

Hood River News

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ON THE AGENDA

Hood River City Council meets Monday at 6 p.m. at City Hall
Columbia Gorge Community College meets Tuesday at 6 p.m. at The Dalles campus.
Hood River County School board meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Westside Elementary School.
These are the regular meeting times of governing bodies for these agencies:

Cascade Locks

Cascade Locks City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 140 W. WaNaPa St., second and fourth Mondays of the month.
Cascade Locks Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 140 W. WaNaPa St., second Thursday of the month.
Cascade Locks Port Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 140 W. WaNaPa St., first and third Thursdays of the month.

Hood River

City of Hood River Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., Hood River City Hall Council Chambers, 211 Second St., generally the first and third Mondays of the month. Place and dates subject to change.
Hood River Port Commission, 5 p.m., 100 E. Port Marina Drive, board room, first and third Tuesdays of the month.
Hood River City Council, 6 p.m., Hood River City Hall Council Chambers, 211 Second St., second and fourth Mondays of the month.
Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting, 4 p.m., OSU Extension Service Building, 2990 Experiment Station Road, first Thursday of the month.
Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District, 6 p.m., Aquatic Center, 1601 May St., third Wednesday of the month. Place subject to change.

Hood River County

Hood River County Board of Commissioners regular session, 6 p.m., 601 State St., first floor conference room, third Monday of the month. Time subject to change.
Library District Board meeting, 7 p.m., 502 State St., conference room, third Tuesday of the month.
Hood River County Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., 601 State St., first floor, generally second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.
Hood River County Water Planning Group, 2 p.m., 601 State St., first floor conference room, generally first Wednesday of the month.
Hood River County Commission on Children and Families Board meeting, 5:15 p.m., Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital boardroom, generally first Tuesday of the month.
Hood River County School Board, 6:30 p.m., meets at schools and district facilities on a rotating schedule (visit hoodriver.k12.or.us for location), second and fourth Wednesdays of the month unless school vacations or other holidays interrupt the schedule.
Hood River County Transportation District, 9 a.m., Hood River County Transportation District Board Room, 224 Wasco Loop, second Wednesday of the month.

WHERE TO WRITE

President — Barack Obama, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington D.C., 20500
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov
U.S. Senators — Jeff Merkley, SDB-40B, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington D.C., 20510. Phone: 202-224-3753; E-mail: oregon@merkleysenate.gov; Ron Wyden, 717 Hart Office Building, Washington D.C., 20510. Phone: 202-224-5244.
Web address: www.senate.gov/member/or/wyden/general/
2nd Congressional District Representative — Greg Walden, 14 N. Central Ave., Suite 112, Medford, OR 97504. Phone: 541-776-4646;
E-mail: www.walden.house.gov/contactgreg
Governor — Kate Brown, 254 State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111;
E-mail: www.governor.state.or.us/email.htm

Our readers write

Good story, except ...

The front page story about the Hood River Adult Center's new Executive Director, Suzanne VanOrman, was a very good article. She has most definitely taken on a very difficult job. I have complete confidence she will do a fantastic job. However, I'm disappointed and very sorry the writer of the article decided to make it appear that all of the problem was due to the former Executive Director, Collice Sinclair. The problem started long before Ms. Sinclair took on the job, and until 2014 she had very little help bring up to date years of unfilled taxes, and things many other things that had been left undone. I don't understand why the third paragraph was even included in an otherwise very good story. Shame on whoever it was who wanted to hurt Ms. Sinclair.

Judith Riley
Hood River

No parking

I try to walk to work as much as possible, but like many, I have to drive sometimes. Luckily the "sometimes" is not enough to justify the cost of a monthly Columbia lot pass — the parking lot where I work. When I have to run out at lunch, I prefer the Columbia lot over the residential area above 7th because if I lived there, I'd be happier if people didn't fill my street. So I buy a parking pass for the afternoon. It's worth it to be able to leave work, not have to search for a space, and not cram up downtown streets. I guess that's not going to happen anymore. Today, I was limited to 3 hours. A new machine at the Columbia lot means I either park somewhere else or make darn sure I remember



to go out before 2:48 p.m. to buy another pass. It's not worth the risk of an expensive ticket if I forget or get stuck at work. So from now on, I'll be another person filling up the residential area above 7th. Why was that decision made? Is it to prevent shoppers from spending too much time downtown? Is it to prevent workers from using the lot? Coercion to force us to spend extra on a monthly pass? I hope the downtown residents are okay with another car parking on their street. Sorry folks, I tried. Maybe there's a plan to address that too, with other consequences. Why limit people from parking in the lot for work? I hope there's a good reason. I can try to walk even more, but I hope other downtown employees less fortunate or with less work flexibility don't pay the

price for an arbitrary time limit.
John Metta
Hood River

'Great town'

