

# Sheriff urges caution at Eagle Creek area

The USDA Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the Hood River County Sheriff's Office would like to remind visitors to recreate responsibly this summer at Eagle Creek Recreation Area. Hood River County Sheriff's Office responds to an average of 10 search and rescue calls a year in this area, and in 2013 the total was 17.

The majority of search and rescue calls are centered on visitors jumping off Punchbowl Falls, which has resulted in serious injuries and fatalities.

In 2011 the Forest Service enacted a closure order for jumping or diving off the falls, which serves a three hundred dollar fine for violators. The closure order was enacted to provide for visitor safety and to reduce adverse impacts to the Sheriff's Office and to search and rescue personnel.

Despite signage and patrols, the closure order continues to be violated and recreating visitors are being seriously injured.

Visitors who have jumped off the 80-foot waterfall suffer neck and back injuries, and succumb to dangerous undercurrents and water that is shallower than it appears. While a body of water is tempting in warm weather, many visitors do not realize how cold the water stays here year round.

The multiple search and

rescue operations at Eagle Creek drain valuable resources at the Sheriff's Office and have led to difficulty getting volunteer searchers to help. "We want people to enjoy the numerous outdoor activities our county has to offer but that comes with a level of personal responsibility," said Hood River County Sheriff Matt English. "Too often, the search and rescues we respond to are avoidable and have resulted from reckless, irresponsible behavior." The Sheriff's Office says that it is imperative that visitors educate themselves regarding trail restrictions and closures and abide by them. "Jumping from Punchbowl Falls is prohibited for good reason," English added. "Yet we continue to see tragic, avoidable incidents at that location every year."

Both agencies also remind visitors that dogs at Eagle Creek trail and parking lot must be leashed at all times. Several pet rescues have occurred here in recent years and these efforts put volunteer rescuers at risk. Violators will be cited.

Both agencies are asking visitors to recreate responsibly in the Eagle Creek Recreation Area by not taking unnecessary risks and obeying all closures and regulations.

Visitors should not rely on electronic GPS devices or cell phones and always leave an itinerary with someone.



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

## FISH ORIENTATION

FISH board chair Marianne Durkan leads a tour of the new FISH food bank facility Thursday for about 20 non-profit representatives learning about the community kitchen/meeting room at the facility on Tucker Road. Durkan stands in front of the facility's centerpiece, a paint and mosaic mural depicting the growth, harvest and provision of locally-grown food. The mural was done by Hood River Middle School students, and fish figures on the wall represent the 600-plus donors to the \$1 million project, which opened May 4. Thursday's orientation described protocols and requirements for using the space for meetings and nutrition-based outreach. The community is invited today as the organization celebrates with a ribbon cutting and open house, followed by a dance, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. The site is located at 1130 Tucker Road, across from Orchard Lanes and next to Our Redeemer Lutheran/Asbury United Methodist Church, on land donated by the church.

## GERARDO

Continued from Page A1

horse expertise.

After a month in high school (he got tired of daily discrimination), he quit and began a five-year rotation of planting trees for the U.S. Forest Service a few months out of the year nationwide, and then pruning trees and picking fruit for a local orchardist.

It was during one of those shifts in the orchard that inspired him to change course.

"I heard this guy tell me he didn't want to see me no more. He said, 'That's not why you come to the U.S.; you come for success, to be somebody. This is the history we're creating — you guys have to change this. That's why I ask you not to come back again,'" Bobadilla said.

Those words stuck with him. One day, while shopping at The Dalles Safeway with his wife, Guille, he realized he wanted back in produce sales. Guille encouraged him to apply, but only checkout clerk positions were available.

So that's where he started. It only took a few weeks before he was transferred to produce. His work ethic got him promoted, and soon he was offered the produce manager position.

But he didn't take it. There were many reasons why he didn't, but ultimately it came down to remembering what he had been told by the older man in the orchard.

He ended up purchasing a tortilla distribution route with Gruma (who own Mission, Guerro and Calidad brands) in the Gorge, with help from his family while still employed at Safeway. Slowly his profits grew and he was able to quit his produce job and concentrate on his route.

That, too, grew. He moved his family — he had two children now, daughter Kimberly and son Gheraldy — from The Dalles to Vancouver, but they were unhappy. Bobadilla knew how much his tortillas were sold to stores, and how much the stores charged in turn, and started thinking about opening his own store.

One day, while delivering tortillas to Rosauers, he saw

that the old dealership across the street had a space for rent. It took six months before Mercado Guadalajara would open, but "since the first day it's been busy," Bobadilla said.

