

RITTER

Continued from Page 8

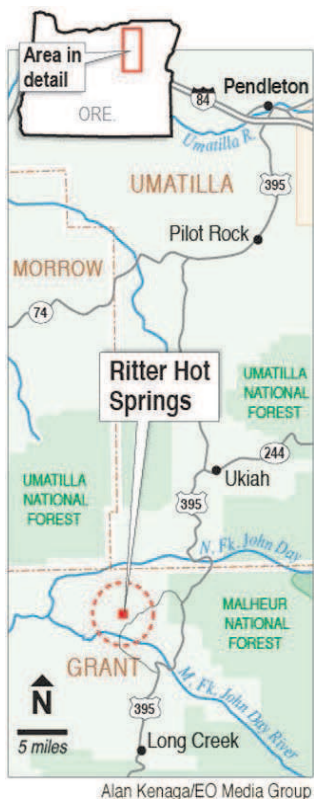
Ritter was later renamed for the popular John Day Valley pioneer minister Rev. Joseph Ritter, who had bought the ranch where the springs are located.

The resort is 10 miles west of Highway 395 on Ritter Road, along a meander of the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County roughly 20 miles north of Long Creek.

The sleepy little alcove was once, and still is, a destination for people looking to reap the health benefits of the mineral waters found at the hot springs, according to Tillay. He said the water feels smooth because of its high alkalinity, close to a nine on the pH scale, which can be good for your skin.

"I have a lady staying here right now that takes a five-gallon bucket of it home and sprays it on her after a shower because it makes her skin feel smooth," Tillay said.

A century old hot springs comes with a lot of upkeep and renovations seem to be constantly underway. Tillay, who is also president and CEO of Grab on Grips, a company that makes bicycle handlebar wraps, can be found working on improve-



ments to the property most days of the week, although he has no plans to expand current operations.

While retelling an account for a guest, Tillay touched one of Ritter's biggest charms — its remoteness.

"The absolute best thing about Ritter is that there is nothing to do," Tillay said. "You can just put your mind in neutral. You can just chill."



EO Media Group photos/E.J. Harris

Ritter Hot Springs' main attraction is its spring-fed swimming pool where guests can soak in the 80 plus degree waters piped in from the hot springs.



An old cash register sits on a table in the dance hall of the hotel at Ritter Hot Springs.



Spring fed showers overlooking the Middle Fork John Day River offer a relaxing hot shower to guests before taking in one of the soaking pools.



An old fuel pump and car frame sit in a field above the hotel at Ritter Hot Springs.

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