Hood River is a great trail town for the Pacific Crest Trail! I was inspired, renewed, and up-lifted. I had wonderful tea at Dog River Coffee, saw an amazing sculpture by a local artist Kyle Ocean called Northwest Sun and ate my lunch with Ira at the Remedy Cafe! I'm on my way to Canada on the PCT, and I have about 600 miles to go, but you can count on one thing ... I'll be coming back to Hood River! Thanks, wonderful townsfolk, for being so nice to thru-hikers!
Oscar Ikem SoFar (trail name)
Stephen Fosdick
Meridian, Idaho

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Audition: an intimidating word for what is an enjoyable community experience

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News editor

My first foray into community theater happened nearly nine years ago when I was asked to be in a production of "Our Town" in which community members were cast in the roles matching their real-life jobs. I played Editor Webb; Bruce Ludwig, then police chief, played the constable; and Jack Trumbull of Anderson Tribute Center played the undertaker. It was a great first experience and I made new friends and gained a big appreciation for what goes into putting on a play: hard work and a lot of fun. I've since acted in another eight or so productions, some "big parts" and some smaller. All roles are important, even walk-ons or those with one line to speak or none. Rule Number One of being in a show is: have fun. Theater is time-consuming, frequently exhausting, only sometimes scary, and almost always fulfilling. Rule One also extends to the preparation process: reading the script, developing your character, memorizing your lines and blocking (movements around stage) and honing your vocal tones, gestures, and ways you respond to other characters. Rule One also applies to the first step — after you have decided to give it a try — that of auditioning. Auditions for several roles are coming up in Hood River in coming weeks (details on page A3) at CAST, the theater arm of Columbia Center for the Arts. If you have the time and have ever had an inkling to act, the opportunity is as good as ever, with three plays that contain a wide variety of roles for men and women. One of those is Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and the others

are modern classics "Inherit the Wind" and "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail." The first time I formally auditioned was two years ago for "Our Town" for "Off the Map," directed by Ken McCarty. I had one part in mind, but Ken had another idea. And therein lies a lesson: go to audition with flexible expectations. You might want one part and the director will cast you in another. It might be a disappointment, or the other way around: an added challenge. I wanted one of the supporting male roles, the guy who gave the comic relief and moments of wisdom. Instead, I got the lead, which involved fewer lines but more stage time — a lot of sitting silent and morose — and for much of it, in only my underwear. And I ended up thoroughly enjoying the experience. I had a similar experience last summer with the musical "Urinetown." I auditioned with one part in mind and got another, one for which I was much better suited. The director knew that once he saw real people read for imaginary figures. This points to what is probably the big key to auditioning (other than Rule One): the director has that title for a reason. He or she has studied the script and the history of its writing or the origins of the story, as the case may be, and generally has a strong sense of what he is looking for in the cast, and that feeds the director's instincts about who is best fit for which part. Additionally, do all you can in advance to learn about the play, and how the director conducts auditions. It is okay to call them up and ask. (Read the audition notices carefully — directors will indicate whether they want you to bring something to read, or possibly have already memorized, or if you will be reading "cold" from

the script. Wherever possible, get the script — for the Plays for Non-Profits, they'll be available at the Arts Center starting June 15.) There is the element of mystery in each audition; how will Person A read and what will it suggest about the best role for them? That is part of the fun of trying out. But directors and fellow actors want everyone involved to be as informed, prepared, and comfortable as possible. If you know people who have acted, or auditioned, as them what it was like. And again, feel free to talk to the director and learn what you can ahead of time. On the point of preparation and comfort: if you read for a part and "flub" a line or feel you don't do well, keep in mind that directors bear these things in mind. It's all about effort, not perfection. Also, you will be given a second chance, either that night or in "call-backs" in which auditioners are asked to read a day or two later. Not all directors do call-backs and they might not know if they will until everyone's auditioned, but it's one of those things to ask about. Above all, remember you are among friends; directors and fellow actors are highly supportive of each other. Little judgement is involved; everyone who has ever auditioned can relate to how it felt the first time. Yes, there is preparation involved, but auditioning itself can be a fun experience, especially when you hear and see how others present the same material. Theater's beauty is that it offers new perspectives, and that phenomenon starts at the audition. Go and enjoy. ■ Kirby Neumann-Rea is still considering trying out this summer; he is pretty sure he would not get cast as Romeo.

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