Aporkalypse Now! returns Feb. 20

Event benefits Helping Hands

The second annual Aporkalypse Now! — Hood River's Bacon Festival will be held on Feb. 20 at Springhouse Cellars in Hood River. It's an evening of bringing together those who can cook with bacon and those who go hog wild over the stuff.

Restaurants will be vying for the coveted Golden Ticket to the World Food Championships, a bacon eating contest, bacon poetry, and even a Kevin Bacon look-alike contest.

Tickets are $20 and available on www.eventbrite.com or at the door (on a space available basis).

All proceeds go to Helping Hands Against Violence, a non-profit organization in the Gorge which supports victims of domestic violence. More information on Facebook at Aporkalypse Now Bacon Fest or call Helping Hands for more information 541-386-4808.

Helping Hands relies upon community support for its programs including shelter for women and children, counseling, job training, and other resources.

Zoning

Continued from Page A1

ducted by LUBA rather (than) a more open-ended review."

Specifically, LUBA noted Hood River County Zoning Ordinance Article 61 constrains the county commission to only affirming, reversing, or remanding a decision and does not allow the body to modify a decision made by the planning commission. LUBA added the county's zoning ordinance limits county commissioners' scope of review to four specific errors instead of allowing broader consideration and that the ordinance "requires the board of commissioners to review the underlying decision for legal error, rather than review the application directly or render a new decision on the merits of the application."

Public hearing
Feb. 11
at 7 p.m.
601
State St.

Roberts agreed and said that "the scope of review is rather unusual" for the county commission and that he was "not aware of any other board of commissioners in the state or the country" that had these kinds of limitations.

Other changes to the zoning ordinance include simplifying language on subjects such as how to determine whether a party has "standing" in a land use review and determining when a review requires a "de novo" or "new evidence" hearing. When ruling on an appeal, county commissioners can make their decision based on the already established record from the previous planning commission hearing, or they can honor requests for a de novo hearing, which is held in case substantial new evidence arises that could affect the outcome of the land use decision.

Roberts mentioned that "a lot of times (a de novo hearing request) is a tactic by attorneys to get an edge" and prolong proceedings. Accordingly, the decision to hold a de novo hearing is at the discretion of the county commissioners, who have to decide whether there really is new evidence or not.

The complete list of changes to the zoning ordinance is available online for review at the Hood River County website at http://www.co.hood-river.or.us/. Click on "Community Development" under the "County Departments" tab and then click on the link on the calendar that appears. Those with questions can call the planning department at 541-387-6840.

Police

Continued from Page A1

first-degree criminal mischief charges and lodged in the juvenile detention section of the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility in The Dalles.

So far, police have estimated damages between $7,000 and $8,000. HRPD advises anyone who believes they may have been a victim of the vandalism to call the department at 541-386-2121.

Tom

Continued from Page A1

His new schedule will allow him the flexibility to volunteer more frequently at Faith Bible Church and the Hood River Lions Club, where he serves as chairman of the Lions Club Foundation.

It will also allow him more contact with residents — his favorite part. He'll divide his time between Down Manor and Brookside, two parts of the "Senior Village" that makes up Providence assisted living and care sites; the other is Providence Dethman Manor.

"We're actually doing more to try to come together," he said of Down Manor and Brookside. "It's an easy transition because I know all the people. I've spent the last year and a half — almost two years, really — focusing on Down Manor, and one of my concerns always was just losing touch with the Brookside Manor people."

While his focus has been bringing people to Down Manor, he spends many hours with the residents.

"It's interesting talking to residents," he said. "The more you know (about them), the more you can meet their needs and care for them."

Despite the new position, he will be doing some of the same tasks: he facilitates a dementia support group for family members (held Wednesdays), a men's group (started about eight months ago with Brookside activity director Jacky Koester) and the monthly resident council meeting, helps write the newsletter with Dethman Manor manager Jessica Franklin, participates in resident events and activities, provides transportation to medical appointments for both Down Manor and Brookside, and occasionally helps staff in Brookside's memory care unit or the Friday "Drive to Nowhere" in Down Manor's 14-passanger van, the point of which is to just drive.

"I enjoy that because I've lived here long enough now, it's nice to talk to them as we drive," Yates said. "So many have grown up here ... there's just so much history here."

Yates and wife Carol, who is the business manager at Horizon Christian School, moved to Hood River in 1976. He graduated from Washington State University with a teaching degree and taught government classes in Prineville for three years before deciding that he wanted to be a broadcast journalist, specifically for KGW in Portland. He went to the University of Oregon, where he graduated with a journalism degree.

Photo by Trisha Walker

EILEEN CODINO, Ruth Jones and Lynn Grossman, residents of Providence Brookside Manor, work together on a puzzle in the living room. Grossman, who moved in last month, said that living at Down Manor was like "heaven without having had to die. We're living in the lap of luxury — this is the best place we could have ever landed."

While at UO, he met Greg Walden, who was in one of his journalism classes. He eventually decided he "really didn't have the stage presence to be on KGW," and, while talking with Walden, learned about Hood River and its radio station.

"He said, 'you ought to check out KIHR, that's the station my dad owns, and you'd just love this town,'" Yates remembered. While on a trip to Dayton, Wash., where he grew up, in 1975, he and Carol stopped in Hood River, spending the night at the Vagabond Lodge and driving around the area.

"We were just giddy about Mount Hood," he said — and then they realized that Mount Adams was visible from town too.

They decided this is where they wanted to live. Paul Walden offered Yates a job at KIHR, and the couple moved to town after Yates graduated from UO, raising daughters Calista, Kristen, Kara and Laura.

