

Westport Winery debuts in Broadway location



New site of the Westport Winery in Seaside.

Ribbon-cutting marks opening event

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Westport Winery celebrated with a grand opening and ribbon-cutting at its new Salmonberry Square building Saturday, Jan. 27.

The debut of the popular winery came after the Seaside City Council voted unanimously to allow direct sales of beer and wine to consumers at the location.

“We’ve had a commitment to not only the quality of our products, but also responsibility to our public and employees as well,” winemaker and co-owner Dana Roberts said in addressing the council. “We’re incredibly excited to be here.”

The winery, based in Aberdeen, Washington, launched in 2008. Its success led to a satellite tasting room in Cannon Beach, which closed earlier this month.

The Seaside venture brought co-owners Blain and Kim Roberts out of retirement after the sale of a commercial building in Hawaii, Kim Roberts said before the meeting. “It all kind of coalesced in Seaside. We looked in Cannon Beach but couldn’t find anything affordable there. We looked in Seaside and found 810 Broadway. It provided us greater visibility, greater space and parking — the gold standard of retail.”

Seaside’s tourism industry provided a draw, she added. “We’re a year-round business and we really want to be involved in a year-round community.”

The location replicates the Washington state tasting

room, featuring fine wines, a line of oils and vinegars and gourmet food items. The winery will occupy one portion of the building. Three other shops will be available for rent. A parking lot on Oceanway is also owned by the winery.

The two-story, 10,500-square foot Salmonberry Square retail and office building, transferred this month for \$868,000, was constructed in 1965 and renovated in 2006, according to county records.

Two full-time employees from the Cannon Beach tasting room, Brian Hammack and Ben Hunter, will continue at the Seaside location.

The upstairs is rented to the nonprofit FosterClub. Kim Roberts said she hopes to team with other nonprofits in the community.

“Our family’s been really devoted to nonprofits in our community here,” she said.

“We’ve been able to donate \$400,000 to local nonprofits in 10 years.”

In reviewing the floor plan, Seaside Detective Corporal Bill Barnes observed an alcove by the front door in which there is not a clear line of sight for servers to see who is consuming alcoholic beverages. He suggested either eliminating this area for seating or taking precautions such as a security mirror or video surveillance.

“It’s not a disqualifier, but there was concern about it,” Police Chief Dave Ham said.

City councilors unanimously endorsed the application.

“On behalf of the council, I want to welcome you to Seaside,” Mayor Jay Barber said. “Your organization has a great reputation and it’s going to be great to have you on Broadway and see the Salmonberry thriving again.”

Project Homeless Connect in Seaside

Homeless from Page 1A

Health shared information on the county’s needle replacement program, which aims to stop the spread of infectious diseases through shared needles and syringes.

Molly Irons and Justin Abbott of Providence Seaside Hospital signed up families for the Providence Seaside Healthy Smiles mobile dental van. The program offers free sealants, cleanings and dental work. “The goal is to get kids connected with their dental home care,” Abbott said.

Crystal Moody and Shawna Neumeister of The Harbor link victims of domestic violence to community resources, including legal and medical advocacy. While The Harbor does not offer a shelter in Clatsop County, they will provide confidential locations for emergency purposes, Neumeister said. “Hopefully our shelter will open this year,” she said. “In the meantime, sister agencies help to get them out of town.”

Marlin Martin, regional director of the Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank, offered visitors healthy snacks and food resource guides listing locations and times of emergency food outlets throughout the county. “Regardless of what community they reside in, they will have resources in an emergency to find food,” Martin said.

Grace Smith and Angie Wildt of Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District provided meal and program schedules at the Bob Chisholm Center, and free fitness classes, low-cost showers and pool passes.

Shirley Yates of Laundry Love participated as a volunteer at Homeless Connect for the first time.

Laundry Love, a national organization, came to Seaside



Marlin Martin of the Clatsop Regional Food Bank at Project Homeless Connect.



Clatsop County Public Health Director Mike McNickle with Sarah Mitchell at Project Homeless Connect at the convention center.



Justin Abbott and Molly Irons represented Providence Seaside Hospital's Healthy Smiles program.

five years ago with the aim of providing free laundry loads for families.

The program, held monthly at the Laundromat on South Roosevelt Drive, has grown “like crazy” over the

last year, Yates said.

She hoped to raise awareness of the program and to make sure all people know about their services.

“The need is such an enormous one,” Yates said. “Hav-

ing clean clothes is important for how you feel about yourself — we don’t realize it if we have a washer and dryer at our fingertips. For these people, it’s a health hazard not to have clean clothes.”

