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the MOSIER VALLEY NEWS

“APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS” NORMALLY



Let us Hear From U
This newsletter is yours Mosier. If you have comments, ideas, writings, please send to Suzi at siconk@gorge.net. We are light on Mosier Metro news this month but hope you find something useful in this month's issue.

Thank you.

✘ Fiddle Sticks ✘

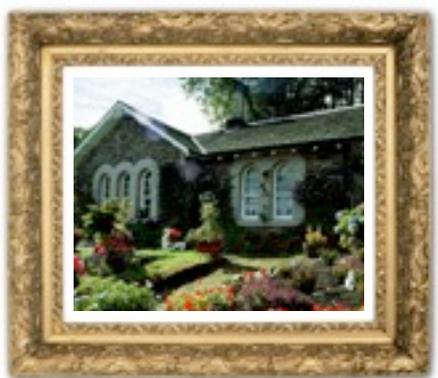
Since man first rosined up his bow Americans have been stomping their feet to rhythms of joy on Saturday nights.

COLUMBIA GORGE FIDDLE CONTEST

Get ready to hear some foot stomping, smile crackin', joy producing music at the first annual Columbia Gorge Fiddle Contest.

This will be a 3 day event May 2-4 in Hood River and will draw some of the nation's best contest fiddlers as

well as fresh new talent of all ages. As with most roots music gatherings, music won't be limited to scheduled performances, these folks love to JAM. Tickets prices vary per day so go to



www.columbiagorgefiddlecontest.com for more information.

Tiny Bites

Great food need not be complex. Lemon, olive oil and garlic can enhance almost anything.

Try this simple salad.

Shred red and orange beets keeping them separated. Chop 4 other vegetables of your choice, the brighter in color the better. On a bed of lettuce for each salad plate, arrange the vegetables by color placing a half slice of watermelon

radish in the center. (Rosauers has them). Whisk fresh lemon juice, garlic and olive oil & drizzle over salad.



Comments regarding Mosier's Growth

The following comments resulted from our previous article about more development in Mosier. Elf responds with information regarding Mosier's past City Council action and part-time resident but full-time landowner Michael Johnson puts in his comments about being a part-time resident.

March 30th, 2008

Very interesting reading and information. Regarding development we spent years putting in new infrastructure to accommodate all of the proposed new homes. The new rate payers were figured into covering the costs of the water and sewer systems which we had to have replaced. The City Council considered all aspects of new development over the years and we knew that there would be a max out of approximately 700 to 900 residents and the water and wastewater systems were designed to handle all growth. Traffic will not be bad if sufficient bike lanes and walking paths are put in place. Please understand that if Mosier eventually maxes out, population and growth wise, we will still be by any standard a small community.

Regards. Elf

Greetings; I just have one comment here. I read this all the time and appreciate the updates and information. However I being a home owner in Mosier but not a full time resident I get the impression we are not wanted. I always see references to second home owners and feel

alienated. I pay my taxes, I pay the same for water as residents that use 90% more than I do but never complain how outrageous the cost is.

In the future you need to be happy folks want to have second homes in Mosier vs. making us feel like we are not wanted and maybe you wouldn't be in the financial mess you are in now. I'd like to feel welcome when my family shows up and goes to get ice cream at Route 30, which we do every time, eat at the Good River, buy groceries at the Mosier market, just so I can support the economy and by the way pay the water and taxes you so desperately need. Please keep this in mind in your communications in the future.

Thanks for listening, hopefully! Michael Johnson

Different Place by Laurie Kruczek

Different Place

"This place is different," my grandpa Ben Cousins says. He tells me stories of the early 1970's when he lived out in our valley. He remembers Bert Stevens, his good buddy and neighbor, who had a crab apple tree (planted in the 1860's) that hung so heavy with fruit each year, Grandpa Ben could make all the wine he wanted and never run out. My grandpa also remembers the time he told someone he needed to fix his tractor and within a day, a stranger showed up, took the tractor home, and two weeks later, brought it back better than new. He refused payment. And there was Eileen Barr, another of his neighbors, who would take my grandpa to the best swimming holes, and to pick wild mushrooms and asparagus, the latter as big around as a closet pole and as tender as fresh butter. Back in those days, the kindness of the Gorge was all around him, and he took note of it. These stories really shine in his eyes, as Grandpa Ben, now in his 80's, can share these sweet memories with my Mosier family, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. And I would have to say, after my experience this past weekend, little has changed among the folks of our region.

