

# the MOSIER VALLEY NEWS

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE BUT.....



## Columbia Swim

*Start getting in shape. 550 people typically take the Hood River Swim from shore to shore across the Columbia every Labor Day. This means you have about 8 weeks to get in shape for this year's swim!!*



## ✧ Getting to the Bottom of Mosier's Water ✧

### FIRST A CLARIFICATION

Later in this issue we have an article about an in-depth study being conducted by the United States Geological Survey on Mosier's aquifers. But first a clarification regarding City Engineer John Grim's "prediction" that Mosier has enough water for 133 years. I asked

John to clarify this statement and he said that the statement was made at City Council to

illustrate the point that Mosier had enough water to sustain a development like Tanawashee. John used a mathematical calculation based on the rate of decline

in the water levels in the



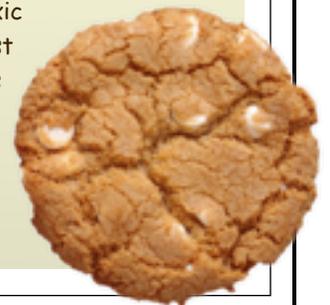
## Quotes about Food

High-tech tomatoes. Mysterious milk. Supersquash. Are we supposed to eat this stuff? Or is it going to eat us?  
~Annita Manning

Shipping is a terrible thing to do to vegetables. They probably get jet-lagged, just like people. ~Elizabeth Berry

It would be nice if the Food and Drug Administration stopped issuing

warnings about toxic substances and just gave me the names of one or two things still safe to eat. ~Robert Fuoss

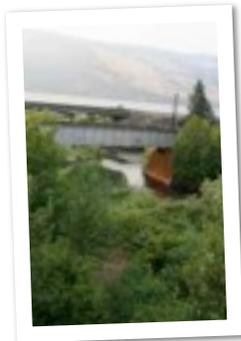




## Mosier Water cont.

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aquifers that serve the Mosier area. This was a linear mathematical example not a prediction. It didn't take in to account any acceleration or slow down of the flow, which occurs naturally and periodically. John said he would never attempt to predict the city's water future, there are too many variables. It is those variables the USGS is tackling in its attempt to get a thorough picture of the water flows in the area.



John went on to say that the city of Mosier has a great back-up supply of water in the aquifer that flows down near the rock pit. The reason the city has not tapped into this so far is that it hasn't needed to plus the water from that source possibly doesn't taste that great because of a high mineral and sulfur content. However, if the city ever needs the water, they can get rid of the taste with an aeration process. It is an added expense, but definitely feasible.

As for the wastewater treatment plant, Grim credits the construction contractor for being very responsible and reasonable toward Mosier's contract with them. It turns out that the diesel fuel that was discovered while digging for a new sewage tank is in the ground water where the tank is to be placed. If the tank didn't need to be 15' down or if Mosier's sewage treatment location was on higher ground, the diesel would not have been a problem. The dirt could simply have been dug then taken to the landfill.

As it is, the city, to the tune of an estimated \$150,000, must take the water from the hole being dug, filter it through a weir system (see photo) to reduce the 2 parts-per-million diesel content to 1 part-per-million and discharge it onto the ground in the woods toward the river. 2 parts-per-million by the way is comparable to highway run-off.



Columbia River Keeper staff are looking into the situation for any possible contamination that could reach the Columbia. Of interest to everyone, of course, is how the diesel got here in the first place.

## *USGS MOSIER GROUND WATER SURVEY* by Suzi Conklin

In 2005 a cooperative agreement was made among the Oregon Water Science Center, the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Mosier Watershed Council to investigate hydrology of the Mosier Valley basin leading to decisions about the sustainability of the yield of water in Mosier's aquifers.

This brief report is just an overview. Enter [http://or.water.usgs.gov/projs\\_dir/mosier/](http://or.water.usgs.gov/projs_dir/mosier/) in your internet browser for the full study. You can also read the Mosier Watershed Assessment study by the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District of 2002 for a larger look at Mosier's creek, fish, plant, habitat situation. You can see a map of the Mosier area aquifers by going to the USGS site as well.

The study begins by explaining that there are serious concerns over the sustainability of Mosier's basalt aquifers since fruit orchard irrigation pumping expanded sharply in the 1960s. Mosier had been getting drier for a while. With a decrease in rainfall, farmers/orchardists began pumping water out of the aquifers. (I'm sure there is a reason they didn't pump out of the Columbia, I believe that was an option back then, but that is for another story perhaps.)

Mosier's three streams: Rock Creek, Mosier Creek and Dry Creek drain nearly 80 square miles into the Columbia River. The study is only concerned with the lower half of the drainage basin next to the Columbia River. See the USGS map for study area boundaries.