County gives Sunset Pool a clean bill of health

Swimmers urged to shower first

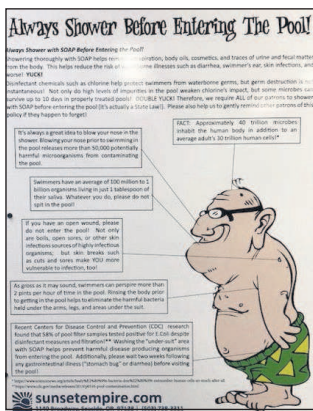
By R.J. Marx
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At the December and January meetings of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, patrons complained about unsanitary conditions at the Sunset Pool men’s and women’s locker rooms and unsafe flooring, particularly in the men’s locker room.

Charges of “turbid conditions” in the warm water pool and the use of a space heaters in the locker room were also reported. Floors in the ladies’ locker room were slippery and not cleaned often enough, pool patrons said.

The district and Clatsop County Department of Public Health say the pools are safe, and problems in the men’s locker room are being addressed.

“Throughout my tenure we haven’t had one reported issue of bacteria or illness being present or transmitted in any of our



Officials hope that new signage will encourage showering before entering the pool.

facilities,” Skyler Archibald, executive director of Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District said. “We have regular inspections, both internally and externally. We had the Clatsop County Health Department in both locker rooms this month and we passed that inspection.”

After a closure from Oct. 19 to Dec. 11, swimmers returned to the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District pool to resume classes, meets and swims.

Among a long list of renovations, the Sunset Pool was replastered and LED lighting repaired. A filter system was installed in the main pool, building leaks repaired and a new boiler added.

In the men’s locker room, new showers were installed, floors redone and walls repainted. Flooring was incorrectly sloped, forming “constant puddles.”

Because of deficiencies in the forced-air heating system, a standalone heater unit “like you use in your garage” stood in standing water, also creating a hazardous situation, pool patron Dallas Cook said at the district’s January meeting.

County officials have not seen any health incidents at the Sunset Pool, Registered Environmental Health Specialist Meredith Reiley said.

Reiley investigated reports of turbidity in the warm-water pool, a complaint at the December district board meeting.

Cloudiness comes from chlorine pumped in automatically trying to “eat up all the gunk” going into the pool, she

said. “That’s why we’re supposed to shower before going into the pool.”

Archibald said the district recently updated small signs with a larger infographic advising patrons of the importance of showering first.

County inspections take place twice a year or as complaints are delivered.

“I did go in there and talk about the electric heaters,” Reiley said. “By the time I got in there, they had the parts for the heating system in-house and they were waiting to install them.”

Archibald said the heating system is now fixed.

Staff say the pool is safe and they are addressing concerns about the locker areas.

“The men’s locker room was one of the many projects undertaken during an extended shutdown,” Board Chairman Alan Evans said. “Unfortunately, some of the projects associated with that space did not go as planned. The district apologizes for the inconvenience that patrons may experience as a result of the projects.”

The Great Backyard Bird Count coming

The 21st annual Great Backyard Bird Count takes place from Friday, Feb. 16, through Monday, Feb. 19, at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Fort Clatsop.

Visitors can join in the count by recording bird observations in the park or in their own backyards. Binoculars will be available for loan within the park.

The park also plans four days of bird-related opportunities. A “great pink heron scavenger hunt” will be ongoing using the Netul Trail along the Lewis and Clark River.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, Mike Patterson will lead a bird walk starting at 8:30 a.m., meeting in the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center lobby.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, Travis Koons, a curator at the Oregon Zoo, speaks about California condors at 1 p.m. in the Netul River Room of the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center.

On Monday, Feb. 19, Presidents’ Day, the park will offer a birding walk in Spanish at 10 a.m. starting in the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center lobby.

Although leashed dogs are welcome at most of the park’s outdoor programs, dogs are not allowed on birding walks.

The walks are wheelchair accessible but non-motorized users might need assistance for about 200 yards.

Park hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Admission is \$5 per adult and free for youth 15 years old and under. Passes to National Park Service sites are accepted.

Bird field guides are



LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

The Great Bird Count comes to Clatsop County.

IF YOU GO

WHERE: Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Fort Clatsop

WHEN: Friday, Feb. 16, through Monday, Feb. 19

INFO: gbbc.birdcount.org; call the park at (503) 861-2471; check out www.nps.gov/lewi; or visit Lewis and Clark National Historical Park on Facebook

available for purchase at the bookstore in the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center.

For more information on the worldwide bird count event or to submit bird counts from your home go to gbbc.birdcount.org.

The weekend’s birding events at Fort Clatsop are sponsored by the Lewis & Clark National Park Association and the National Park Service.

For more information, call 503-861-2471.

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