Thursday night, I saw an ad for a guy with \$8 apple trees for sale. I thought, oh that can't be right. He must have meant \$18 apple trees, or they must be really tiny. But when I talked to him on the phone, he said, "They are ready to produce fruit. They are about 8 feet tall. I'll pull them out of the ground and put them in your truck, \$8 each." I had to go out there and check that out. So my parents and I, after Friday night Chinese dinner, drove just outside The Dalles for apple trees.

We pulled down a gravel drive, across a private bridge (lovely creek below), and onto a farm, nestled back into a sagebrush canyon. This place was picturesque, full of new Angus calves and wheat harvesting machines, a few trees just beginning to leaf out. We were greeted by two black labs, big and old, who minded their manners and wandered about happily. The guy from the phone, Ted, came down the hill to meet us. He was maybe in his 60's, quiet and fit, knit cap on his head and tape-covered gloves on each hand. Ted charged his John Deere tractor, hopped on top, and called for us to follow him to the orchard. We all drove in, stopping to open gates on the well-fenced perimeter. The dogs followed. Once inside, we could see his hard work of years past: several acres of very well-tended, ready-to-bud apple trees of several varieties. They were beautiful!

We had asked for a Pink Lady and a Braeburn. Ted found the Braeburns, pulled his tractor up, slid down from the seat, took out some loppers, pruned a little of my chosen

tree, gave me tips on how to care for it, and began the removal process. This ingenious procedure consisted of wrapping a thick strap around the bottom of the trunk and limbs, looping the ends of the strap around the forklift on the tractor, and having Ted raise the fork until the tree pulled straight up out of the ground, no digging required! After placing the Braeburn in the truck, we followed the same steps with my Pink Lady apple tree.

While walking through the orchard, I noticed several more trees had recently been removed. I asked Ted why he was selling so many of his trees and he told me. "Once we plant, prune, spray, pick, pack, and ship, there is no money left. China is undercutting the U.S. apple market. The cherry market is next. I'm going back to just grain." Ted was holding on with what he could. I felt bad taking this man's trees for so cheap, but he assured me it was what he wanted. "Maybe local people, like yourself and your family, can use these apples and not have to buy imported ones." I promised to share the word of his "tree sale" and thanked him for his kindness and generosity.

As we chatted on a little longer, the dogs brought us sticks and old apples, and I obliged by throwing in a game of fetch. The sunset began and clouds rolled in. The wind was bitterly cold down in that canyon, and I was standing about in a t-shirt, jean jacket, and cotton skirt, but looking out at kind Ted, his orchard, my parents, and those dogs, I was having one of the best times in my life.

My husband planted those two trees on the edge of our garden. The Braeburn is in the corner, the Pink Lady by its side. We talked of getting a third tree, a redder variety perhaps. Another excuse to visit Ted and his dogs, to bring along my husband, to dress warmer this time, to ask more questions and see more of his land. And as the apples come on this fall, there will be plenty of sauces, pies, and butters. A few might make their way back to Ted's farm, to say thank you again, honoring him for being just a little different.

Here's how you can contact Ted to see if he has trees left: apple trees: simi dwarf, red color apples. Braebuen and Pink Lady varieties. In full production, very hardy. Easy to move. \$8 per tree placed on your vehicle. Phone: 541-296-5822 or 541-993-0355

LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT

FOUND: Trombone music book...April 4th...on 3rd Street in Mosier in front of the Mosier Library..."Melodius Etudes for the Trombone"...fell off the top of a car. If this is your music book, please call 478-3895 and we can arrange to get it back to you.

WHO'S DOG: Black dog hanging out at Morgensen rd. and State rd. Looks like it has a bandaged leg, has been there, same spot for days. Waiting for a master who dumped him???? Is he yours???? Anyone know???

