

Equity

Continued from A1

The money for the transportation projects comes from discretionary funds from the Oregon Department of Transportation that are not used for maintenance or preservation of existing roads. The program, called the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, is funded with \$2.4 million over the next six years.

“We will have an application process to award funds to projects. Those dollars could be utilized for any transportation project,” said Deke. “The last time we did this application process nearly all the funding went to bike and pedestrian type projects.”

The funds will be used to help launch projects in areas of town that have historically been underserved with some transportation improvements, said Deke. The equity mapping tool is just one criterion that is used to determine which projects get funded and which get shelved.

“There are quite a few criteria that are used. Equity will be a new scoring item in that application and review process,” said Deke.



Traffic and pedestrians travel on a bustling Wall Street in downtown Bend on Jan. 26.

cess,” said Deke.

Deke said some pieces in the equity mapping tool have already been used when considering which projects to fund. Benefits to community members who do not already have a car, for example, are already considered.

“We are expanding it to make sure that we are capturing a broader set of equity issues that exist out there,” said Deke.

The competitive application process is the second time these funds have been available. The first time around, in

2020, the funds mainly went toward safe routes to school, including bike and pedestrian crossings.

“I hope we can continue to chip away at these smaller projects that need to be funded to help people get around better, safer, and more conveniently by walking, biking, and using the bus,” said Napoli, the senior planner.

The equity tool, she said, is designed to ensure that dollars are spent where they are needed most.

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Union

Continued from A1

Crux began brewing beer in 2012. It was founded by Paul Evers, CEO of Bend beverage maker Riff; Larry Sidor, a former brewmaster at Deschutes Brewery; and Dave Wilson, who at the time was vice president of sales for 21st Amendment Brewery, of San Francisco. Evers retired in 2016. Wilson left in 2014, and Sidor announced his retirement last month.

Crux operates brewing operations in a former transmission repair shop on SW Division Street and opened a production brew site on Bend’s northeast side in 2015. Over the years the brewery has also tried its hand at cider and wine.

Jason Randles, Crux Fermentation marketing director, said the brewery is a locally owned and operated company.

“We do not believe that unionization is the best path forward for our staff or the company,” Randles said. “We strongly encourage all of our employees to vote in the upcoming union election and respect their right to support or oppose unionization.”

John Stewart, a Crux bartender who is leading the effort to unionize workers, said the idea of unionizing at Crux has been discussed among the workers for a few years. The Crux Front of the House Employees Union is not affiliated with a national union organization, according to the public documents.

“We have worked through

a lot of difficult times in the past two years,” Stewart said. “We continue to struggle with staffing, and we don’t feel that management is taking those concerns seriously. That’s frustrating for us and our guests. We think that ultimately by addressing these concerns it will improve things for the guests.”

In documents on file at the NLRB, staff cited issues with tips, scheduling and unsanitary conditions as the reason to seek union protections that include collective bargaining. The issues were raised with the employer in a meeting, according to the documents.

“A lot of people will tell you we’re a tight-knit group,” Stewart said. “We care about one another.”

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The Illahe Vineyards near Dallas, Oregon, are within the new Mount Pisgah, Polk County American Viticultural Area.

Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

Oregon’s new, 23rd wine region at Mount Pisgah

BY GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

Oregon continues to add to its portfolio of distinctive wine-producing regions with the approval of Mount Pisgah as its 23rd American Viticultural Area.

The area, 15 miles west of Salem in Polk County, includes 5,530 acres, making it Oregon’s second-smallest viticultural areas next to Ribbon Ridge.

However, it is one of the state’s most densely planted viticultural areas with 584 acres of wine grapes, including pinot noir, chardonnay, pinot gris, pinot blanc and tempranillo.

Viticultural areas are designated by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, denoting characteristics such as geography, climate and soil that produce unique or special wines. Winemakers may use the appellation as a marketing tool, adding to the value of their product.

Brad Ford, owner and president of Illahe Vineyards and Winery in Dallas, Oregon, initially petitioned the bureau over five years ago to establish the new area in the Willamette Valley. His application was approved June 3 and took effect Tuesday.

To differentiate from a different Mount Pisgah — also in the Willamette Valley, near Eugene — the full name of the viticultural area is “Mount Pisgah, Polk County.”

Mount Pisgah is characterized by several unique geographic features, including the warmth of the nearby Willamette River; mild influence from the Van Duzer Corridor that funnels cool air into the valley from the Pacific Ocean; and a rain shadow cast by Laurel Mountain to the west.

Morgen McLaughlin, executive director of the Willamette Valley Wineries Association, said the group is

excited to gain federal recognition for the new area.

“The region’s kingpin variety, pinot noir, is such an expressive grape: It insists on telling you where it’s from,” she said. “Both the industry and consumers who look to Oregon for its one-of-a-kind appellations and the sense of place in Oregon’s wines can celebrate the addition of Mount Pisgah, Polk County.”

The Mount Pisgah, Polk County area currently includes three wineries and 10 vineyards. Overall, Oregon has 995 wineries and 1,370 vineyards generating an annual economic impact of \$7.2 billion statewide.

Under federal law, bottles of wine that list a particular viticultural area on the label must be made from at least 85% grapes grown in that area. In Oregon, the standard is even higher, requiring 95%. Wines must also be fully finished in the state where the AVA is located.

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