



SPECIAL SECTIONS INSIDE

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MUSICAL GESTURES

Hood River Valley High School Chamber Singers perform Wednesday as part of a week for good-byes. Graduation ceremonies happen June 5 at HRVHS and June 6 at Horizon Christian School. The music department's annual "Farewell Concert" at HRVHS included emotional sendoffs for seniors, many of whom have been involved in the music department for four years — or longer: see page A3 for related article. Shown are seniors and underclassmen members of the Chamber Singers performing as an ensemble for the last time, doing "Luk Luk Lumbu" featuring choreography by Delaney Barbour and Hannah Simons, based on Indonesian dance. The concert was the last one for music director Mark Steighner, who is retiring. His last time directing singers at HRVHS was Friday's graduation, when music department members performed the Class of 2015 original song, "Blast Off," written by Noah Tauscher and friends. See the June 10 edition for more graduation coverage.

Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea



3 brothers arrested, 2 charged with murder

Siblings suspected in 2014 disappearance of Parkdale man

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

Three brothers are facing felony charges in connection to the May 2014 disappearance of a Parkdale man — two were charged with murder.

Brothers Michael David Schneider, 27, Donald Mathew Schneider, 22 and Peter Damien Schneider, 23, of Parkdale were arraigned in court Thursday in connection with the May 2014 disappearance of their family friend, Jason R. Muschawek, 24, also of Parkdale.

Michael and Donald Schneider were charged with murder, burglary, theft, unlawful use of weapon and abuse of corpse in the second de-

gree. Peter Schneider was charged with burglary and theft in the first degree.

If found guilty, Michael and Donald Schneider would face 25 years to life for murder, a maximum of 20 years for first degree burglary and five years each for theft first degree, unlawful use of weapon and abuse of corpse second degree — a class C felony. Peter would face a maximum of 25 years in total if pronounced guilty of theft and burglary in the first degree, both felonies.

The motive and cause of Jason Muschawek's death were not indicated in court Thursday.

Hood River County District Attorney John Sewell said he could not release any information on where or how the body was found, or how the Schneider brothers were linked to the case.

Sewell said the court appearance Thursday was an "arraignment on information of felony," not an ar-

raignment following a formal indictment.

The Schneider brothers appeared separately before Judge John A. Wolf at the Hood River County Courthouse Thursday via video feed from Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility (NORCOR). They were arraigned and charged individually, though Donald's and Michael's charges were identical.

When reading out the brothers' charges stacked against them, Wolf noted that the first degree theft and burglary charges referred to the theft of a pistol owned by Jason Muschawek.

Wolf appointed attorneys for each brother — Kami White for Michael, Jim Mason for Donald and Sheri Thonstad for Peter. However, Mason indicated that Donald Schneider might be appointed a different a lawyer in the future.

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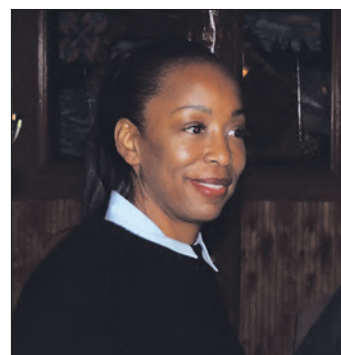
'Puff Factory' coming to CL

Port closes on deal with new freeze-dried fruit business

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

The Port of Cascade Locks has finalized a deal with an Odell orchardist, Jacqueline Alexander, which will make way for "The Puff Factory," a 26,000 square-foot plant that will freeze-dry Hood River Valley fruit and turn it into packageable snacks.

The business will use a proprietary freeze drying process to transform fruit from local orchards into a healthy snack food. The company has worked closely with the OSU Food Innovation Center in Portland to develop and test market the product, said Holly Howell, the



JACQUELINE ALEXANDER of Morale Orchards in Odell has made a deal with the Port of Cascade Locks to start a new business, Puff Factory, at the Port's business park.

Port's marketing and development manager.

Puff Factory plans to employ 30-50 people, once the plant is up and running.

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Spotlight

A weekly series about a day in the life ...

Melissa Vovou finds right steps with Pilates

BY TRISHA WALKER
News staff writer



Photo by Trisha Walker

MELISSA VOVOU, left, grew up in Hood River and, after traveling the world dancing, is now a certified Pilates instructor in Hood River. Above, she practices at Laurence Lake. More at melissaspilatesclasses.com.

When Melissa Vovou was growing up, she wanted to be a veterinarian.

"But it turns out I faint at the sight of blood," she joked. So she turned to dance.

Actually, that's not quite correct. Vovou has always danced. She grew up in Dukes Valley, and, as a homeschooler, began ballet classes as a social outlet. She was drawn to ballet and knew she wanted to dance — she just didn't think she could make a career out of it.

In those early days, she danced ballet at Bridgewater Dance Theater under Bev Cron, and later "did a little bit" at The Workout, owned by Charlotte Arnold and taught by Margaret Dallman — her favorite ballet instructor.

She eventually took classes in the Portland area, and, after graduating from high school, moved to the Bay Area to dance at Marin Ballet, a school known to lead in to the San Francisco Ballet Company.

"At that time, I thought that's what I wanted to do — profes-

See MELISSA, Page A2

Four To Go

Tour de Coop is today

Tour de Coop, a tour of Hood River chicken coops, takes place June 6. Coops will be open from 11-2 p.m. (except for that at Ted James' place, which will be open until 3 p.m.). The tour is a fundraiser for Valley Critters 4H Club. Coops can be toured in any order. Maps are \$3 and available at Little Bit Ranch Supply, Gorge Grown Food Network, and the OSU Extension office. The highlight is the unusual coops, from small to large, but also features goats, rabbits, pigs, geese and kids.

Lions hold food drive today

The Columbia Gorge Lions organization is holding a food drive for FISH June 6 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Lions will be stationed at Hood River Safeway and Rosauer's supermarkets as well as at Mid-Valley Market in Odell and Cascade Market in Cascade Locks.

Lions will provide lists of what is needed most at the food banks, for shoppers to use while in the store.

"We're doing this drive now to take advantage of a generous offer by CenturyLink to do a percentage match based on how much food and money we are able to gather," said Lion Tony White.

June 6 hike changes

To find cooler weather, the June 6 Community Education hike will be to Killen Meadows in Washington instead of School Canyon. Killen Meadows is medium difficulty, elevation gain 1,520 feet, 10 miles round trip, two-hour drive time to trailhead. The Meadows will be filled with wildflowers and great views of Mount Adams. Meet at Coe Building at 7:50 a.m., leaving at 8. Washington residents can meet at the park and ride west of bridge at 8:10 a.m. Contact Ed Walston at 541-308-5994. Bring two quarts of water, lunch, and \$3.

Plan ahead for July 4

This year's Hood River July 4 parade theme will be "Beautiful Bounty," starting 10 a.m. with the line up on Eliot Drive beginning at 8:30 a.m. To speed up the registration, forms and instructions can be obtained by linking to "gorge-lions.org." The parade fee is \$10 and there will be monetary prizes for the best entries. The grand marshals will be people associated with Fish Food Bank, which opened its new facility last month. A food drive at Jackson Park will follow the parade.



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