Mosier Community School Board Election

On May 14th the Mosier Community School Foundation will hold its annual election for the Board of Directors. There are two open seats in this year's election. Members of the MCS Foundation can vote at the Senior Center on May 14th from 11am-1pm, and at the school from 1pm until 6pm. There is an open candidates forum at 5pm at MCS on May 14th.

The Mosier Community School Foundation is a non-profit organization whose primary activity is operating the Mosier Community School as a public charter school. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors elected by its members. To clarify the definition of the community we serve and to better define our election rules, the MCS Foundation determined that each year we will invite parents of students, community residents, teachers, Mosier School alumni, and supporters to enroll as a member of the Foundation.

There is no cost to membership and no obligations. Membership is, however, required to be eligible to vote in the annual election of the Board of Directors. More than one person per household can join. A person must be 18 years old or older to be a member, except for recent graduates of MCS who can be less than 18 years old and still be a member.

Signing up as a member is easy. Simply show up on the day of the election and fill out the no-cost membership form. A form is also available for download at www.mosierschool.com.

Thanks!

Tom Hanlon-Wilde

Columbia Land Trust is holding an open house at our Hood River office and the Double Mountain Brewery on Wednesday, May 21st from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. We hope you can join us! If you know folks who would be interested in learning more about private, voluntary land conservation in the East Cascades (on both sides of the Columbia River) please feel free to pass this invitation along.

Some recent accomplishments and current projects of Columbia Land Trust in the East Cascades region:

In partnership with Hancock Forest Management, we protected 485 acres of upland and 15 miles of riparian waterfront on a pristine stretch of the Klickitat River along the old Haul Road. The road will be managed for historic uses while allowing for restoration to improve fish habitat and river function.

· In partnership with a generous landowner and rancher in the Klickitat River watershed, the land trust has conserved and manages over 2,000 acres of riparian and upland habitat along the Klickitat River and its tributaries.

· The Land Trust was chosen to facilitate the disposition of lands for the Powerdale Dam removal project in partnership with Hood River County, the Hood River Watershed Group, neighboring landowners, and other partners in preparation for the removal of the dam in 2012. This project will result in nearly 5 miles of river front conservation and restoration in Hood River.

· In partnership with willing landowners, the land trust will soon launch a Working Farm and Ranch Preservation Initiative to develop effective tools to help keep working lands working. Our first step: to learn from

the landowners. Over the next several months we hope to host focus groups to learn more about the challenges our agricultural community faces and how the land trust might help.

On May 21st, come learn more about Columbia Land Trust's accomplishments and goals, and let us know how we can be effective for you.

To help us in our planning for food and drink, please RSVP to Tammy Bjorkman at tbjorkman@columbialandtrust.org or call the office at 360-696-0131.

Thanks and we hope to see you there!

Lindsay Cornelius

Gorge and East Cascades Conservation Lead

Columbia Land Trust

8 Fourth St

Hood River, OR 97031

360-921-1073

Love Mosier? Participate in Mosier Community Day

May 17th is Mosier Community Day. Kathy Fitzpatrick is helping to organize invasive plant removal and giving you the opportunity to learn to identify native plants as you pull out the invasive non-natives.

Meet at the Rock Creek parking lot at 9 am and Mike Igo (our resident expert botanist!) will lead you in invasive identification and removal.

Bring heavy gloves and any gardening tools they may have, like loppers or shovels or rakes, water, sunscreen, hat.

For the braver souls, we'll be attacking the blackberries, also.

Humble Roots, our local native plant nursery, will be set up near 10 speed coffee selling native plants at a good discount to participants.

Discounts at Route 30 for ice cream
10% off lunch at the Good River Restaurant
10% off native plants by Humble Roots
Discounts at 10 Speed Coffee

For more information contact Kathy Fitzpatrick at 541 400-0124 or email kftzz77@gmail.com

Mosier Market Spiffs up a Bit.

Have you been in the Mosier Market lately? Those shattered old refrigerator cases have been replaced with brand-new energy efficient cases and there is now a large freezer as well. Fresh produce has a new home so perhaps if there is something you would like Choi to carry this would be a good time to make a request and a follow-up to purchase the item. I also notice the floor had been given a good scrubbing as well. Check out the gourmet doggie treats at the front counter, believe me, they look like people treats.



