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Clackamas County business ranked top Oregon destination

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 17, 2019 – A Clackamas County-based business was named as the top destination in the state by *Oregon Business* magazine during a luncheon in Portland on Monday.

MEDIAmerica, publishers of *Oregon Business* magazine, held their fourth annual 100 Best Fan-Favorite Destinations in Oregon luncheon. More than 95,000 reviews from Google, TripAdvisor and Yelp were analyzed to create the list of popular attractions located throughout the state. At the top of the list was Alpacas at Marquam Hill Ranch in Molalla.

“Jennifer and I are ecstatic to be included in a list of this caliber, and we’re extremely grateful for the placing by our guests,” said Bill Cameron, who owns the alpaca farm along with his wife Jennifer.

The Camerons started looking into alpacas as a hobby ten years ago, but it quickly turned into more. They soon purchased an 18+ acre property and currently have more than 80 alpacas.

The duo have won numerous awards, mostly for the quality of fiber produced by their alpacas. While proud of all of them, this award struck a chord.

“First of all, just to be included in this list of hundred businesses, that’s an honor. And then we’re at the top, that’ incredible,” said Jennifer.

Prior winners have said they have seen substantial growth in business following the award. The Camerons plan on using that increase to help neighbors.

“We like to show our visitors other places they can go after their visit with us. If our business is going to grow, we’ll be able to point more people to things to do and places to stay,” Jennifer said.

With the list being formulated by tabulating customer reviews, Mt. Hood Territory executive director Samara Phelps said this shows the importance of managing a business’s online reputation.

“Studies show that more than 80% of shoppers value online reviews as much as a personal recommendation from a friend, so not only is excellent customer service vital, but so is keeping tabs on those reviews and encouraging customers who had a positive experience to submit reviews. This can have a big impact on your business, and improves visitors’ experience when traveling to our destination.”

Several other Clackamas County businesses were on the list. Swan Island Dahlias came in at 18, Timberline Lodge at 39, Mt Hood Skibowl at 59, Happy Rock Coffee ranked at 63, Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm at 64 and the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center was listed at 95.

For a full list of the 100 Best Fan-Favorite Destinations in Oregon, go to www.oregonbusiness.com/100best/destinations. Businesses may also apply to be included in the study for 2021 at the website as well. Participation is free.

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About Oregon’s Mt. Hood Territory: Please visit us at: www.mthoodterritory.com. Clackamas County Tourism & Cultural Affairs (branded “Oregon’s Mt. Hood Territory”), is dedicated to economic development through visitor spending, and is funded by transient room taxes from area lodging facilities and campgrounds. Clackamas County is a contributing partner in enhancing Oregon’s quality of life by strengthening the economic impacts of the state’s \$12.3 billion tourism industry.