

Blossom Time

Photos and a look ahead to Week 3 – B1



Track

HRV sweeps Blossom meet – A7



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CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY

Earth Week

Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network (CGCAN) and other local groups are hosting a number of Earth Day events on Saturday and Sunday in Hood River supporters said are intended “to celebrate and connect Columbia Gorge residents around Earth awareness.”

Today, April 22, is officially Earth Day, but in Hood River as with many communities, events have happened on the surrounding weekends (see page A10 for related photos.)

Here are three events happening in Hood River to mark the occasion and inform the community about themes and practices of sustainability:

Tod J. LeFevre Awards

The Tod J. LeFevre Sustainability Awards party is April 22 at the Center for the Arts beginning at 6:30 p.m.

This award is named after the late Tod J. LeFevre (pronounced “la-fay”): skier, moun-

taineer, father and husband, engineer, straw bale home builder, proponent of sustainable energy, and founder of the Hood River firm Common Energy.

Business Nominees

Dirt Hugger, Turtle Island Foods (Tofurky), Solstice Wood Fire Cafe and Bar, Mt. Hood Meadows

Individual Nominees

Heather Staten, Hood River Valley Residents Committee; Kate McBride, Friends of the Columbia River Gorge and a Hood River City Council Member; Jurgen and Susan Hess, Hess Photography and Envirogorge; John Jacobson, Mt. Hood Organic Farm/School Aid program; Jeanette Burkhardt, Yakama Nations Fisheries

Student Nominees

Roland Platt, Columbia Gorge Community

See EARTH, Page A10

Dig into Earth Week events

Student film fest splices creativity, competition

By PATRICK MULVIHILL

News staff writer

For students at Hood River Valley High School, film-making is a passion best shared through competition.

HRVHS multimedia teacher Shawn Meyle’s class was a whirl of activity for the last six months, with students preparing for a new competition on top of their everyday class projects: the first annual Hood River Independent Film Festival.

The festival, hosted by Hood River Education Foundation, will allow HRVHS students to showcase their independent films on the big screen at the high school’s Bowe Theater on May 9. The films will be three minutes or less and span the genres of sports action, animation, documentary and narrative films.

The grand prize will be a \$500 college scholarship for creative visual arts. The runners up will earn prizes provided by sponsors Dakine and Second Wind Sports.

The idea of the film festival stemmed from Hood River County Education Foundation board members Mike Schend and A.J. Kitt, and Meyle.

Meyle said he was enthusiastic to help kick off the burgeoning festival. “It’s all about getting kids fired up,” said Meyle.

Meyle explained that all the stu-



Photo by Patrick Mulvihill

HRVHS TEACHER Shawn Meyle demonstrates a camera stabilization rig Wednesday, which his multimedia students use for sports action shots. HRVHS students Ronaldo Rodriguez, center, Myles Cameron and Owen Kozec have been hard at work honing their film skills over the school year.

dents entering videos at the film festival are in their third, most advanced year of his multimedia sequence. The third unit is the most flexible, with students charting their own course in video production.

“I’m more like a producer,” said Meyle. “I’m just trying to provide a conducive environment for them to take off.”

Meyle’s classroom serves as the proving grounds, cutting room, beat lab and production studio.

On the submission deadline last Wednesday, students gathered around computer screens in Meyle’s class to review their projects one last time.

Third-year multimedia student

See FILM, Page A9

Oil spill plan in update

Draft is online, public asked to leave comments

By DEREK WILEY

The Dalles Chronicle

What would happen if oil spilled along the Middle Columbia River?

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency spent Friday morning at Columbia

Gorge Community College answering that question.

Mike Boykin, an EPA on-scene coordinator, opened the workshop with a lesson on crude oil, how it’s measured and how it responds to different environments.

Richard Franklin, also an EPA on-scene coordinator, then explained the differences between Bakken crude oil and oil sands, which both come through the Columbia Gorge.

While Bakken is easier to clean because much of it evaporates after 24 hours, Franklin said, “Tar sands is going to be the biggest problem. The answers are not all in for this, especially for a spill response.”

Franklin also went over available response tactics.

He said the priorities after an oil spill are safety, a stabilized situation and then environmental considerations. Three physical measures are taken: stop it, boom it and then suck it up with vacuum trucks if possible.

“We may not expect to get every molecule up,” Franklin said.

Don Pettit, an emergency re-

Train protest march

On Thursday from noon to 1 p.m., a march is planned near the BNSF tracks in Bingen. Meet at Daubenspeck Park at noon; the march will be less than a mile and start at 12:20 and conclude by 12:45 p.m.

Sunday fire claims Parkdale family’s home



Photo courtesy of Parkdale Fire Department

FLAMES ENGULF the Rodriguez family home on Quinn Road in Parkdale Sunday.

By PATRICK MULVIHILL

News staff writer

A blaze destroyed a double-wide manufactured home in Parkdale Sunday, leaving its residents with few worldly possessions. It was the second home to burn down in Hood River County within the last two weeks.

No injuries were reported, but Rigoberto Rodriguez’s family, including two adults and two children, lost their home on Quinn Road in Parkdale as well as two passenger cars, a 2003 Ford Expedition and a 2002 Subaru sedan.

Parkdale Fire Chief Mike McCafferty said the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Parkdale Fire Department responded to the fire at Quinn Road about 4:15 a.m. Sunday. They were joined by West Side Fire and Wy’East Fire District, who helped wrestle the flames down within an hour.

Firefighters contained the flames before they could spread to neighboring buildings, but they were unable to save the Rodriguez’s house or their two cars parked out front.

“They lost everything,” said McCafferty. He estimated the cost of damages to be about \$50,000.

Volunteers from the American Red Cross of the Cascades Region responded, providing clothing, shoes, food, baby formula, bedding and linens.

The Rodriguez family is currently staying with friends in Odell, until they can find a permanent replacement for their home.

McCafferty called the fire “a fluke” because it was unlikely to

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Four To Go

Glow-in-dark mini-golf returns

Hood River’s only full-size indoor “Glow in the Dark” 18-hole mini-golf course will open its doors again for the next two weekends, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, located at 9th and State streets This neon-lit mini-golf course offers 18 unique and entertaining holes that are a challenge for all ages. All proceeds go towards Immanuel’s middle school and senior high youth ministries.

Hours are April 24., 5 to 8 p.m.; April 25, 2 to 8 p.m.; May 1, 5 to 8 p.m.; and May 2, 2 to 8 p.m.

Cost is \$5 per person for 18 holes.



Bike drive Saturday and Sunday

Anson’s Bike Buddies collects used bikes, repairs them, and then matches them to children who would benefit from owning a bike. Founder Anson Pulk, 8, and his family are helped by groups such as Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital and The Next Door.

Anson is holding a bicycle drive Saturday and Sunday at Cascade Eye Center on West Cascade from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Whole bikes or frames or parts are accepted. For details go to www.ansonbikebuddies.org

‘Art of Community’ call for artists

May 15 is deadline for artists to respond to the 2015 Art of Community “big art” project. Pieces will be selected by June 1, and installation happens in late August.

Art of Community works are on exhibit at 15 outdoor locations (16 or more in 2015) in the project, which debuted last July. For details call Kristen Godkin, development director, or go to: www.art-of-community.com

Author Luis Urrea appears Saturday

The 2015 Hood River Reads program concludes Saturday with a free talk by author Luis Alberto Urrea, whose book “Into the Beautiful North” was featured in the program this year. Urrea will speak at 2 p.m. at Hood River Library.

The program is free and open to all.