Let's Play, Find the Recycling Bin

Is it at the gas station? NO, that was a couple of year ago. Is it at Pocket Park? No, that was after the gas station. Is it down at the entrance of Rock Creek? No, a construction site's there now. Is it behind the school? NO, not safe for children.

IT'S BY HWY 30 JUST WEST OF MOSIER CREEK BRIDGE BUT ...
The current, temporary location of Mosier's recycling container is next to a large dump truck

LOCAL EVENTS

MAY 11
Mother's Day

MAY 17
SOLV

MAY 18
MCS TWIN
TUNNELS
RUN/WALK

MAY 20
Oregon
Presidential
Election Primary



across the street from the house where all of the logs and log furniture are sitting. BUT, it will have to be moved. Help Mosier find a permanent place for the container so we can all continue to recycle even if we don't



have curb-side pick-up recycling. Please send ideas to City Hall or s1conk@gorge.net.

Gorge Grown Network hopes to have



a mobile farmer's market this summer. This is an ambitious idea that would provide small towns all over the Gorge with a Farmer's Market on a particular day of the week. The group also hopes to sell

fresh made food at their market next to the Hood River Middle School so go to gorgegrown.com for updates. And if you can, toss some financial support their way, after-all they are working very hard to see that we get to buy local produce out here and a lot of young farmers are cropping up in our region who deserve our support.

506-2636 for recycling



answers.

Spring on the Oregon Trail

by Sam Seskin

You wouldn't notice easily that anyone has traveled here before. Few signs remain—no wheel ruts, lean-to's, empty tins of canned meat. Only, here and there, brittle corpses, ankles pinned to rocks.

Thus on old oak branches do a few of last year's leaves persist. Around them, new immigrants are dancing a dance from the Old Country, stretching their green arms in Spring sun, drying their laundry after last night's rain.

MOSIER TWIN-TUNNELS WALK/RUN EVENT

Mosier Twin Tunnels 5/12k Run/Walk
May 18, 2008 10:00 AM

Event Details

Sport Type:

Running

Distance(s):

Kids Fun Run, 5k or 12K

Kids Race(s):

YES

Event Location:

HCRH Twin Tunnels Trail

City:

Hood River

State/Province:

OR

Country:

USA

Prize Money (If yes, how much?):

NO

Is this event chip timed?

NO

Event Web site:

<http://www.mosierschool.com/default2.cfm>

General Event Information

Course is out-and-back on the Historic Columbia River Highway Trail. Race begins at the Hood River Trailhead of the Mosier Twin Tunnels Trail, gentle slope to turn-around. Scenic views of the Columbia River and ample wildlife inspire you during the race. This race is the 1st of 4 in a series. Compete in 3 of the 4 races to qualify for a \$50 drawing.

Questions? Please contact the organizer

Event Coordinator:

Lissa Biehn

Event Email:

office@mosierschool.com

Event Phone Number:

541-478-3321

Grant and Donita Wilson, King and Queen of the Cherries

Were you aware that Grant & Donita were honored as King Bing & Queen Anne with the Blossom Festival celebration this past week? Past honorees from Mosier have included Addie Root Schwartz as Cherry Sweetheart Queen and Verne & Lois as King Bing & Queen Anne.

Need COMPOST?

NEED (A LOT OF) COMPOST MATERIAL THIS SUMMER?

The Gorge Games are coming back our area July 17-20! Here's a message from the Gorge Games' Sustainability Manager:

We plan to have more than 10,000 visitors attending the competition and our Adventure Village. To reduce and hopefully eliminate waste, we will have food composting stations. So, we need farmers, growers and gardeners who can take all this great stuff off our hands.

Contact Suzanne at suzanne@solsticewoodfirecafe.com if you are interested! Thanks!

10-Speed East Coffee House is Nearing the Finish Line

Within a couple of weeks, 10-Speed East should be opening its doors in Mosier. According to Ben Zimmerman they are very close so keep an eye out for signs announcing their opening.

