

BLOSSOM

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dale Fire Department Casino Night April 18 at 5:30 p.m.

The Cider Fest drew a crowd for fruit libations, food and music, along with kids' activities, and things got crowded inside the "cider garden" in the Mt. Defiance Fruit Company warehouse.

"We reached capacity and had an awesome spread of ciders, with a pretty diverse variety of cider," said Chamber of Commerce events coordinator Ashley Huckaby May. "It seems like a really successful event, and we will brainstorm on a layout that's a little better as far as traffic. We are maxed on ciders at 20," she said, adding that several were turned away. "I had calls as recently as last week from ciders, there are so many people interested," she said.

Also happening April 18-19 are several other traditional Blossom Time events:

■ April 18 — Asbury Our Redeemer Blossom Craft Sale; fine handmade items and crafts, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1140 Tucker Road Hood River (across from bowling alley).

■ April 18-19 — Apple Valley Blossom Festival, Dessert Party and Country BBQ, 2363 Tucker Road Hood River, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (applevalley-store.com). Apple Valley's famous desserts are showcased during the Blossom Time Dessert Party. Enjoy fresh baked pies, cobblers and crisps. Sample over 50 differ-



File photo

LONG TABLES fill with diners at the all you can eat breakfast in the West Side Fire Department on Barrett Road. The event returns Sunday.

ent varieties of jams, syrups, pepper jellies and pie fillings. Country BBQ will be served at the store featuring cherry wood smoked ribs, pulled pork and chicken sandwiches and our pear coleslaw and cider baked beans.

■ April 18-19 — Parkdale Grange Blossom Dinner, 11-5 p.m. at 7375 Clear Creek Road, Parkdale. Chuckwagon dinner featuring steak or ham with all the trimmings, and a selection of desserts. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 4-12 years, and free for children 3 and under. More info at 541 352-6691.

■ April 19 — West Side Fire District All You Can Eat Breakfast, 7-11 a.m. at Fire Station No. 1, 4250 Barrett Road. Ham and eggs, coffee, juice and milk. \$8 adults, \$5 children 6-12; under 6 free. All proceeds benefit the volunteer fire department Neighbor Helping Neighbor program. More info at 541-386-1550.

■ April, 17-18 — Lions Follies, 7:30 p.m. in the Hood River Middle School Auditorium. "A Ma and Pa Kettle Story." General admission \$10, or \$9 presale; call 541-386-2763 or tallmantru@gmail.com. Pre-

sented for the Oregon Lions Site and Hearing Foundation.

■ Through April 26 — Abstract Fiber Trunk Show, 11-4 p.m. at Foothills Yarn & Fiber, 4207 Sylvester Drive. Abstract Fiber yarn hand-dyed by Susan, Karen, Rachel, and Gail in their studio in Portland, Oregon. See shawls, socks, hats, scarves, and gloves knit with this luscious yarn. Alpacas too! Free admission. More info at 541-400-0182.

■ Through April 30 — Luminous Yellow: A Color Show, Columbia Center for the Arts, Third and Cascade. This show is a challenge to all Gallery Artists to explore the color yellow, the most luminous color in the spectrum. A diversity of creative interpretation is represented in oils, acrylics, pastel, photography, digital art, jewelry, and glass, all linked by hues of lemon, daffodil, amber and gold.

■ April 17 — Happy Hour Wine Tasting, 5-7 p.m. at The History Museum of Hood River County, 300 E. Marina Drive. Featuring Cathedral Ridge. \$15 nonmembers and \$10 members. Guests will receive a custom wine glass.

April 18 — Earth Day Weeding and Clean-up at HR Waterfront Park, 9-1 p.m. Volunteers and families invited to join. Small shovels and hand trowels, work gloves, large shovels and water bottles recommended. No pets please.

■ April 18-19 — Gorge Grapes Weekend at Columbia Gorge Wineries in Oregon and Washington.



File photo

CASINO PLAYERS enjoy themselves at the Parkdale Fire Department event.

