

Beekeeper speaks

Beekeeper from Page 1A

keeping bees. At first, she was hesitant to go to his house, but she eventually started to perceive bees as interesting.

"My curiosity started to overcome my fear," she said.

In 2005, she realized she was allergic to sugar, and her father became her honey supplier. When she and her husband got their own house in 2008, her father gave her a box of bees to start her own colony.

Eight years later, she said, "I'm totally in love with bees."

A year-round commitment

To find success as a beekeeper, a person must be willing to work hard and be consistent with perfunctory tasks. Above all, though, "Beekeepers pay attention," Tennis said, adding, "The most important aspect of being a beekeeper is being able to observe and retain what you're observing, or to analyze and understand it."

Bees are unlike the mammals most people are used to dealing with, such as cats, dogs, horses and rabbits. If a person has not regularly interacted with bees, they likely will struggle to understand bees' behavior, moods and vocabulary. Beekeepers have to observe and learn quickly to avoid being stung and to keep their colonies healthy and thriving, Tennis said. For instance, bees communicate through pheromones, and the aroma they emanate when upset smells like banana candy.

"You're always going to be learning something," Tennis said.

The work of a beekeeper is spread throughout the year.

In the wintertime, bees are in a quiet state because the weather is usually too cold and wet for them to fly and there is little food to forage. That's when beekeepers can work on equipment, assembling new parts or changing out old frames with wax that has built up an unhealthy amount of toxins or residue.

During her presentation, Tennis described the system she uses, called a Langstroth hive, and explained the significance of each component.

In March or April each year, Tennis usually prepares her honey-gathering equipment, which includes honey supers — smaller boxes where bees will make honey that get placed on top of

brood boxes and can later be removed to retrieve the honey — and queen excluders — a flat rack with holes large enough to allow smaller worker bees to enter but not large enough for the queen bee to get through, which prevents her from laying in that section.

In the spring, once she knows baby bees are being laid and male bees are around, Tennis inspects her hives to see if each one has a queen and if she's laying well. If a hive is strong, she then splits the colony, putting all the frames with baby bees in one box and the others back into the original box. The procedure has three benefits: breaking the reproductive cycles of varroa mites without using pesticides; helping to build apiaries; and controlling or preventing swarming.

During the summer, the bees forage and make honey. That is when Tennis also works as a bee-wrangler of sorts, responding to people's calls and catching rampaging swarms of bees. While some people are nervous around swarming bees, catching them is Tennis' favorite task. She has found swarms in some strange places, including chimneys, utility boxes, the walls of sheds and inside a gas tank.

The next phase of beekeeping is harvesting honey during the fall. Plant nectar originally is about 80 percent moisture; after the bees process it, the moisture is reduced to 18 percent or less, making it a highly saturated and hygroscopic fluid. Tennis uses a centrifuge to get the honey from the wax combs on her frames. Depending on where and what plants the nectar originated, honey can have a variety of colors and flavors.

Tennis also shared with the audience how queen bees are made, how gender is determined, the life cycle of bees and other tips for people who are interested in beekeeping.

Those who don't desire to keep bees but want to contribute to the health of pollinators and that of the environment can take other steps, such as letting their lawn grow, planting flowers that bloom in late fall or early spring and limiting their use of pesticides and other toxic chemicals, Tennis said. They also can support their community beekeepers.

Tennis runs a website, beementor.com, to help educate people about beekeeping and bees.

Inn debuts 'budget boutique' style

Remodeled hotel seeks to fill a niche

By Katherine Lacaze
For the Seaside Signal

Here's one boutique hotel geared to be affordable.

Hotelier Masudur Khan, managing director of Seaside Lodging, purchased the Coast River Inn and adjacent River View Inn, on Holladay Drive and Avenue G, as a package deal in August 2015. The two properties and their accompanying buildings were combined to create the 42-bedroom "budget boutique" hotel, designed to attract guests in the mid-scale level, Khan said.

Khan was first offered the properties about three years ago. He declined but changed his mind after recognizing potential in the lodging facilities, which were not receiving adequate use or attention.

"One day I thought, 'Maybe I'll take this and see what happens,'" he said, adding he hoped to improve the buildings' aesthetics to appeal to travelers along Holladay, a main thoroughfare in Seaside. "This is a property you can see right away."