Macy's Department Store Customer Service, an Oxymoron?

By Suzi Conklin

I have, for about 8 years now, tagged this new Millennium of ours the "century of incompetence".for too many reasons to list here. All I can do is give an example and hope that at some time we get back to understanding what Customer Service really means. Here's goes....

I made a purchase at Macy's Department store in March and proceeded to use my purchase without noticing I'd never received a bill. (I charged it on a new account). I have a rural mailbox but never use it because I have a post office box. Just for the heck of it one day I opened my mail box and found two pieces of correspondence from Macy's. Neither one was a bill. One welcomed me to Macy's and informed me how to use my new charge card (which I have yet to receive) and the other informed me that they discovered I already had a Macy's account so they closed the old one for me (gee wasn't that nice of them?) and opened a new account for me that was a VISA account through some National Bank. When I charge from now on, I was instructed, I simply tell the clerk whether I want the charge to go on the Visa account or my revolving account. Coincidentally, the day after I discovered the mail was sent to my land address and not my PO Box, I got a phone call from far away. I believe it came from India by the accent on the other line. A very nice woman not fluent in English informed me that my account was overdue and that I owed over charges on my original purchase. Here's how our conversation proceeded:

Me: I am so sorry but I have not received an invoice from Macy's to know what I owe or when

Her: Let me see, will you hold please?

Me: Yes

Her: (few minutes later) How do you spell your last name?

Me: (spelled Conklin)

Her: What is your address

ME: Well that's another thing, I did receive some correspondence but it was sent to the wrong address, my residence not my PO Box and even that address was wrong. And it was not an invoice.

Her: What is the address?

Me: Do you mean the address it SHOULD HAVE GONE TO, OR THE ONE IT DID GO TO

Her: I just need your address.

Me: I know but if I give you the correction of the address the mail is NOT to be sent to can I be sure you will change my address to the PO Box?

Her: One moment please.

Her: I just need your address

Me: OK but you sent it to Place and It needs to be sent to RD.

Her: What is the address?

Me: It is 0000 blank, blank, road.

Her: Was that the same as the address we have?

ME: no, you have it as place not road and it makes a difference but do you understand that you need to change the address to PO Box XXX?

Her: One moment.

Her: We will change your address if you pay your overdue bill now...

Me: I am going into the department store tomorrow and will have this all straightened out then. I just want to make sure I'll get future invoices to the PO Box.

Her: You will if you give us the payment right now.

Me: Are you telling me if I don't pay it now, but tomorrow at Macy's you won't correct my address?

Her: (this is true) What is your address?

Me: I can't take this anymore, I am hanging up.

The next day I went into Macy's. and I asked someone on the first floor for Customer service and was directed to the 5th floor behind the luggage. As I walked over to the escalator I suddenly felt like I was in a Twilight Zone episode. Every place there was a cash register, on every floor, had a sign above it that read CUSTOMER SERVICE. It should have read WE'LL TAKE YOUR MONEY HERE. After a few floors and several "Customer Service Stations",

I saw "EXECUTIVE OFFICES" on a doorway and some luggage out on display nearby so assumed that was where I needed to go. (I was only on the 4th floor but nothing indicated that to me and It seemed I'd gone up enough floors). I walked in and there was a nice young woman standing next to a counter.

I explained my situation and she seemed actually concerned. She directed me up one more flight. Again, I saw a lot more Customer Service stations and a doorway with a sign above it that said "Gift Wrapping".

I walked in and there was another nice young woman standing behind a counter below a wall of designer wrapping paper under a sign that read GIFT WRAPPING. I asked her if she was one who could help me with my account. She said.: "Oh we don't have that service at the store, but I can call the number for you and you can talk to our service overseas." I said "You're kidding." "No, that's how it works."

She dialed India.

Him: Hello?

Me: (please read the first nine sentences at the top conversation above.)

Him: It looks like you have a VISA account and we cannot change your address here. But I can connect you with a representative from the Bank the Visa is with.

Me: Why not?

