



SPECIAL SECTIONS INSIDE

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SCOUTS remove dumped tires from an access road near Bennett Pass. It took about an hour and then they returned to the fun of snow camping. Photo by Dave Slover

Scouts show tireless 'can-do'

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News editor

Lack of snowpack exposed an ugly mountainside scene, but a group of Scouts quickly dealt with it.

Troop 282, Venture Crew 282, Troop 378 and Troop 398 were on a snow camping trip to Bennett Pass last weekend, and discovered an illegal dump of 88 tires along a trail about a quarter-mile up a service road.

The scouts, all 50, plus adults, rolled, carried and sledged the tires to a waiting Les Schwab truck.

"Leave no trace is the outdoor code we all go by, and this was a way to reinforce that," said Scoutmaster Jeff McCaw. "It's just unfortunate that people would do that."

"They just jumped in and did it. They truly have gotten to that point that when they see stuff, they want to take care of it," he said.

Assistant Scoutmaster Dave Slover said once the tires were discovered, they decided to call Les Schwab, who had a truck there within two hours.

"Many hands were primed for a service project, the trail was cleaned up inside of an hour and we continued on our overnight adventure," Slover said.

"Leave no trace is the outdoor code we all go by, and this was a way to reinforce that."

JEFF MCCAW, SCOUTMASTER

"When we get a chance for service we are quick to get to it," he said. "We saw the tires and it was a natural for our group to clean them up. It is pretty awesome!"

Michael Becker, assistant Scoutmaster, took the group up Saturday morning to set up, and they found the tire dump.

McCaw said Becker had taken a group of Scouts to the same location in August and the tires were not there. Les Schwab responded with "no questions asked," McCaw said. "We really appreciated their support. It cost them time and gas, and the cost of disposal."

"The Scouts have a 'go get 'em' attitude, and we could have had five times the tires. That's what's pretty cool, the attitude they have about it," McCaw said.

The winter trip, emphasizing survival skills and also known as



Photo by Dave Slover

LES SCHWAB employee Ron Solomon drove up to collect the tires, which nearly maxed out the truck. With him are scoutmasters Michael Becker, center, and Jeff McCaw.

Snowmageddon, is a favorite and always well attended, Slover noted. "Usually we ski or snowshoe, but this year we just hiked on the limited hard snowpack. It is great for young people to know they can be comfortable on a cold rainy/snowy winter night outdoors," he said. "Our troop tries to have a campout every month of the year. We do all kinds of fun things like backpacking, rafting on the Deschutes and John Day and canoeing at Lost Lake and Timothy Lake."

Ordinance to revise 'unusual' BOCC land use review process

Hearing on proposed ordinance Feb. 11

By BEN MITCHELL
News staff writer

The Hood River County Planning Commission will hold a hearing next week to decide whether it should amend an "unusual" zoning ordinance that currently does not allow the Board of County Commissioners to modify land use decisions made by the planning commission.

The public hearing is one of the first under new Hood River County Planning Director John Roberts and is an attempt by the county to clarify language in its zoning laws as well as streamline the process by which county commissioners review land use appeals.

The Wednesday evening hearing is prompted in part by the findings

included in an Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) case published two years ago regarding a dispute over Barrett Park between the Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District and Hood River County as well as local orchardists Fritz and JoAnn von Lubken. HRVPRD's appeal stemmed from a 2012 county commission decision to overturn the planning commission's approval of a needed park permit due to concerns it was out of compliance with state land use laws.

LUBA's brief stated that the county made errors when reviewing the application and sent it back to the planning commission. And although it wasn't listed as an error, LUBA also noted that the county's ordinance governing the process for reviewing land use appeals was "unusual, resembling the kind of limited review con-

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Police arrest juvenile in Feb. 4 vandalism spree

The Hood River Police Department has arrested a 17-year-old juvenile male they say is responsible for a recent vandalism spree on the west side of the city of Hood River.

Hood River Police Chief Neal Holste reported that a juvenile was arrested in the early morning hours of Feb. 4 in connection with the crimes, which involved "approximately 22 Hood River residents having their vehicles and property vandalized" with gold-colored spray paint.

Safeway employees were the first to report the vandalism to their vehicles and after officers searched the area for the suspect, they found "several more vehicles with similar vandalism" located

outside homes immediately south of Safeway. Holste said property was found damaged in a path starting from the storage units adjacent to Safeway, going down Cascade, south on 20th Street, and then east on Prospect Street to the Hood River Middle School.

Holste reported that the juvenile lived in the vicinity of where the damage occurred and was contacted on a "hunch" because HRPD "had dealt with the juvenile on different incidents over the last month." When asked for a possible motive, Holste said the 17-year-old told police that he was "mad at the world."

The juvenile was booked on Please see POLICE, Page A10

Spotlight

A weekly series about a day in the life ...

Tom Yates begins a new path at an old career

BY TRISHA WALKER
News staff writer

Tom Yates is going through a bit of a transition at Providence Down Manor, where he's worked as community relations coordinator for almost two years.

He's decided to cut back on his hours and has taken a new position that begins this Sunday: activities and transportation assistant for Providence Down Manor and neighboring Providence Brookside Manor.

"I like my job," said Yates. "I like helping senior people. I just turned 66, so I'm like, 'Tom, you'd better start liking yourself,'" he joked.

Yates has been with Providence for the past seven years, and this is not the first change he's made, having started as assistant administrator at Brookside.

But more on that later. As community relations coordinator, Yates is in charge of outreach — or, in his words, "bringing people into the building." He described the job as "full time, just being out in the community and letting people know the good things about Down Manor."

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Photos by Trisha Walker

TOM YATES is transitioning from his role as community relations coordinator at Providence Down Manor to activities and transportation assistant, which will also include neighboring Providence Brookside Manor. Here, Yates visits with residents during lunch hour in the center's dining room.

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Fort Dalles Museum seeks volunteers

The cruise ships are coming! Fort Dalles Museum needs volunteers to help welcome tourists to The Dalles. Learn about local history while meeting and greeting national and international travelers. The first cruise ship arrives March 4. Call today 541-296-4547 (leave a message) or email fort-dallesmuseum@gmail.com. The Fort Dalles Museum and Anderson Homestead complex is located at 500 W. 15th and Garrison streets.

Three To Go

Second Punchbowl forum Tuesday

The next public forum regarding a plan to create a county park at Punchbowl Falls will take place Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. in the County Business Administration Building at 601 State St., Hood River.

Hood River Valley Residents Committee and other stakeholders will review the public input received so far, then begin turning that input into a plan, discussing habitat conservation, recreation access for fishing and paddling, trails, safety and maintenance. HRVRC plans to post iterations of the plan online for public review.

School superintendent holds 'Listening Sessions'

Hood River County School District Superintendent Dan Goldman will be holding two community listening sessions with the public in the month of February. He will share information regarding the district's budget for the 2015-16 school year and district programs and he will be collecting feedback from parents, staff and community members regarding the information shared.

The first listening session will be held on Feb. 12 at the Hood River Valley High School Media Center. The second listening session will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at the Wy'east Middle School Auditorium. Both sessions are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Spanish translation will be provided at each forum.