

# Riff

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Since the pandemic began nearly a year ago, Oregon's governor has ordered businesses shuttered, had them operate at 25% capacity for indoor dining or only offer carryout service. Not all businesses have been able to maintain operaons due to these restrictions Among those businesses that closed recently are Foxtail Bakeshop & Kitchen in Bend, also located in the Box Factory, and the Ochoco Brewing Co. in Prineville. Evers and his team decided to find other alternatives and to focus on their core business: wholesaling its cold-brew products to shops and grocery outlets. The Riff founding team includes Nate Armbrust, a former Stumptown Coffee Roasters cold brewer from Portland; Kevin Smith, a brand strategist; and Bobby Evers, Evers' son and craft beverage creative. The closure created an opportunity for Stoller Wines, which had wanted to open a wine bar in Bend for a while, said Tracy Timmins, vice president of consumer sales. It operated first as a pop-up busi-



This is Stoller's fourth tasting room: two at the Stoller Family Estate property in Dayton and one in downtown Newberg.

Evers said that stepping back from the taproom has reenergized the company. It's planning to launch a new product in March, which is a re-engineered version of Alter Ego, using up-cycled coffee fruit e and cascara, the di skins of the coffee cherries. "Alter Ego was doing well, but not well enough," Evers said. "We're a purpose-driven company. If we can create a beverage that appeals to a broad audience we can reverse coffee's contribution to climate change. We're translating that into a beverage before it's taken to a landfill, which can create great economic profitability for coffee farmers? Cold-brewed coffee is a growing market, Evers said. Starting in May, Riff's products will be in Fred Meyer stores and starting in March in Safeway stores in Portland, he said. "It's growing, and we're ex-

### Line

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The agency wasn't required to study burying a section of the power line and it sufficiently evaluated the implications of grazing while examining the route's effects on vegetation, said

Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin Riff Cold Brewed employees, from left, David Seward and Deb Sindayen, process coffee at the production facility in Redmond.

ness for several months to test out the market and served on the patio and offered take out, Timmins said.

"Bend was an expansion for us," Timmins said. "It wasn't super ideal to open in the middle of a pandemic, but we were excited to open and go after it. It's worked out pretty well."

The Stoller Wine Group is the parent company for Stoller Family Estate, Chehalem, Chemistry, Canned Oregon, and History. The Oregon-based group was formed in 2018. Chehalem Winery was founded in 1990 and Stoller in 1993.

The Bend wine bar is in proximity to Bledsoe Family Winery and the Elixir Wine Brand.

"We absolutely see it as a good thing to have Bledsoe and Elixir," Timmins said. "Bend has been known as the beer trail, and we're excited to start the wine trail as well. We've had an overwhelming response from people who wanted an alternative to beer."

"It's growing, and we're expecting additional growth when there's a return to college campus life."

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## **Vaccines**

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That's not counting a third vaccine, from Johnson & Johnson, that's expected to get a green light from regulators soon. The Biden administration said Tuesday that it expects about 2 million doses of that vaccine to be shipped in the first week, but the company told lawmakers it should provide enough of the single-dose option for 20 million people by the end of March.

Looking ahead to summer, Pfizer and Moderna expect to complete delivery of 300 million doses each, and J&J aims to provide an additional 100 million doses. That would be more than enough to vaccinate every American adult, the goal set by the Biden administration.

Two other manufacturers, Novavax and AstraZeneca, have vaccines in the pipeline and anticipate eventually adding to those totals.

Asked pointedly if they face shortages of raw materials, equipment or funding that would throw off those schedules, all of the manufacturers expressed confidence that they had enough supplies and had already addressed some of the early bottlenecks in production.

"At this point I can confirm we are not seeing any shortages of raw materials," said Pfizer's John Young.

The hearing by a House subcommittee came as U.S. vaccinations continue to accelerate after a sluggish start and recent disruptions caused by winter weather. More than 44 million Americans have received at least one dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, and about 1.4 million per day got a first or second dose over the past seven days, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But state health officials say demand for inoculations still vastly outstrips the limited weekly shipments provided by the federal government.

"The most pressing challenge now is the lack of supply of vaccine doses," Rep. Diana DeGette, a Colorado Democrat, said as she opened the hearing. "Some of the companies here today are still short of the number of doses they promised to initially deliver when they last testified before this subcommittee in July."

Both Pfizer and Moderna failed to meet delivery quotas for the initial doses of their vaccines late last year. That's prompted Congress to scrutinize the companies' plans for vaccine development and delivery, which they noted benefited from \$16 billion in federal funding. "A significant amount of American tax dollars were invested to be able to produce the vaccine immediately upon approval," said Rep. David McKinley, a West Virginia Republican, who questioned executives on why they were still unable to meet demand for the vaccines.

Nearly 14% of Americans have received at least an initial dose of the two-shot-regimen vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna.

The Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed focused most of its efforts on racing vaccines through research, development and manufacturing. But little planning or funding went to coordinating vaccination campaigns at the state and local levels. That effort is now picking up speed with plans for mass vaccination sites and an increasing supply distributed to chain pharmacies. effects,<sup>3</sup> said David Becker, attorney for the coalition, during oral arguments Monday.

The coalition also argues the BLM didn't properly evaluate the transmission line's "synergistic" effects with livestock grazing, which the group argues will have cumulative impacts on the sage grouse in the region.

The BLM and Idaho Power, the utility company that would construct the project, are defending an inadequate NEPA analysis of the transmission line's effects, Becker said. "They really are trying to piece together and point the court in 25 different directions and say, 'We deserve deference."

The BLM countered that its preferred route was a permissible "logical outgrowth" of alternatives examined in

### Hawaii

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The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corp. begins with federal data for Honolulu's median household income, which was \$101,600 last year. Median income is the figure at which half of all households earn more and half earn less.

The calculation is adjusted so median income results are defined by family size. The corporation's rules allow households earning as much as 140% of the median income to qualify for subsidized housing. The limit equates to \$123,480 for a single person and \$176,260 for a family of four.

Under current guidelines,

Krystal-Rose Perez, attorney for the BLM.

"The EIS is not organized in the way plaintiffs want, but it's up to BLM's discretion how to disclose that information," she said.

Similarly, the agency doesn't have to arrive at the conclusions preferred by the opponents, Perez said. "I don't think there's any question NEPA does not mandate particular results."

Beth Ginsberg, an attorney for Idaho Power, said that both the Obama and Trump administrations have recognized the transmission line as a critical connection between the electrical grids of the Pacific West and Intermountain West.

"The importance of a project like this cannot be understated," Ginsberg said. "No shortcuts were taken. Every I was dotted, every T was crossed."

families of four in Honolulu earning 140% of the median income can qualify for subsidized housing priced as high as \$1,026,800.

During last year's state legislative session, then-Sen. Laura Thielen and Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, both Democrats, and Sen. Kurt Fevella, a Republican, introduced a resolution calling for the agency to review and compare its affordable home price methodology against other places with high housing costs, such as San Francisco.

The resolution, which called for the agency to report analysis results to the Legislature before this year's session, did not receive a hearing and was not adopted.