

'Voice' star concert

Entertainment
features Taylor
John Williams
A3



Blossom Time

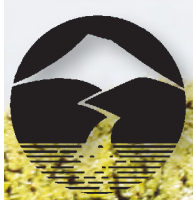
Craft Show, Quilt Fair B2

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ODFW approves water rights swap with CL

Action paves way for Nestlé plant

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has agreed to trade water rights with Cascade Locks, which puts the city one step closer to bringing Nestlé's proposed water bottling plant to its business park. The city of Cascade Locks and the state agency filed joint paper-

work to the Oregon Water Resources Department last Friday. If approved by the department, the city would transfer 0.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) — 225 gallons per minute — of its ground water right in exchange for 0.5 cfs of ODFW's water right to Oxbow Spring, located near Oxbow Hatchery on the east side of Cascade Locks. The city would then sell the spring water to Nestlé for bottling in its proposed 25,000-square-foot plant.

In exchange, ODFW would use the city's ground water for the

Oxbow Fish Hatchery, sustaining its salmon tenants with a more consistent water source year-round.

The first 30-day comment period for the cross trade began Tuesday, according to Oregon Water Resources Department Senior Policy Coordinator Racquel Rancier. During this time, the department will review the cross transfer application and hear public input, then issue a decision in mid-May. From there, another 30-day comment period will commence. If there are no further legal challenges, the final

transfer could be approved in June.

Originally, the city and ODFW planned to enter a gallon-per-gallon "water exchange" without altering their respective water rights. However, due to ongoing legal pressure from environmental groups, both the city and Nestlé sought out a way to speed up the process: a cross water rights transfer.

According to a staff report earlier this year from the city of Cascade Locks, the cross transfer is projected to be quicker than the exchange, now taking an anticipated

two years instead of four.

This option bypasses a public interest review and instead progresses to a review process conducted by OWRD.

Bark, one of the environmental groups opposed to the partnership, expressed frustration at ODFW's filing for the cross transfer. Bark director Alex Brown called ODFW's cross land transfer decision "disappointing."

"This is the state telling (citizens) your concerns don't matter,"

See NESTLÉ, Page A9



blossom time is here

A11: WEEK TWO EVENTS
A12: PLENTY OF NEW



CIDER MAKER Christina Nance of Rack and Cloth in Mosier serves a glass of Stony Pig during Saturday's Hard-Pressed Cider Fest. Clay in hand, artist Laurel Marie Hagner talks to visitors to her Glassometry studio Saturday during Gorge Open Artists Studio tour; turn to page A10 for more photos. **FULL DETAILS** on these and other events are in the Hood River News' four-part special section Panorama, available at the News, 419 State St., and at the Chamber Visitor Center. (Hagner's glass artwork is shown at the top of this page.)

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News editor

Blossom Time started with the cider spectrum — from clear to cherry red — enjoyed by an estimated 2,000 people at the second annual Hood River Hard-Pressed Cider Fest in Odell (see page B6 for photos).

Art-lovers also made the circuit in the weekend-long Gorge Artists Open Studio Tour (photos on page A10), which included a peek inside

the cozy painting shed once used by the great-grandfather of two artists on the tour.

Blossom Time is just getting started. The centerpiece on April 18-19 will be the Blossom Craft Show and the Blossom Fest Quilt Show, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hood River County Fairgrounds. Admission and parking are free — turn to page B2 for full details.

One of the longest standing Blossom events is the 22nd annual Park-

See BLOSSOM, Page A11



Submitted photo

FLAMES DEVoured a cabin in Cascade Locks Saturday, leaving its residents without a home or possessions.

CL home incinerated, family displaced

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

Two adults and one child were displaced Saturday by a fire that destroyed their home in the 700 block of Northwest Forest Lane in Cascade Locks.

Christina Fehd, Shane Barron and 13-year-old son Logan Barron lost their home and roughly \$60,000 in personal possessions in the fire.

Cascade Locks Fire Department, Hood River Fire Department and Stevenson Fire Department responded to the scene Saturday evening. The fire destroyed the cabin and nearby trees before fire fighters could subdue the flames. The fire was contained before it could spread to a neighboring apartment complex.

No injuries were reported, but the family lost nearly all of their possessions and may have lost their cat, which vanished after the fire, said Fehd's daughter, Ariel Ontiveros.

"We had just the clothing on our back," said Fehd.

Ariel Ontiveros said she witnessed the fire and alerted the family after calling 911. "We started hearing stuff blow up inside," said Ontiveros. "By the time I called 911, flames came out of the windows ... it just engulfed."

The American Red Cross of the Cascade Region responded to the scene and provided food, clothing and temporary lodging at a motel in Cascade Locks. The family stayed there for three days before relocating to a friend's travel trailer.

The 40-year-old cabin was built by Barron's family, and was well known in the community according to Ontiveros.

A donation fund to help the family has been set up at the Riverview Bank in Stevenson.

Cash donations can be made at the Barron fund at Riverview bank in Stevenson or online at www.gofundme.com/rnq3bfc. For more information, contact Linnea Prowett 503-888-0589.



Young Voices

"The statement 'you only live once, eat local,' shows how our choices can affect the way our body functions work properly."

Klahre House students pay tribute to local agriculture, in words and pictures, in this week's Kaleidoscope, which runs on pages B1 and B12.



Four To Go

Chamber hosts Coffee Clatter April 17

The April Chamber of Commerce Coffee Clatter will be 8-9 a.m. April 17 at Cascade Acupuncture (5th near Cascade), which is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Coffee, goodies, and networking available.

Business windows are bound to stand out this week — the Chamber's first Blossoms window display contest is on at local Chamber businesses; judging took place April 10.



Saddle Club fundraiser April 17

The Hood River Saddle Club (Country Club and Belmont roads) will host its annual spaghetti feed fundraiser on April 17, from 5-8 p.m., serving all you can eat spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, beverage and dessert. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12. Funds raised will support the Mt. Hood Pony Club and scholarships for local high school seniors. For more information, call Helen Hansen at 541-386-5913.

Internet Cat Video Fest is Saturday at Arts Center

Columbia Gorge Cat Rescue and Columbia Center for the Arts present the Internet Cat Video Festival from the Walker Art Center, Saturday at the center, Third and Cascade streets.

Activities include a raffle, face painting, cat photo contest, local cat videos, silent auction, and more. The Walker's Internet Cat Video Festival is a traveling show that features an 80-minute reel of clips culled from 10,000 submissions.

Tickets, available online or at the Center, are just \$10 for adults, and children 11 and under are \$5. The event starts at 6 p.m. and films begin at 7:30 p.m.

HRVHS invites '19 students to open house April 15

Students and parents of the Class of 2019 are invited to Hood River Valley High School's Open House on April 15 to tour the school and learn about the academic programs and requirements, meet the counselors and administrators, and learn about the many clubs and athletic teams offered at HRV. Students will turn in completed forecast sheets, and enrollment and locker request forms.

For those incoming freshman students who do not attend a Hood River County middle school but are interested in attending HRVHS, there will be an informational meeting prior to the Open House at 5 p.m. in Room E20.