

# SPORTS

## Local tennis team brings home the gold in tournament

By **GABRIEL BRAVO**  
News staff writer

Hood River Women's Tennis Team 2.5 competed and took first place in the USTA Women's 18-plus Area Tennis Tournament Sunday, March 1 in Richland, Wash. Coached by Craig Pearce, Sensi Graves, Jen Dillard, Tonia Farman, Colleen Carroll, Bailey Gaspar and Bernie Von Borstel formed the team as a way to decompress from their daily occupations.

"We all are members of the Columbia Gorge Sports Club," Dillard said. "So, we formed a team. The team is all newbies. We registered to play in the tournament in the Tri-Cities, thinking maybe we would have a good time, but we ended up sweeping it and it's kind of crazy."

Tennis experience ranges from high school play, childhood sports, and some have been playing for a few weeks.

"We've got successful business owners on our team and it's just so cool to see us work hard and play hard," Dillard said. Graves is a professional kite boarder and owner of Sensi Graves Bikini, Carroll is also a professional kite boarder, Dillard owns Jen Dillard Real Estate and Farman owns Queen of Hearts Hemp Health in Hood River.

Team members previously knew each other through kids or work, but not significantly. The competition in Tri-Cities, however, brought each other closer and created a bond.

"We were so nervous but

also excited to play," Dillard said. "We had no idea what our competition was going to be like. We were pleased to find everybody that we played was so nice even from the other clubs. People were just really nice, and we enjoyed meeting them and playing with them. One of the captains from the other teams pulled our coach aside and said, 'How is that everybody from Hood River on your team is so nice?' It's great to represent Hood River in such a good light."

Since the team was formed for leisure competition, there was no impending pressure to win, Dillard said.

"We all plan to train (for sectionals) weekly, multiple times a week, until the tournament and play as many games as we can and gear up," Dillard said. "We're excited and we're up for the challenge now that we know what we're dealing with. We're excited to really train, get out there and win."

Their performance earned them a spot in the Sectional Championships on Aug. 7-9. Winners earn the opportunity to represent the Pacific Northwest at the National Championships Oct. 9-11 in Las Vegas.

"Yeah, it was intended to be kind of like a fun thing to do every once in a while, but we've just gotten so into it," Dillard said. "I'm a business owner, a mom and a wife and I do all of those things and I kind of forgot about myself and how I like to have fun too. So, it's been so good for me."



**TEAM MEMBERS** Sensi Graves, Jen Dillard, Craig Pearce (coach), Tonia Farman, Colleen Carroll and Bailey Gaspar pose after winning first place at the USTA Women's 18-plus Area Tennis Tournament in Richland, Wash., on March 1.

Photo courtesy of Jen Dillard

## Hood River film director aims at showcasing biking and local communities



Photo courtesy of Manny Marquez

**DOUBLE MOUNTAIN** in Hood River held "Movies with Manny" Feb. 26. Around 90 people attended the event.

By **GABRIEL BRAVO**  
News staff writer

Hood River film director Manny Marquez held a movie showing Feb. 26 at Double Mountain. The event showcased films and documentaries featuring the 2009 Tour de France, Tour of California and Dirty Finger Bicycle Repair and Sellwood Cycle Repair's Dirty Sellwood race.

For the Tour de France films, Marquez was not paid, but decided to film anyways in order to get experience.

"(About Face Media) said they'll pay for my trip, food and travel but we can't really pay you to be there," Marquez said. "I was in a place in my career where I was still young. In 2009 I was 30. I was young in my career, still trying to make a name for myself as a film maker. I mean 30 days in France, all expenses paid, and you get to hang out with the best athletes in the world. I went with an editor, Barry Polterman. Barry

and I became good friends and he owned the company, About Face Media."

Marquez would film during the day while Polterman edited the footage and published it in time for U.S. viewers to watch.

During his time in France, Marquez learned the significance and importance cycling has in the country. Country towns and villages come alive when the race cycles through. It's a different experience, Marquez said.

Closer to home, Marquez filmed a series for Native Eye-wear featuring the origin of Dirty Finger.

"So, I'm Catholic and for me building community is very important," Marquez said. "Building a church community, building a town community, supporting each other. What I saw with Dirty Finger was a pure form of community. They're here for each other, they ride together, they drink with each other."

Marquez and Dirty Finger

owner Mitchell Buck became friends and started riding together. With Buck's creative ideas and Marquez's filming, both have created films for and about Dirty Finger.

Currently, Marquez is working on a project with Double Mountain and their recycling efforts and a second about his brother.

"Right now, I'm working on a film for Double Mountain and their refillable bottles," Marquez said. "Recycling is great but refillable is really the way to go because it comes back into the stream instead of having to tear this thing apart. I'm also working on a feature film about my brother. He's a former Marine and he does chainsaw carving and he made a chainsaw carving of a battlefield cross for every Marine that died in his unit."

The final winter cinema screening will be March 25, Marquez said, and would like to thank Double Mountain and Dirty Finger for their support.



**2016** Hood River News file photo featuring Marquez on a local film shoot.