The Coast River Inn recently underwent an approximately \$400,000 exterior and interior face-lift after being acquired by Seaside Lodging. The renovation began last fall, as the tourist season began to wane. Khan did not want the project to interrupt summer business, he said. Even then, the renovation focused on one building first, followed by the other, so the hotel could continue functioning throughout the remodel.

"We didn't actually shut down the whole hotel," Khan said.

About 80 percent of the renovation was completed by



Before



After

This image from Seaside Lodging compares the Coast River Inn before its renovation, started last fall, and after.

March, with just a few custom-made orders outstanding.

While most of the renovation took place on the exterior of the buildings, some interior updates included new furniture, appliances and bedding, along with the installation of complimentary high-speed wireless Internet.

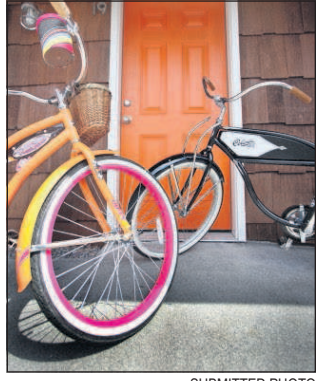
On the outside, the buildings received new cedar staining, lighting and signage. A sidewalk was installed to connect the former River View Inn to the original Coast River Inn building. The hotel was given a new logo and orange color scheme, which was incorporated into the landscaping.

Guests wanting to tour Seaside can use the hotel's new

complimentary bike rental service. Management initially purchased two bikes, unsure how the service would be received. Before long, they were compelled to increase the stock from two to seven to meet demand.

"Guests like to explore Seaside" on the bicycles, said Kaarina Vera, the sales, marketing and revenue manager.

With the addition of the Coast River Inn, Seaside Lodging's portfolio of independent hotels grew to four, including the Inn at Seaside, the River Inn at Seaside and the City Center Motel. Each lodging facility is targeted toward a different market segment, from economy to upper midscale.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Inn offers a bike service, which gives guests use of the bikes for an hour for free.

With a fairly central location but few amenities, such as a swimming pool or complimentary breakfast, Khan said the Coast River Inn appeals to a mid-scale younger, modern crowd looking for something new in Seaside that is reasonably priced for the market.

"They're getting good rooms," Khan added. "It's not too crowded and it's quiet."

Under new management and with the renovation, the Coast River Inn's rating among Seaside hotels has steadily increased during the past six months. While it formerly sat near the bottom, it was ranked No. 10 on TripAdvisor last week, although the ratings can frequently fluctuate.

Under Seaside Lodging's ownership, the property has increased employment with the addition of eight to 10 full-time employees. While previously the properties housed longer-term tenants for weeks or months at a time, the Coast River Inn now focuses on the more traditional hotel model of guests staying only a few days, which contributes a significant lodging tax increase to the city of Seaside. Now that the renovation is finished, Khan said, "we are expecting higher occupancy next year."

Liberty Theater hires Jennifer Crockett as new director

By Erick Bengel
EO Media Group

ASTORIA —After a five-month search, the Liberty Theater has hired Jennifer Crockett, a professional musician, as the venue's new director.

The board of directors hired Crockett, 39, for the full-time position at an August meeting. She began work in mid-September.

The interim director, Carol Shepherd, plans to move back to Eugene.

As director, Crockett will



Jennifer Crockett

handle bookings for the theater and its McTavish Room and Paulson Pavilion. She will also oversee the building's retail properties.

Crockett replaces Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, the Liberty's longtime executive director who resigned in April.

"We are very fortunate to have Jennifer Crockett as our new director," Christine Lol-

ich, president of the Liberty board, said in a release. "She brings new energy, creative ideas and a rebirth of the Liberty Theater."

Crockett was chosen because of her background in arts and management. She graduated from the DePaul University School of Music in Chicago with a performance degree in clarinet and bass

clarinet.

"She also came very prepared with what she wanted to do, so that was very attractive," Lolich said.

Crockett, who has performed in the Astoria Music Festival, plays with a variety of organizations, including symphony orchestras, chamber groups and pit orchestras.

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