



World-class paddling event coming to the Gorge

Outrigger canoes and surfskis highlight Gorge Downwind Paddling Festival July 19-25

By **BEN MITCHELL**
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The Columbia River Gorge is home to a multitude of wind and water sports, as well as a number of festivals and races to go with them and come July, the Gorge will add another such festival to its already busy summer roster.

The Gorge Downwind Paddling Festival will be held July 19-25, but unlike many other events at the waterfront, this one won't focus on windsurfing or kiteboarding, but rather surfskis and outrigger canoes that will race downwind from Home Valley and Stevenson to Hood River and Bingen in the event's two races.

Though this will be the first time the race will be held in Hood River, it is destined to be the "largest event of its kind in North America," according to the event website, and is included as part of the Surfski World Cup series and will serve as the North American championships in the sport.

For downwind paddling neophytes, event director Carter Johnson explains that outrigger canoes are essentially canoes with support floats (outriggers) located out to the sides of the watercraft. As for surfskiing, Johnson describe the concept as taking "very fast, tippy kayaks and you race them down the largest waves you can find. There's no limit to how big these waves can be. The bigger the better. If it's blowing 50 (m.p.h.), we're more excited than if it's blowing 40." He added that outrigger canoeing is

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Contributed photo

A SURFSKIER, flanked by windsurfers, cuts through the Columbia River. Those who paddle surfskis and outrigger canoes either professionally or recreationally are invited to register for the inaugural Gorge Downwind Paddling Festival that will be held July 19-25.

Ways of the Wind

A summer series with Greg Stiegel,

Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association



Beach Bash to be held next week

The summer wind season hit us early in the Gorge this year. We have seen warm days and steady west winds in the corridor for over a month now. Last week's heat even felt a bit like late July or maybe even August usually does. I take this as a sign of more good things to come for us wind and water seekers!

It is already mid-June, the kids are out of school, and the summer events and activities on the water are in full swing. Last week we saw the third installment of the Gorge Cup race series go off with perfect conditions. Race director Scotia Bauer reports that, "MacRae (Wylde) was amazing on Saturday, with seven first-place finishes. Fiona (Wylde) finished second overall for the day, too... the story is Team Wylde!"

Speaking of perfect windsurfing event conditions, the American Windsurfing Tour held its annual contest in Pistol River with epic conditions. Gorge locals Nathan Mershon, Ingrid Larouche, and Anna Rohden all had top-five finishes in the Pro divisions. A huge congrats to Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association board member Sean Aiken for taking home the top spot in the Masters division. Check out the event video posted at gorgewindsurfing.org.

Coming up in the Gorge, the CGWA is excited about its premier of the Beach Bash. Four days of fun for everybody! The event kicks off Thursday, June 25 with the Pray For Wind party at Stonehedge Gardens from 6-10 p.m. Live music, belly-dancing, tons of raffles and auction prizes, and a gourmet dinner are in store for you. Dinner tickets (\$10-20) sold at the door and proceeds benefit the Gorge Grooms kids windsurfing program.

Friday, June 26 is worth getting excited about. There is a high wind demo, supported by Windance, at Rowena from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., free of charge. Then we are excited to kick off the first major concert at the new amphitheater in the waterfront park, Friday (6-10 p.m.) with an outdoor concert presented by 10 Barrel. Tim Snyder is headlining and Smoke on the Water is opening the show. This event is open to all ages and entry is free, thanks to support from 10 Barrel and Naked Winery. Be sure to get there early and stake out your spot on the lawn.

The Big Winds Beach Bash takes place on Saturday, June 27, all day at the Event Site. With another full bill of music in the afternoon, local beer and food for sale, and over 24 vendors on hand, you will not want to miss this beach party! A sample of events for the day include: Free SUP clinics, free beginner windsurf lessons, unlimited demos, Archery Tag, Mt. Hood Meadows kids section, the Never Windsurfed Before Race, and much more!

The CGWA is stoked about this new event and all the support from the local community we have had so far to make this event possible. We are still looking for fun, energetic people to help us during the event. If you want to participate, please e-mail Greg at cgwa@gorge.net

Stay tuned to GorgeWindsurfing.org for more info, and I hope to see you on the water soon!



