

COMMUNITY

Protect Our Parks brings tee-pads to Morrison Park

By Tracey Tomashpol
For Protect Our Parks

HOOD RIVER — Protect Our Parks Hood River, a non-profit parks advocacy group, is building tee-pads and removing invasive species to make Morrison Park a better place for disc golfers and others who enjoy the park.

With donations from several local businesses and a lot of sweat equity, primary builders Devin Carroll, Josh Sceva, and James Ropner have built the first four concrete tee-pads for the disc golf course, with help from Jim Klaas and others.

Disc golf is played like golf, using a plastic disc with players attempting to reach the target in the fewest throws. The tee pad is the designated area where the first throw for each hole starts.

Before POP's efforts, the park's tee-pads consisted of compacted dirt. The group got the green light to build tee-pads for the nine-hole disc golf course in September 2020 from the City of Hood River and the Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District.

With the new construction, the tee-pads' concrete pavers give golfers a safe surface for their initial disc launch. The tee-pads installed by POP Hood River also reduce wear and tear on surrounding soil and will require little future maintenance. POP Hood River expects to finish the remaining five tee-pads by summer.

Disc golf participation has grown during the pandemic because players can maintain 6-feet of social distance while being outside with others. The cost to begin is minimal, with discs available for under \$10, making it an ideal sport for people of any age or economic status.

The sport is particularly compatible with the unique characteristics of Morrison Park, one of the city's only urban forests. Miko Ruhlen, wildlife biologist and owner of Hood River Hobbies, appreciates the fact that "disc golf is a fairly low impact activity for wildlife." She also pointed out that



Devin Carroll and James Ropner pausing while working on Tee-Pad No. 4. POP expects to have all tee-pads installed by this summer. Tracey Tomashpol photo

the disc golf course is integrated with the forest and riparian elements in the park, which "provide much better habitat for wildlife than large expanses of monoculture lawn."

The park still has invasive species like blackberries and poison oak. A long-time park activist and POP board member, Carroll has removed many blackberry bushes and hauled pounds of trash away. "Every time I visit the park, I take out blackberries and trash," he said.

Hood River resident and POP Board Member Linda Maddox said, "Morrison is a sort of 'buffer park.'" With new housing types providing almost no green space, areas like Morrison Park provide accessible outdoor recreation, including disc golf and nature watching, all within easy walking distance of many homes.

POP welcomes volunteers to help build the remaining tee pads. Contributors and native plant experts willing to help can get contact details on the group's webpage at www.protectourparkshoodriver.com.

WALLACE & PRISCILLA STEVENSON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Students of the Month



Korben Herman, Grade 4



Rye Schroeder, Grade 4



Nelson Shaw, Grade 5



Noe Orozco, Grade 5



Joshua Fortanel, Grade 6



Gary Serratos Jimenez, Grade 6

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For about as long as folks can remember, cowboys have been telling tall tales about the greatest cowboy ever known ...

PECOS BILL

How many cactus plants can you find on this page?

Baby Bill
Bill was the youngest of 17 kids. When Bill was just a baby, he fell out of his folks' wagon out on the Texas prairie. And, naturally, he began to cry and howl as the wagon traveled out of sight. His howling attracted a pack of coyotes. They joined in howling with Bill, but after a few hours, their voices were gone. They decided that Bill must be a coyote at heart, and they adopted him into their pack.

Find the coyote that is different.

Bill and the Cyclone
It was said Bill could ride anything. No horse could throw him. He even rode a mountain lion once. So when the biggest cyclone anyone had ever seen blew into town one day, Pecos Bill jumped right on it, riding it for days and days. The cyclone got frustrated and started crying big, salty tears around Utah. Today that pool of tears is known as the:

RGTEA TLAS ALKE
The cyclone mixed up the letters. Unscramble them to reveal the name of this famous body of water.

Soggy Solution
During a drought, Pecos Bill needed to get water to his _____. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, so he got himself a big ol' stick and _____ it across the Texas desert to the Gulf of _____. And that's how the Rio Grande was born!

Replace the missing words.

Widowmaker
Pecos Bill's horse was named Widowmaker because no cowboy could survive an attempt to ride him. But Pecos Bill could, of course, and Widowmaker and Bill became the best of friends.

Pecos Bill Invents the Lasso
Lots of cowboys know how to make a lasso out of a rope. But Pecos Bill invented the first lasso and he did not use a rope. Lasso every other letter to see what he used.

RDAPTYTNLGECSBNZATKPE

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read a variety of genres including tall tales.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Widowmaker was no ordinary horse. Instead of apples or carrots, he used to chomp on this unusual treat that Pecos Bill gave him. Cross out every other apple to reveal it.

~~S~~ ~~Y~~ T M I V G P K
B S L O X F N D K Y
W N H A X M N I K T
G E

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

WIDOWMAKER Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

PECOS
COWBOY
DROUGHT
CYCLONE
TEARS
RANCH
HORSE
EXAGGERATE
TEXAS
PACK
WONDERS
WILD
HOWL
RAIN

E T A R E G G A X E
R S A X E T D W H Y
I A P L T H L D O C
H O I E C G I B W P
O W A N C U W B L A
R R A E N O L C Y C
S R O Y C R S B I K
E L S R E D N O W L
R E K A M W O D I W

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Action Language
Read today's newspaper and highlight each of the following examples of active writing:

- A sentence that commands or directs action
- One or more exciting verbs
- The shortest sentence you can find

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify different kinds of sentences.

Write On!

All About Mom

Write about a special day or a special experience you had with your mom (or a special lady in your life).

Kid Scoop Together: Funny Filler

Have a friend give you each type of word to fill in the blanks. Then read the story aloud!

Pecos Bill once traveled to _____ to help build an _____ ADJECTIVE NOUN _____ People came from miles around to see this _____ ADJECTIVE cowboy in person.

Bill picked up a huge stack of _____ and some _____ and got to _____ right to work. Widowmaker carried _____ ADJECTIVE _____ PLURAL NOUN _____

At lunchtime, Pecos Bill poured _____ and black _____ PLURAL NOUN pepper on his chili. Suddenly, he felt a sneeze coming on, so everyone began to _____ VERB!

Pecos Bill sneezed so hard that _____ ended up in _____ PLURAL NOUN _____ NAME OF STATE _____ Houses rolled like tumbleweeds, and a large _____ NOUN landed in a _____ NOUN _____

It took Pecos Bill more than a year to _____ everything back to where it belonged. _____ VERB

Standards Link: Grammar: Use nouns, adjectives and verbs correctly in writing; understand the meaning of words from context clues.

Kid Scoop-Joku
Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word PECOS in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

P	E	O			
E		O	C		
C	O	P			
O	C				
S					O