Yates worked at KIHR for two years before going to work in public relations for United Telephone Northwest — a difficult decision, as it took him a couple of days to accept the new job offer. He "retired" at age 55, after 25 years with the company, when United Telephone began downsizing.

Wondering what the next step in his life would be, he met a fellow Lions Club member who was the manager of Hawks Ridge.

"At that point in time, my folks had gone to assisted living and I thought, 'you know, I have so much fun talking to seniors about their lives and whatnot,' so I applied at Hawks Ridge and got the job there."

He worked four years as assistant administrator before moving to Brookside Manor for a similar position in 2008.

"I am a small part of the picture when you consider the day-to-day caregivers," he said. "I admire all the nursing staff who spend hour after hour giving care and being with the residents far beyond my presence.

"I just feel like I've had an amazing life, from the time I was in little league in Dayton to now ... Any goodness I have, I give credit to God."

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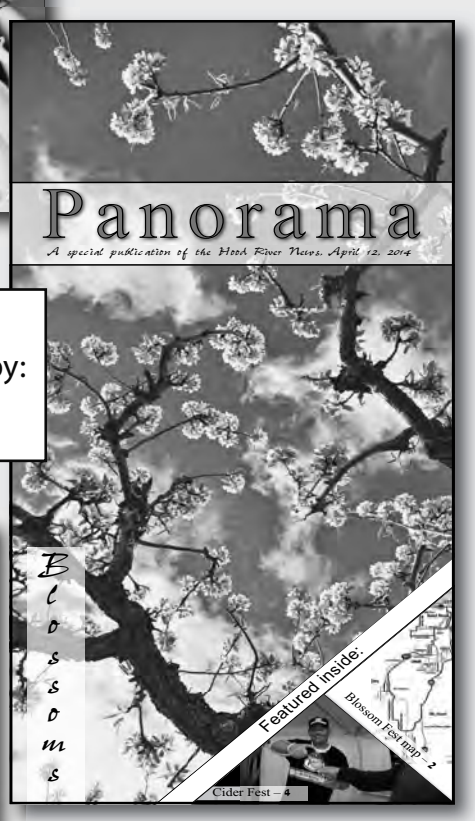

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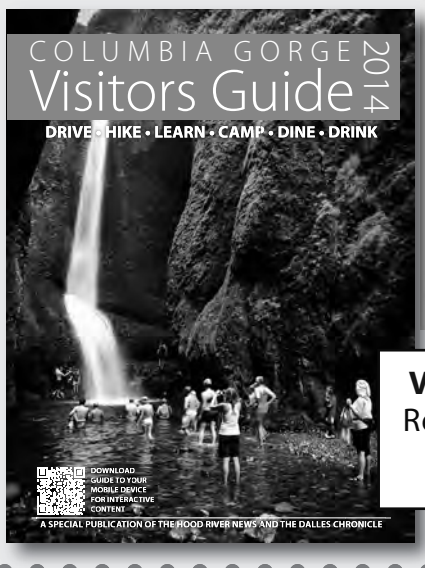

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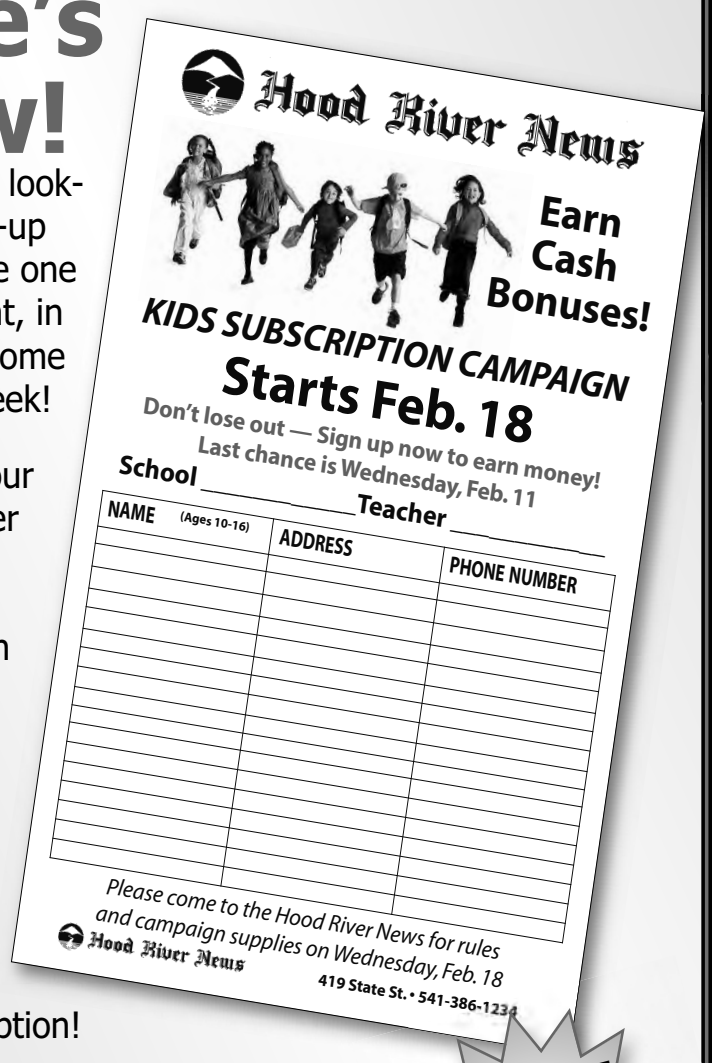

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