Water level **declines** of up to 120' have been reported in several wells. The Priest Rapids and Frenchman Springs aquifers have been hit the hardest due to orchard irrigation, open pumping, municipal and domestic use. Improperly completed wells that allow well bore leakage have contributed significantly to the decline. This decline has decreased the ground flow into Mosier Creek, thus lowering water levels and raising water temperature which threaten native steelhead, salmon and trout populations that spawn and return to the creek each year.

Following a study in 1988, no more appropriations for water use other than domestic have been allowed in the Pamona and Priest Rapids aquifers. Too many of the irrigation and public supply wells in these aquifers are not cased and water can move from one aquifer to another causing co-mingling and ongoing loss of water of one of the aquifers to the other. This makes it difficult to get a handle of the underground water situation with water moving from one aquifer to another.

The Mosier Watershed Council has established three goals for the watershed: (1) to reverse or stabilize water-level declines in the principal aquifers of Mosier Valley, (2) to increase summer base flows in Mosier Creek, and (3) to sustain productive, profitable agriculture in Mosier Valley (Jennifer Clark, Mosier Watershed Council, written communication 2004). The results of the study will be presented in the Fall of 2008 through a public meeting process. Mosier Valley News will let people know of the meeting dates.

The Columbia Basalt aquifers are some of the most productive aquifers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Because of this abundance, overuse has occurred and the USGS study's goals are:

1. to test and evaluate the boundaries of the ground water system and how they have changed since development began.
2. Understand the groundwater inputs and outputs of the ground-water system and see how they have changed since development began.
3. To see how pumping has affected the flow under ground and how co-mingling wells have affected things.
4. To try to understand how pumping, co-mingling and climatic variations are affecting the local water levels.

The USGS has been monitoring wells, taking ground-water tests and processing known data from soils, maps and other studies. This part of the project is essentially complete through 2007. There is a graph on line of historical and current through June 2008, of Mosier Creek stream flows:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/dv/referred\\_module=sw&dd\\_cd=01&format=gif&period=365&site\\_no=14113200](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/dv/referred_module=sw&dd_cd=01&format=gif&period=365&site_no=14113200)

1983, 1988 and 1995 studies were used in the study as well.

With the monitoring of wells, gauges on Mosier Creek, observations of flows from other creeks into Mosier's main creeks, irrigation practices, evaporation from the water table, estimations of well bores and leakage of aquifers, etc made up much of the study.

In addition, a model of the water situation was be made illustrating changes in the period of 1960 – 2004. The model is being used to predict how much further water levels will decline, how streamflow in Mosier Creek will change, and how long the system will take to stabilize if no action is taken to reduce pumping. Similar questions could be addressed by simulating other scenarios, such as: what happens if pumping is reduced due to use of more efficient irrigation methods? pumping is relocated? co-mingling wells are repaired? or sustained droughts occur? The USGS is working with the Mosier Watershed Council to design alternative scenarios that can be simulated with the model. Results will be presented in oral and written reports that compare the results by highlighting changes in ground-water levels and ground-water discharge to streams.

If the council is going to meet its goals **everyone** in the Mosier area must do their part to conserve. Among us we have orchards some that have been here over 150 yers, we have vineyards, we have gardeners, gentlemen farmers, city dwellers with domestic and garden water use and regardless of HOW we got into this situation it is now up to ALL of us to do our part to save as much water as possible. The City of Mosier has saved approximately 50% water use since replacing leaking pipes under the streets of Mosier and by metering water use. Gardeners should install drip irrigation and plant drought resistant, low water use plants and never open hose water. Farmers large and small should install drip irrigation, fix wells and conserve in any way they can. Grey water, that is water from sinks, bathtubs etc. can be used to water gardens and rain barrels will do some good in early spring, at least while there's rain. Rain retention tanks would be a great way to conserve water for use in gardens. during the summer months.



You are invited to participate in a Focus Group session about the future of Mosier. The Focus Group is sponsored by Main Street Mosier (MSM). Main Street Mosier is a recently formed (Fall 2008) non-profit organization with a mission to *"Preserve the City of Mosier's historic character and scale by promoting a diverse and sustainable economy and community"*.

The Main Street Mosier focus groups are the beginning of a process to update the City of Mosier Comprehensive Plan and lay the ground work for a City of Mosier Downtown Development Plan. We need your help! We need the opinions and suggestions of a broad cross section of Mosier area (97040 zip) residents. We need you to tell us *"What you like about Mosier and do not want to see changed"*. We will also ask you to *"Identify changes that would make Mosier an even better place to live, work and play"*. There are four meetings scheduled for July. Two are on July 8<sup>th</sup> and two are on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

The MSM Focus group meetings will begin at 5:30 pm or 7:00 pm on Tuesday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Mosier Creek Terrace (2<sup>nd</sup> St. just off Kingdom). Each session will last an hour. We will have a repeat Focus Group session on Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup> with the same start times (5:30 and 7:00 pm).

