

Silvies

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Golf Digest, with a circulation of 1.6 million, recognized the Hankins and Craddock courses as two of the top-four best new courses of 2018.

"This is the first time that any property had two new courses ranked in the top five in a single year," Colby Marshall, the resort's general manager, said.

The Hankins and Craddock are reversible 18-hole courses designed by Dan Hixson, the golf course architect known for his work at Bandon Crossings in Oregon and Wine Valley in Washington.

The concept of a reversible course isn't new — the historic Old Course at St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland, is still flipped occasionally. Nine greens are shared by the Craddock and Hankins courses, with a total of 27 greens, 17 fairways and 36 holes.

Golfers approach the nine shared greens from different angles as the course reverses each day on 120 acres of maintained property. The Craddock course runs clockwise, while the Hankins runs counterclockwise, starting from the solar-powered clubhouse. The courses are named for homesteaders in the Silvies Valley.

Guests can also play the Chief Egan course, a mountain meadow 9-hole par-3 course. Special reduced rates are offered to residents of Grant and Harney counties, Marshall said — \$75 to play on an 18-hole championship award-winning course.

Sean Hoolehan, the past president of the Golf Course



A goat caddy follows a golfer at The Retreat & Links at Silvies Valley Ranch.

Contributed photos/David Zaitz

Superintendents Association of America, joined the agronomy team at Silvies in 2018.

"There really is no other place like Silvies in the golf world," Hoolehan said. "I played most of the great golf courses in the United States, and many in Europe, in my 40 years in golf course management. Nowhere else will you find an experience like this."

Summertime visitors also can enjoy cattle drives, rifle and pistol shooting, fishing in the ranch's ponds and creeks, and mountain biking on the two-track trails that crisscross the ranch.

Guests from metropolitan areas or countries with restrictive gun laws quickly take to the frontier atmo-



Mule deer wander across one of the golf courses at The Retreat & Links at Silvies Valley Ranch.

sphere, Marshall said. That includes shooting at the pistol range, long-distance sharpshooter range and the Western-style range, where guests shoot lever-action,

open-sight rifles at metal targets that ping when they get knocked down.

The resort also offers a wide range of winter activities, from snowshoeing and cross-country skiing on the snow-covered golf courses to ice fishing and ATV tours.

A fun new winter attraction is "cool golf" played on the Chief Egan course, Marshall said. Extra-large cups are set up at the "greens," and golfers use high-loft clubs to drive neon-green tennis balls, he said.

"There's no pressure," he said. "It's a family fun activity that often ends up as a snowball fight after five holes."

Ozzie and Arnold, the Clydesdale horses that pull guests on wagon rides in the

summer, are being trained to pull a sleigh for winter guests, Marshall said. The resort is also interested in lining up snowmobile touring for guests through an outside contractor.

Founded in 1883, the ranch's 140,000 acres of deeded and leased land in Silvies Valley is home to mountain meadows, ponderosa pine forests and the Silvies River drainage. Ranch hands manage 2,600 goats and 4,500 head of cattle.

The Retreat & Links at Silvies Valley Ranch is a 34-room resort offering luxurious accommodations, fine dining and a conference center. Golf Magazine recently recognized the Lodge at Silvies Valley Ranch as one of the 13 most spectacular golf

course restaurants.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner is served ranch-style every day at long wooden tables shared by guests, staff and management. The beef and chevon comes from grass-fed cows and free-range goats raised on the ranch, and the meat is USDA-certified organic.

Chef Damon Jones, recognized as a premiere ranch-to-table chef, was recently selected as the Chef of the Year by the Oregon Beef Council.

Jones hails from Alabama, but his father has roots in Central Oregon. Jones began his culinary career as a sous-chef in New Orleans for the Brennon family restaurants and at Emeril's. Jones said he learned the principles of "scratch cooking" in New Orleans — owning the entire meal from start to finish.

In Oregon, he worked at the Rogue Valley Country Club, Crosswater at Sunriver Resort and the Larks Restaurant at the Ashland Springs Hotel, where he was the executive chef. He came to Silvies in March 2018.

Ranch-style meals at Silvies include seven courses featuring what's available locally and what's in season, Jones said. Silvies grows some herbs and vegetables in a micro garden and greenhouses. Local ranchers are invited to a more laid-back, buffet-style ranch barbecue on Fridays.

In addition to the opportunity to prepare great meals, golfing drew Jones to Silvies. His passion for golf explains why he has worked at so many golf resorts, he said. When he's not golfing or cooking, Jones said he enjoys the quiet and solitude of Eastern Oregon.

Hemp

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to smoke it will just get a headache. Signs posted along the perimeter will inform neighbors about the hemp crop, and security cameras will watch for trespassers.

Delano told the Eagle the 10-acre property is zoned residential, but while the city's zoning regulations say farming is discouraged in residential districts, the regulations don't stop agricultural uses. He noted that the property also has a farm deferral for property taxes.

Prairie City zoning

Tai Ma Oregon has been growing hemp in greenhouses and outdoors on property in Prairie City south of the cemetery for two seasons. The property is zoned R2, which allows farm uses under a conditional-use permit, which Tai Ma Oregon needs to apply for, Mayor

Jim Hamsher said.