CONNECTION:

Me: Hello, I don't want to rave at you about what Macy's seems to call Customer Service but I am really frustrated. They closed an account I didn't know I had and opened a new one but now as a VISA which I never asked for. How does this Visa account work? IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT I WILL GET CHARGED A FEE WITH THIS ACCOUNT?

Him: No.

And from here on I got all of my questions answered. I even got my address changed, I think, though I still have not received anything in my PO Box except a card from a sales person offering me 20% off of my next purchase (if there will ever be another purchase). He removed my late fee for me, he was sympathetic, he thoroughly explained that because I had had a Meier and Frank card, that became my Macy's account when Macy's bought M&F and that was the account they closed. So, I finally got what I needed but not by Macy's, by a banker. I have no idea if Macy's ever will know my PO Box number and maybe that's just as well. Nordstrom's has my address.

(PS: I mean no disrespect for the hardworking people in India. They have simply been hired off-shore to do work for less money than Macy's would have to pay someone living in the United States. With the way the US education system is underfunded and undervalued by Congress, it is quite possible I would have had the same problem communicating with an underpaid, US citizen.)

But remember, WE ARE who we elect.

REMEMBER THE ALAMO! REMEMBER THE MAINE! REMEMBER S & H GREEN STAMPS??? by Glenna

I had almost forgotten about the money saving stamps of my early married years, when in a spate of deep cleaning, I ran across a plastic bag of books of the previously highly coveted stamps. There they were, 13 full books and a couple of partially filled ones, plus some loose stamps. The first books were made to accommodate 50 stamps per page and then later, they added squares on the page worth \$10.00. The pages filled up a lot faster.

The stamps were given out by merchants, who usually had signs out front that said: “we give S&H Green Stamps. We got them at the Mosier Texaco from Emmet and Charlene Maine and at grocery stores here and in Portland. It was a great marketing tool to lure customers in to their place of business. It was common for people to have a green stamp book in the glove box, so the stamps could be put in upon receiving them. There was another stamp called Gold Bond, but not so many merchants gave them out. We found a few of them too, but discarded them. This little plastic bags of stamps moved with us from Portland in 1970 and have been in a box in the attic for a 30 some years..

It was a regular event at our house to get a damp sponge, all of the green stamps collected from merchants and those books. It was such a satisfying feeling to complete a book and be able to go to the Green Stamp Store. The one we visited was at Eastport Plaza in SE Portland. Our first “purchase” was for a Coleman Cooler and Coleman Jug. They were one book apiece. The jug is long gone, but we still have the cooler with our newly married name and address on it..Ed and Glenna McCargar, 125 NW 20th Place, Apt 607, Portland, OR. We also got our first set of stainless steel tableware from there and later, when the babies arrived, we got a high chair and a play pen. It was like getting things for free as the money had been spent months before.

I was curious if Sperry & Hutchinson (S&H) are still around, so I “googled” them and guess what? They are alive and well and will still redeem your stamps!! I called them and we made arrangements for me to send my books to them. I did and yesterday, I got a check for \$18.00 in the mail. WAHOO! Free money!! (less the cost of postage, of course) Now I just have to decide how to spend my windfall!

The program is now called S&H Greenpoints and there are on line items you can buy with your points and many merchants participating in the program to earn the points.

To find them, google S & H Green Stamps, click on S&HGreenpoints/Stamps and it will give you all the info you need.

Well, back to the Spring Cleaning. Wonder what treasure I'll find next?

DALLES MOUNTIAN RANCH FEATURES A DAY OF DISCOVERING CULTURE AND HISTORY

Saturday, May 3rd at The Dalles Mountain Ranch

9am - 3pm Rain or Shine!

A big day at Dalles Mountain Ranch sponsored by the Washington State Parks will include:

Spring Wilsflowers at the Columbia Hills Natural Area Perserve

History of the Dalles Mounain Ranch

Lewis & Clark Living History

Native Cultural History

WildLife Explorations

Ice Age Floods and much more.

Driving Directions: From the junction of Hwy 197 and Hwy 14, drive east on Hwy 14 for 1 mile. Take a left on Dalles Mountain Road. Follow for 3 miles. The Dalles Mountain Ranch will be on the left.