We're trying to limit the size of the Focus Group meetings to 10-12 people. If we have more than this number the meeting tends to slow down and be less interactive. Please pick the night and time you'd prefer to attend. At this time (6/30/08) we have six openings Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm and eight openings for the 7:00 pm meeting. On July 10<sup>th</sup> there are 10 slots open for each of the two meeting times (5:30-6:30pm and 7:00-8:00pm)

Please let us know which of these four sessions is best suited for you by sending an e-mail to [dpovey@uoregon.edu](mailto:dpovey@uoregon.edu) or by leaving a message at 490-4980.

The six meetings we've had so far have been lots of fun and very helpful in identifying what Mosier area residents like and want to keep and what they think might make the community an even better place to live, work and play.

We hope you will be able to join us for one of our meetings in July!!!

David Povey  
Main Street Mosier  
Plan Advisor & Grant writer  
541.490.4980 (cell)

## Mosier Valley News condolences to the Huskey family

Our thoughts are with the Huskey family for the loss of "Big Larry" who left them too soon at the age of 52.

# Mosier Library is Back, Almost

*The reflections and histories of men and women throughout the world are contained in books....America's greatness is not only recorded in books, but it is also dependent upon each and every citizen being able to utilize public libraries.*

*Terence Cook (1921-1983)*

**Work on the library is progressing and an opening date is in the near future. Volunteers have been hard at work sorting, stacking and shelving books and are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.**

**Watch for the sign out front when we are open.**

**If you would like to volunteer to staff the library during open hours, please call Glenna at 478-3495.**

## **Mosier Post Office Beautification**

You may have noticed planters with flowers accenting the front of the Post Office. These beautiful planters have a back story and the story begins with Postmistress Lark.

Deciding to beautify the front of the Post Office, Lark spent her own time and money to get planters and plantings. Unfortunately, the planters fell apart, Lark cleaned up the mess and retreated back into the Post Office. What remained were two brown circles of dirt where Lark's planters were to stand.

Within a very short time, new planters appeared and Lark handed me a little post card on which was written in Lark's beautiful hand: "Susie for the Newsletter. The beautification award goes to several quiet individuals whose combined effort created the new planters at the post office. Let us be grateful for their goodwill and never underestimate what a few individuals can do. Thanks again, Mosier citizens."

The card had postage, officially cancelled just as Lark would have it.

## **Oregon Child Development Coalition is Hiring Right Now!**

Harvest has started and OCDC has a number of positions open for employment. Anyone over 18 can apply. For more information go to [OCDC.net](http://OCDC.net) and click on "Employment" at the bottom of the page.



Mosier Volunteer Firemen at a pumping drill. L to R Captain Jim Armstrong, Chris Byrd, Ron Carroll. They told me they are looking for a few good women to join the team.



*“If you wouldst live long, live well...”*

Our Columbia River Gorge has observed its inhabitants and guests for thousands of years. Settlers came by the droves beginning with the Oregon Trail migration in the mid-1800's. Similar to today, some came to make their residence in Mosier, some merely passing through or visiting, and some returning after having lived elsewhere in the interim.

Louise Duvall Leininger (Mrs. Bill) is one such person to have those generational ties to Mosier



and Oregon. Her great-grandmother, Melissa P. Hardison, was nine when she and her family came across the Oregon Trail in 1845 to homestead south of Monmouth. Melissa later married their wagon train captain, Harrison P. Locke, and Anna Louisa, Louise's grandmother, born in 1867, became the tenth of fourteen children. The Lockes would also remain in Polk County to homestead. Melissa's parents, the Hardisons, are buried in the Fircrest Cemetery south of Monmouth, and are within view of their donation land claim. Louise's great-grandparents are in the Locke Cemetery north of Corvallis. It was Louise's grandmother, Anna Louisa,

who married David Duvall, b. 1856, who homesteaded in Mosier Valley to raise their six children: Ralph, Cecil, Roy, Grace, Dean, and Guy. David, a carpenter, built the house located at 207 Idaho St. in 1908. Later, Anna and David would move to Independence to spend their remaining years. They are buried south of that town on a hill overlooking fertile fields and large, majestic oaks.