He started with six employees; he now employs 22.

His day starts at 6 a.m. with tortilla deliveries — yes, he still delivers on his Gruma route, but now just in Hood River. From there, he's "on the phone all day long," talking to suppliers. He generally gets to the store by noon and is home in The Dalles around 10 p.m.

"Without my wife, I'm not able to do it," he said. "It's 50-50 here. She takes care of the kids, house, paperwork, bills. What I do is the physical work, or the ideas."

The market isn't quite his dream store — this one is 3,000 square feet, and he'd like 10,000 — but it's filled with close to 3,000 Mexican items. He strives to "have everything in one store for the Hispanic community," but sees a lot of crossover business.

"Whatever we put out on the shelf, we sell," he said.

He's in the process of a small expansion, which will allow him to increase his offerings. More space also means he can buy in bigger quantities, which lowers the price on his end and thus lowers the price for his customers — an important point for him, because his customers work hard for their money, he said.

But his success has come with a high personal price.

"It's been hard to put everything on balance," he said. "Where I grew up was very poor. Part of my success, I see where I was when I was a kid. My father teach me how to work, how to be successful."

He feels lucky to have been brought to the U.S. by his parents because, though they didn't have a lot beyond essentials, he did have his parents "24/7."

"I changed that history with my kids," he said. "They don't have me but they have everything. They're not happy — they want me more. For them, to have what they have, they don't have me at special times."

"If I had the option to stay with the kids, I'd stay with the kids."

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

News editor

Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District hosts a community meeting Wednesday on sports field and park development, with an emphasis on potential acquisition of an 8.29-acre parcel located just south of City Limits near Tucker Road. An offer has been made on the property, but nothing has been signed; the precise location will be described at the meeting.

The meeting will be at 6 p.m. at the Port of Hood River conference room, 1000 E Port Marina Drive Hood River. Call 541-386-5720 with any questions.

"The district would like to invite the community to come and share

your support, ideas or concerns about a potential 8.29 acre sports-field/park development on property zoned for light industrial use, and what amenities are most needed in our community," said district director Stirn said.

"We realize it is not an ideal property but it's relatively flat, and not high value farm land," Stirn said. She said the District has a willing seller and has met with County Planning to discuss applying for a conditional use permit to develop the property.

"We'd like to take the elements we had planned at Barrett Park — a shelter, fields, perhaps bocce courts," Stirn said, referring to the attempted cre-

ation of ballfields on property it bought farther southwest, on Barrett Drive at Alameda, on what was previously farmland. The District abandoned the idea of using the park for ballfields after legal challenges by orchardists in the area along with Hood River Valley Residents Committee.

If the idea new ballfields park proposal gains public support, and the conditional permit process goes smoothly, the facility could be ready for use as early as this fall, according to Stirn. "The goal is develop in phases without having to go for a capital bond levy," she said.

The projected cost, including land acquisition,

is \$2 million. The key funding piece would be State Parks' \$494,000 "Local Government Grant" originally designated for the Barrett Park site. The district would also look at funds from systems development charges, which are utility-related fees used for public projects that are charged for new construction.

"We would be meeting part of the match for the grant through volunteer labor and donation of services," Stirn said.

The state grant requires extensive public input including a natural resource review (there is a small wetland on the property) and "quite a lot of legwork" to comply, Stirn noted.

# Parks-Rec hosts community meeting June 24 on ballfields development

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

News editor

Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District hosts a community meeting Wednesday on sports field and park development, with an emphasis on potential acquisition of an 8.29-acre parcel located just south of City Limits near Tucker Road. An offer has been made on the property, but nothing has been signed; the precise location will be described at the meeting.

The meeting will be at 6 p.m. at the Port of Hood River conference room, 1000 E Port Marina Drive Hood River. Call 541-386-5720 with any questions.

"The district would like to invite the community to come and share

your support, ideas or concerns about a potential 8.29 acre sports-field/park development on property zoned for light industrial use, and what amenities are most needed in our community," said district director Stirn said.

"We realize it is not an ideal property but it's relatively flat, and not high value farm land," Stirn said. She said the District has a willing seller and has met with County Planning to discuss applying for a conditional use permit to develop the property.

"We'd like to take the elements we had planned at Barrett Park — a shelter, fields, perhaps bocce courts," Stirn said, referring to the attempted cre-

ation of ballfields on property it bought farther southwest, on Barrett Drive at Alameda, on what was previously farmland. The District abandoned the idea of using the park for ballfields after legal challenges by orchardists in the area along with Hood River Valley Residents Committee.