Team photos contributed; water photo by Keith Howell

LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPS

Local Little League teams had their championship games last weekend, featuring showdowns in boys majors, boys minors, and girls minors this season. Clockwise, starting at top: For boys majors, New Dawn Security beat Apple City, 6-1. From left to right are New Dawn Security team members Cristofer Castaneda, Maurico Diaz, Caleb Hoover, Tanner Fletcher, Hunter Hough, Harrison Howell, Forest Lawson, Jackson Perkins, Mason Spelley, Nathan Van Dooren, Cade Wetherell, Luke Rinella, coach Les Perkins, and team manager Mike Van Dooren. Not pictured: coach Sean Spelley. Next, in girls minors, Boda's Kitchen beat Gorge Fly Shop, 7-1. Pictured in the back row from left to right are Boda's Kitchen coaches Tonya Schroeder and Ryan Flory (not pictured: coach Mitzi McMurrin). Middle row, left to right: Sydney Cox, Lauraine Smith, Miyana Robertson, Kyra Davis, and Kirie Nesbitt. Front row, left to right: Rachel Smith, Sienna Davis, Zoe Mansfield, Tiahna Pacheco, and Kim Anh Kirschbaum. Next, in the minor boys championship game, Hood River Supply defeated Gehrig's Chevron, 7-5. From left to right are Hood River Supply team manager Eric Fauth, Aaron Aamodt, Elijah Adams, Isiah Adams, Mathew Fauth, Sam Fauth, Caleb Foster, Robert Glassmann-Germain, Joseph Kahler, David Torrescano, Nicholas Tuttle, Caleb Wahlstrom, and Catelyn Wahlstrom. Not pictured: coach Eric Foster. Finally, Tanner Fletcher and Harrison Howell are shown dumping the water bucket on their coach, Mike Van Dooren, after winning the boys majors championship.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Leonard Hickman wins Flag Day golf tourney

Congratulations to Leonard Hickman, winner of the June 14 Flag Day Golf Tournament at the Hood River Golf Course. Hickman edged second-place finisher Tom Goodwin for the honor. In third place was Gary Sollman and in fourth was Jim Franks. Individual prizes are as follows: First Out: Bill Van Ek; Special prize, donated by Robin Goodyer. KP No. 3: Hickman. LD No. 8: Goodyer. LP No. 9: Hickman. LP No. 13: Doug Hamada. KP No. 11: Bill DeBorde. The next tournament is scheduled for Friday, July 19, starting at 8 a.m. The tournament is the Red, White and Blue tournament. Non-members are encouraged to enter. Cost for members is \$35 and non-members is \$40. Last day to enter is July 17.

Kingsley Reservoir trail work party June 27

Hood River County has scheduled a trail work party to reroute/reconstruct a section of 191L (the

loop trail) that is just north of Kingsley Reservoir Staging Area. Work party will be Saturday, June 27. Start time is 9:00 a.m. Work party will end at approximately 1:00 p.m. Clear cuts and road construction work from Erica Timber Sale have been completed and trail 191L can now be reconstructed. This trail is designed for ATV's but is multi-use; also used by bicycles, equestrians, and hikers, etc. A portion of the previous route used to run along an old skid road that was rocked for the timber sale. The work party will improve a new, fun section of the loop that is being reconstructed through the woods and that has bypassed the old road section. Volunteers may also reconstruct portions of the trail routed through the new clear cut units. Hand tools will be provided but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own (loppers, Mcleods, Pulaskis, rakes, hoes, etc.). Bring coffee, work clothes, gloves, sturdy boots, safety glasses, hat, water, lunch/snacks, sunscreen, etc. Be pre-

pared for some hard work, some easy work, and lots of fun! Also bring your motorcycle, ATV (to ride on other routes), bicycle, horse, or running shoes for a ride (or run) after the work party is over. For more information, call Henry Buckalew, trails program coordinator/forest technician II for the Hood River County Forestry Department at 541-387-7089.

Sports story correction

A story in the previous edition's sports section incorrectly listed HRVHS as having won two state championships in the 2014-15 season and then later in the article correctly listed the six championships the school had won this past school year. The two state championships listed should have been referred to specifically as OSAA state championships. We regret the error.