaysen said, smiling.

For now, Jaysen and Sylvia are having to work out the kinks on the fly because Keeaumoku is quickly becoming a popular spot for locals.

"We are, in a way, living out my dad's younger dreams of opening a restaurant," Ridout said. "We didn't expect the community to be this welcoming. That was really cool. We're really here to serve people great food."

DEADLINES

NEWS DEADLINES
For inclusion in the Wednesday edition of the *Itemizer-Observer*:
Social news (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) — 5 p.m. on Thursday.
Community events — Noon on Friday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar.
Letters to the editor — 10 a.m. on Monday.
Obituaries — 4 p.m. on Monday.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES
Retail display ads — 3 p.m. Friday.
Classified display ads — 11 a.m. on Monday.
Classified line ads — Noon on Monday. Classified ads are updated daily on www.polkio.com.
Public notices — Noon on Friday.

CORRECTIONS

The *Polk County Itemizer-Observer* is committed to publishing accurate news, feature and sports reports. If you see anything that requires a correction or clarification, call the newsroom at 503-623-2373 or send an email to ementzer@polkio.com.

WEBSITE

The *Polk County Itemizer-Observer* website, www.polkio.com, is updated each week by Wednesday afternoon. There, you will find nearly every story that appears in the print version of the newspaper, as well as some items, including additional photos, that do not appear in print due to space limitations.

The *Itemizer-Observer* is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
Dec. 6.....	40	29	.08
Dec. 7.....	39	29	.00
Dec. 8.....	34	30	.47
Dec. 9.....	49	33	.52
Dec. 10.....	50	33	.36
Dec. 11.....	49	42	.67
Dec. 12.....	49	32	.00

Rainfall during Dec. — 3.01 in.
Rain through Dec. 12 — 44.86 in.

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11:00 A.M.

RIBBON CUTTING WILL TAKE PLACE AT 11:30 A.M. ON THE AQUATIC CENTER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE.
PARKING AVAILABLE AT THE AQUATIC CENTER PARKING LOT AND IN THE LOT ON WALNUT ST.
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FOR ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY MANAGERS OFFICE AT 503.831.3502

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Library to feature Peter Celich

DALLAS — Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St., Dallas, will feature a selection of photographs by Peter Celich.

Celich rediscovered a passion for photography while traveling the world during the last few years.

Celich's photography will be on display through December.

For more information: 503-623-2633.

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