

Free Veterans seminar offered April 30 at Parkhurst Place

Join the Hood River County Veterans Service Office (HRCVSO), in partnership with Parkhurst Place, on April 30 at from 1:30-3:30 p.m. for a free Veterans Benefit Seminar.

Several speakers will be featured from the Portland VA, including a Choice Preference Card Champion, explaining how to use the white preference choice

card that was mailed to Veterans. Other speakers include a dietician/nutritionist, who will be discussing healthy meal portions and choices, diabetes, tips and tricks to help smokers quit, and the importance of moving your body.

Other speakers include the local chapter of Pets-for-Vets, presenting infor-

mation on connecting disabled veterans with service animals; those interested in the new chapter or in a service or emotionally supportive animal won't want to miss this. An exciting group of hunters and fishers will attend to discuss their Outdoor Adventures with Military Heroes program.

This program's goal is to

connect Combat Disabled Veterans with hunting, fishing and outdoor adventures — if you're interested in the outdoors, they are here to help.

Closing the Forum will be the American Legion, Post 22 and the Veterans Service Office. Both groups will discuss how they serve Veterans within our community and how important

standing up to be counted is.

The forum will be held at Parkhurst Place, 2450 May Street. Call the HRCVSO, Les Logsdon, at 541-386-1080 for questions.

HRCVSO will be launching our Veterans Walking Group, which will begin on May 5 and continue every Tuesday and Thursday

throughout the summer season. The group will meet at Parkhurst Place, and upon our return will enjoy refreshments and socialization.

The walking group will be tailored to the physical capabilities of the Veterans participating and will be an excellent opportunity to exercise and socialize.



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

LEFEVRE AWARD WINNERS

These are the winners of the Tod J. Lefevre Sustainability Awards, announced Wednesday at Columbia Center for the Arts, by Gorge Owned Network. With board president Lindsey Miller, right, are Business winner Suzanne Baumhackl of Solstice Wood Fire Café, (who won with her husband, Aaron) and her son, Rune; Student winner Charley Boonstra of HRVHS Climate Action Club; and Individual Award winner Susan Hess of Envirogorge (who won with her husband, Jurgen). The awards honor the memory of the late Tod J. Lefevre, founder of Common Energy and an avid proponent of sustainable energy.

PORT

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"Able-bodied people will be able to walk up the drive from the road section to the (Naito) sidewalk, but for disabled people the end of your trail is really the end of the line," said Staten.

Staten cited "poor planning" as the cause of the gap. In a letter to the Port, she said the Port's architects, Walker-Macy, did not consult sufficiently with Naito's respective architects when planning the trail.

McElwee hopes the Port and Naito can reach a swift agreement. "I think we need to identify a likely, preferred solution within three to four weeks," said McElwee.

Local property development leaders met at the Nichols Basin site Thursday morning to discuss options. The impromptu meeting in-

cluded McElwee, Naito Development LLC head Bob Naito, Hood River City Planning director Cindy Walbridge and City Engineering project manager Gary Lindemeyer.

McElwee described the meeting as "very constructive." The waterfront planners honed in on two options for solving the incline debate.

The first option would curl the trail path through the basin's riparian in order to ease the incline. The challenge is that environmental

and property easements limit any paved work in that protected area—unless the developers re-define their permits, the modifications would be made in gravel.

The second plan would stay more strictly within legal boundaries, but would require juggling of current riverfront barriers as well as constructing a ramp up to Naito's sidewalk.

McElwee said the parties were unable to assign a "ball-park cost." That was one of the next assignments the leaders gave themselves.

Budget committee meets

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of Columbia Gorge Community College, to discuss the 2015-16 budget, happens in the Board Room 1.162, Building One, 400 East Scenic Drive, The Dalles. The meeting will take place on April 28 and May 5, at 6 p.m. or if continued, May

7. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained at the Business Office or online at cgcc.edu/budget.

TYSON

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helping carry large auction items to cars when the evening is over.

It's a fun — and maybe slightly daunting — project that enjoys widespread community support.

"It's fun to come even if you're not buying anything," Miller said.

Nita Bozarth, one of three FFA advisors at HRVHS, said the funds raised Saturday go directly back into the program, sending kids to career development events, putting on the annual Touch and See Day for elementary students, hosting shop skills and floriculture contests, and even food and activities for monthly meetings.

FFA is "inter-curricular with high school agriculture classes," Bozarth said. "Students must be in an ag class to participate in FFA. Students learn skills in class and practice them in FFA career development events." Students can join FFA starting in eighth grade.

It's a separate program from 4H, although students can participate in both. Miller was a 4H member for six years, until this year, when he decided to pursue just FFA.

"They're similar in just a few ways, (like) the fact that anyone can join, and the activities at fair," Miller said.

While Miller raises goats and ducks for fair (more on his goat breeding program in a moment), he also takes photography classes. FFA isn't just about traditional agriculture, he said — the program covers wood and metal shop, photography, and speaking, too.

Back to goat breeding: It's a year-long endeavor, whereas ducks have a shorter time commitment because "they mature much faster," Miller said. He has two female goats, which he sends to another farm for breeding. Five months later, after they've given birth, "I get to raise the babies and the moms together," he said, at home. "During fair, there are special classes where I show against other people who are also taking their breeding goats. This year, I had five babies born, and they are all doing great."

"Goats have fun personalities," he added.

Next school year, he'll take on even more responsibility — he was recently elected as FFA secretary for the 2015-2016 school year.

"I thought it would be a fun experience, being one of the leaders," he said.

To be eligible for election, he had to complete a process

that included filling out an application, being interviewed by advisors and, finally, being voted in by his peers. He joins new president Jackie SantaCruz, vice president Mayra Cordova, treasurer Courtney Castaneda, reporter Gaby SantaCruz and sentinel Gloria Garcia.

"Tyson has a wide open future in front of him," Bozarth said. "He is willing to get involved and is a motivated FFA member ... (He) has already shown leadership potential in our chapter. We are very excited for what next year brings."

While he hasn't decided if he wants to pursue a career in agriculture, he's enjoying being involved in FFA.

"I like it all," Miller said. "Probably my favorite is meeting new people — you meet people from all over the state."

"Even classes — the agricultural classes — the whole thing is fun in general."

TRAIN

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date on the buildable lands inventory and housing analysis study, two connected projects now in their third month. Code changes and other administrative measures are expected to emerge from the studies.

City manager Steve Wheeler will give an oil train safety update, and discuss an upcoming emergency training exercise for local agencies. Wheeler will also discuss plans to go to a revised year-round parking system at the city's Fourth-and-Cascade lot.

are available. To sponsor the tournament, or to register a team at either the gold (\$600) or silver (\$500) team level, please contact Stephanie Hoppe, shoppe@cgcc.edu or 541-506-6113.

Register now for Founders Cup

The 16th Annual Founder's Cup Golf Tournament, presented by Columbia State Bank and Columbia Gorge Community College Foundation, will be held at Indian Creek Golf Course in Hood River on Saturday, Aug. 1. This tournament is a golf-filled day that brings together fun, friends, great food, and prizes. This year, the tournament will benefit student scholarships.

Sponsorship opportunities and four-person team entries

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