Try your hand at Casino Night on Saturday

Parkdale Fire Department Casino Night on April 18 is a 21-and-over event; admission is \$20 and includes dinner and \$50 in chips, and admission to the beer and wine garden. Local rides home are provided. This Blossom tradition is the department's only fund raiser of the year.

Valuable prizes are given to the top players and there are also a couple of separate raffles and a general raffle (included in the price of admission) at the end of the evening.

Prizes include: an iPad,

one night stay at the Cooper Spur Inn, \$250 gift certificate at McClasc's store, \$425 gift certificate for automotive service at Green Tree Auto, and other gift certificates and prizes, both large and small.



This size ad in the HRN 9 times for only \$175^{50!} Call Kirsten at 541-386-1234

Highlights of Blossom Time, week three, April 25-26

April 25 — Hood River Valley FFA 7th Annual Steak Feed and Silent Auction, 6 p.m. at the HRVHS cafeteria. Tickets \$10; proceeds go back to the HRV FFA chapter to fund future student events and activities. To purchase call 541-386-4500 ext. 4562 or nita.bozarth@hoodriver.k12-or.us.

April 25 — Procession of the Species, 4:30 p.m. at Waterfront Park. Earth Day celebration to share what we love about Earth through art, music, dance and story, and how we are working to protect it. Food.

April 25-26 — Barrel & Re-

serve Tasting Weekend Columbia Gorge Wineries in Oregon and Washington. Small bites, special cheeses or pop-up food carts will be available along with take-home recipes, pairing lessons and new releases at 24 participating wineries. \$25 fee; valid month of April. More info at 1-866-413-9463 and columbiagorgewine.com/passport-month.

April 25 — Spring Cleanup Day

"The Spot to be is The Spit," Earth Day clean-up organizers are saying.

In honor of Earth Day,

plan to help clean up the river on Saturday, April 25. Columbia Riverkeeper invites the community to help collect trash along with Bethel and Riverside UCC youth who regularly monitor Nichols Boat Basin as part of Riverkeeper's Adopt-A-River program.

At their first assessment in the fall, the Bethel and Riverside UCC youth noticed a high concentration of dog feces, along with other trash left over from the recreational season.

Columbia Riverkeeper helped organize this community wide event for Earth

Day as a result of the report from the Adopt-a-River group. Because development is underway on the west side of Nichols boat basin, the clean-up will be on the east side of the boat basin, as well as by the Hood River, which is adjacent to the site.

More volunteers are needed and welcome. Please meet at the Hood River Spit Parking Area at 10 a.m.



COMMUNITY members of all ages have helped with past upkeep projects at Hood River Waterfront Park; this year's is scheduled for April 18.

Climate Network plans Earth Day events

Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network (CGCAN) is coordinating a series of Earth Day events on Saturday, April 25, in Hood River to celebrate and connect Columbia Gorge residents around Earth awareness.

The morning will start at the Hood River Waterfront Park near the playground area at 9:30 a.m. with a welcome and gathering circle. Following this will be a river-side clean up along the banks of the Hood River under the direction of Columbia Riverkeeper from 10 a.m. to noon. All are invited to meet at the Hood River Spit parking area with gloves in hand.

At 11 a.m. at the Hood River Waterfront Park playground, the Mama Bears (MamaBearProject.com) will focus a Procession of the Species in costume or in the spirit of a being you are drawn to represent.

This is an activity where even younger children can join everyone in the aware-

ness of our responsibility to steward the planet for all beings. This will transition to a parade lead by the Hood River Valley High School Climate Club at noon that will journey from the playground area through Hood River to the Riverside United Church of Christ at 4th and State Streets. All are welcome to join in.

Lunch will be served for participants at 12:30 p.m. at the church, and materials from Earth centered businesses and organizations will be available to connect people with ongoing ways to be involved in our local community.

At 2 p.m., photographer and naturalist Darryl Lloyd will share a remarkable collection of photos and stories about climate effects on Mt. Adams and Mt. Hood. Following this, wildlife biologist Bill Weiler will present "Global Warming in the Gorge: Potential Impacts to Fish and Wildlife, and Hope-

ful Solutions." Earth inspired activities for children will be provided by Generation Earth during these afternoon programs.

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