

SPORTS

24-hour paddling event aims at helping local families

By **GABRIEL BRAVO**
News staff writer

In efforts to raise money for cancer patients and their families, the fourth annual Hood River 24-hour Paddle for Cancer event will take place later this year. Originally, the charity event was scheduled for April 18-19 but is postponed due to the coronavirus and public health concerns.

The 24-hour challenge was created by Troy Nebeker in Seattle after his wife was diagnosed with breast and lymphoma cancer in 2013. Since then there has been a paddling event in cities across the U.S., Canada and the Cayman Islands, Nebeker said.

"There's nothing like can-

cer and there's nothing like that experience," Nebeker said. "(The event) helps people understand that it's not an individual experience. It requires so much more than that. That's what the event is really about. It's about encouraging people to think about what's going on around them and start helping others."

Joel Yang is the Hood River team captain and said people do it because of their generosity. A total of about 15 members are in the team with another five helping out at the base camp on Nichols Beach just east of Hood River Event Site.

Last year the event raised money for seven families in the area. An envelope was delivered to their home which



Photo submitted by Joel Yang

LAST YEAR'S Hood River 24-hour Paddle for Cancer team at Nichols Beach, aka Slackwater Beach, in Hood River.

included a photo of all team members, Yang said.

Funds raised are split between families that need it the most.

if we gave \$1,000 to five families? Finding a cure is awesome and there's lots of companies that are doing that and it's a really good thing. But when you hear the word cancer and when it enters in your family, you're not thinking about finding a cure. You're thinking about if you're going to die, how to pay for medicine, gas, babysitters or, 'How do I feel normal for a minute?' By delivering these envelopes we give these families, who are suddenly consumed of the idea of cancer, one little tiny breath of fresh air."

For date updates, information or donations visit the event's GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/f/hoodriver24-4-2020.

OSAA suspends practices, contests

Per Gov. Kate Brown's announcement regarding school closures, the Oregon School Activities Association has suspended interscholastic practices and contests for sports and activities for all member schools effective through March 31.

"During this suspension, we will evaluate this evolving public health situation with the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Department of Education, the OSAA Executive Board, the OSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and member school administrators from throughout the state to determine when, or if, to resume the spring season," said a release.



Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

HOOD RIVER VALLEY BASEBALL

SCRIMMAGE

The traditional "Blue Gold Games" took place for the HRV varsity baseball team Thursday, March 12 at Traner Field in Hood River.

Coach Jake Williams gives some hitting advice, lower left, to Ryles Buckley. In a previous interview, head coach Erich Harjo said the recent warm weather has allowed players to practice outside instead of indoors. Wide open fields provide realistic in-game conditions during practice which will prepare student-athletes for live games, Harjo said.