If the idea new ballfields park proposal gains public support, and the conditional permit process goes smoothly, the facility could be ready for use as early as this fall, according to Stirn. "The goal is develop in phases without having to go for a capital bond levy," she said.

The projected cost, including land acquisition,

is \$2 million. The key funding piece would be State Parks' \$494,000 "Local Government Grant" originally designated for the Barrett Park site. The district would also look at funds from systems development charges, which are utility-related fees used for public projects that are charged for new construction.

"We would be meeting part of the match for the grant through volunteer labor and donation of services," Stirn said.

The state grant requires extensive public input including a natural resource review (there is a small wetland on the property) and "quite a lot of legwork" to comply, Stirn noted.

# Puff Factory buys final property piece

CL Port hands signs deal with Jaqueline Alexander

By PATRICK MULVHILL

News staff writer

The keys to Puff Factory are in Jacqueline Alexander's hands.

The Port of Cascade Locks has sold off the final piece of land necessary for Alexander, an Odell Orchardist, to launch her dream startup company: Puff Factory.

On Wednesday, Alexander bought a long vacant 4-acre plot in the Port's Business

Park, which will become the site of Puff Factory, an \$8 million freeze-drying plant.

Puff Factory's mission: to turn pears and other fruit in the Hood River Valley into packaged snacks.

The company has worked closely with the OSU Food Innovation Center in Portland to develop and test market a new fruit drying project that turns unwanted fruit from orchards, or "culls," into organic "puffs" which can be packaged and sold to a wide market.

Operations will start in a small flex 7,500 square-foot building on Herman Creek Lane, which Alexander is leasing from the Port. The Port handed over the

keys to the flex building at a meeting with Alexander last week.

As part of the deal, Alexander gets free rent for several months while she moves into the small building, as well as free utility installations, said Paul Koch, Port of Cascade Locks interim general manager.

"In the contract we have \$100,000 for tenant improvements: water, sewer and electric. We're capped out at that," said Koch.

Alexander locked down a 10-year lease on the small light industrial building, which will serve as her company's launchpad.

The proposed plant itself — a sprawling 26,000-square-

foot structure — will cost \$7-\$8 million to build. Construction is slated for completion by next summer.

Puff Factory plans to employ 30-50 people once the plant kicks into gear.

Koch said the plant likely won't be visible from the highway. It will be accessible via a new road off Cramblett Way called East Columbia Gorge Way.

The property, just north of Bear Mountain, is at a slightly higher elevation than downtown Cascade Locks.

"It overlooks the river, has a great view," said Koch.

Puff Factory marks the first large scale startup business in Cascade Locks since the 1980s.

# Radio Amateurs plan annual Field Day

The local "Ham" radio club, Radio Amateurs Of The Gorge, invites the community to its Field Communication Area at the rear of the Wal-Mart parking lot from 11 a.m. June 27 to 11 a.m. June 28.

Operators will be communicating with amateur radio operators in all States, Cana-

da and Mexico. Adults and children are welcome to try talking to people in many lands and even a ship at sea.

Plenty of other hands-on activities are planned on the hour, all day June 27.

No license is required to get on the radio; all volunteers will be accepted.



Joined the River City Team!

**Matt Rankin**  
Oregon Broker  
541-400-0648  
209 3rd Street • Hood River  
mattrankin@remax.net

RE/MAX River City



CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT CLASS  
Oregon  
Utah - (valid 35-states)

July 2 • 1 pm & 6 pm  
The Dalles Civic Auditorium  
OR / Utah: (Valid in WA) \$80  
or Oregon only: \$45

FirearmTrainingNW.com  
FirearmTrainingNW@gmail.com

360-921-2071

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL for kids Age 4 through 5th Grade

Kids! Pack your trunk for FUN!

THAILAND TREK

(TUESDAY - FRIDAY) June 23-26

9:00 - 11:45 am (Sign in at 8:45 am) FREE!

COME FOR FUN with new friends & culture, Thai games, unique snacks, surprising adventures and great music!

Pre-register online at www.HoodRiverAlliance.org

HOOD RIVER ALLIANCE CHURCH  
2650 Montello Avenue  
For more info, call (541) 386-2812

Momma Monzie's  
Doggie Delights  
all natural & gluten-free  
Baked Fresh In Oregon

Available at:  
Rosauers • Gorge Dog  
Dickey's Farm Store  
Dinah's Dog House  
Gorge Grooming & Pet Supply

Patti Ann Monzie  
541-490-5625  
www.MommaMonzies.com  
pamonzie@charter.net  
Like us on Facebook