Prairie City's zoning regulations allow agriculture in the R2 residential district for personal use. The intent is to support 4-H participants, City Recorder Bobbie Brown said. Hamsher said 4-H participants typically don't get a conditional-use permit and are governed by the city's nuisance ordinance.

Prairie City officials were not aware of Tai Ma Oregon's past hemp operations in the city, but the city has heard no complaints, Brown said. The city's attorney advised the city that they could update city ordinances to address complaints, but the city couldn't prevent hemp farming.

Hamsher noted that the city council could request conditions if Tai Ma Oregon applies for a zoning permit, but the company might be protected by the Oregon Right to Farm law.

The law prevents local governments from declaring



File photo

Hemp grows in a field in Oregon in this 2016 file photo.

certain farm practices a nuisance, including noise, vibration, odors, smoke, dust, irrigation mist, pesticide use or use of crop production substances.

"The Oregon Department of Agriculture doesn't see any difference between hemp and alfalfa," Kilpatrick said.

Company origins

Kilpatrick filed the initiative petition in 2016 seeking to overturn Grant County's ban on marijuana growing, processing and sales. When the initiative failed in the

May 2016 election by 1,689-1,469, he turned his focus to hemp.

Getting started wasn't easy, he said, because a seed exchange for hemp had not been started. The company's name comes from a Chinese phrase meaning "the great fiber that connects us all," Kilpatrick said.

Under state and federal law, industrial hemp must contain less than 0.3 percent THC, the psychoactive ingredient found in marijuana. According to Cantu-Schomus, pre-harvest hemp grown by Tai Ma Oregon in Prairie City last year was tested and found to contain THC under the legal threshold.

In the U.S., hemp went from being an important fiber product promoted by President George Washington to an illegal substance under the 1970 Controlled Substances Act. Over time, the value of hemp fiber for textiles, biofuel, paper and other materials and the value of hemp flowers and seed oil for medicinal, nutritional and beauty products were recognized.

The 2018 Hemp Farming Act, which is part of the 2018 Farm Bill signed by President Donald Trump in December, changed hemp from a controlled substance

to an agricultural commodity. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell introduced the Hemp Farming Act, which was co-sponsored by Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley.

Passage of the act opened up a number of opportunities other farmers routinely benefit from, including water rights, agricultural grants, access to the banking system, marketing, agronomy research and crop insurance.

Company plans

Kilpatrick said alfalfa has been growing on the 10-acre property in Mt. Vernon since the 1970s. He spent his first 11 years living in the two-story house on the property, which was built in 1908.

"I learned how to drive a tractor there," he said.

Water taken from ditches connected to Strawberry Creek in Prairie City and Beech Creek in Mt. Vernon will be used for the hemp fields, Kilpatrick said. A thousand hemp plants on a drip line use significantly less water than a flood-irrigated alfalfa field, he said.

Kilpatrick said they tried growing hemp outdoors on 2 1/2 acres in Prairie City but are still looking for a suitable hemp strain. The weather in Prairie City is slightly colder than in Mt. Vernon, he said.

Legal

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allege a specific injury he incurred from the laws in order to create a justiciable claim the court could review.

Grant County Circuit Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr. dismissed Webb's complaint Jan. 9 without addressing whether these three county laws conflicted with paramount law because he determined the complaint was not justiciable.

"On the record before me I do not find any actual harm to Petitioner (Webb), nor that any purported harm is possible," Cramer said in his Jan. 9 opinion. "... I will comment that under different facts, each of these two measures and ordinances could be justiciable and meet the standards for review."

Regarding Measure 12-37, Cramer said no U.N. activity had been alleged to have ceased because of the measure.

"I find it improbable that

the UN, if authorized to perform activity in Grant County, would curtail it because of this measure," he said.

If that happened, or if county officials intervened, Cramer said the complaint "would be justiciable."

Cramer said no evidence had been presented that the county ever petitioned Congress for title to public lands as directed by Measure 12-40 but that the county could make such a request even without the measure.

"If a petition were filed, then the time would be ripe to determine if it is probable that Congress would cede title of the lands to Grant County and if so, if there is harm," he said.

Regarding Ordinance 2013-01, Cramer said, "there is no evidence that roads have not been closed by federal or state agencies as a result of this ordinance." He said Webb failed to show how invalidating the ordinance would have "a practical effect on his rights" as

required for review.

"The legislature ... limited when challenges to laws and measures can be heard," Cramer said in the opinion. "Requiring actual or probable injury as opposed to whether the law is valid is required."

Yockim also argued on behalf of the county that Webb's complaint against Measure 12-40 should be dismissed because it did not occur within the seven-day period allowed by law to challenge a county clerk's determination that a prospective initiative complies with requirements in the Oregon Constitution.

Cramer said that was true for a clerk's determination whether a measure complies with requirements to include the full text of a proposed law and to embrace only one subject.

"The remaining arguments as to the validity of the measures do not appear time barred," Cramer said, "but I do not reach those issues here as my decision on justiciability is dispositive."

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