Roy L. Duvall, b. 1892, married Gertrude Proctor, b. 1896, in Mosier and they raised their two children, Louise & Don, here. Louise, b. 1918, still lives in the Mosier Valley over-looking the orchards which she and



husband Bill owned for so many years. It was only in their early married years that she and Bill lived in WA to work on the Grand Coulee Dam and Bremerton Navy Yard.

Louise's maternal grandparents, John & Matilda Proctor, came to the U.S. through Ellis Island from England in July of 1909 with their seven children: Nellie (16), Gertrude (12), Frank (9), Jack (6), Ruby (4), Dena (2), and baby Gordon. Their eighth child, Dora, joined the family in 1914 where she and later husband, Amos Root, were live-long residents of Mosier.

John Proctor's brother, Frank, initially owned the ranch in Mosier (now the acreage referred to as "Rocky Prairie") and had asked John to operate it while he, Frank, continued his rug import business from New York. John's sister and family, Elizabeth & Tom Lelliot, had arrived in Mosier in 1907 from England and were awaiting this branch of the family to join them. They too were living on "Rocky Prairie" and later at 900 Oregon, the former Chown Home.

Today, Proctor first-cousins Louise, Don, Ken, Tom, John, and Addie remain close in thought and proximity within the Gorge.

Louise and family have two celebrations on the near horizon. On July 22nd, Louise will be a 90, a milestone! Next summer, the Proctors will be observing their 100th anniversary in Mosier! Both events will see a gathering of family and friends drawn once again by their ties to this little Valley.

Meanwhile, Louise continues to enjoy the seasonal agricultural life of her neighbors, watches the families grow, loves the drives through the Valley, anticipates spring in particular with its wildflowers and orchard blooms, and observes the many examples of people's friendliness. She truly appreciates seeing the TLC given to the older residences, eg., the Mosier & Lelliot homes, and the Mayerdale Estate. When asked, she'll state simply that Mosier is "home" and she has never wished to live anywhere else.

--Submitted by Louise's daughter and Mosier maven, Jan Leininger.

## *Calling all Gardeners*

Mosier Community School has started a wonderful garden, a teaching garden for the students and food for them during school in the fall. They would love community help during summer when school is out. If you can help garden, oversee the garden or just stop in and weed, water once in a while please stop by Tuesdays 9-11 am. Melody Acosta, kids and volunteers will be there creating food and fun.

Columbia River Keeper is putting in a drip irrigation system at the garden. According to Melody Acosta, they still need new plumbing and the irrigation timer so they need about \$250.

## *Benefit for Rowena Wildlife Clinic*

*The Rowena Wildlife Clinic provides medical and surgical care to injured wildlife and homeless pets*

### PACIFIC FADO ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM

Friday July 11th starting at 6:30 at the Columbia River Discovery Center River Gallery. There will be a silent auction, food and live music by Pacific Fado ensemble (**PACIFIC FADO ENSEMBLE** has been selling out shows in Portland; they perform the traditional music of Portugal, featuring the stirring, passionate vocals of the award-winning fadista Alexandra Buys. Alexandra is accompanied by stellar classical guitarist Allen Matthews and master mandolinist Tim Connell, who complement the Portuguese vocal repertoire with pieces from the classical and Brazilian choro traditions.)

Advance tickets are \$15 available at Klindt's Books in The Dalles, Waukoma Books in Hood River and The Oak Street Hotel.

Concert is at 8:30.

### LUBA NEEDS YOUR HELP

#### **LUBA Appeal Needs Your Help**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the City of Mosier voted to approve the preliminary plat for the 44-unit Tanawashee Subdivision proposed by Mosier Heights LLC. With the help of Goal One Coalition, two Mosier residents (Hollie Lund and Scott Baker) are now appealing that decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals. Goal One Coalition is a non-profit public interest organization dedicated to assuring that community interests are reflected in local

planning and land use decisions, and they are providing legal assistance at a greatly subsidized rate. You can read more about them at [www.goal1.org](http://www.goal1.org). To fully support this effort, though, **we still need to raise at least \$2,000**. If you share our sentiment that the Council's decision failed to represent the best interests of the community, and are able to make a financial contribution of ANY size, please send a check (made out to Goal One Coalition) to Hollie Lund at PO Box 218, Mosier. If you would like to participate in the effort in other ways, or if you have any questions about the appeal, you can also email Hollie at [hollie@gorge.net](mailto:hollie@gorge.net). Thank you in advance for your support; we'll be sure to provide updates through the newsletter on the status of the appeal. Hollie Lund and Scott Baker.

## STOP BURNING!

Oregon Department of Forestry-The Dalles Unit is officially going into fire season this morning (6/17/08) at 0600. We have our seasonal personnel on but are in training this week and next. We will be in 7 day coverage on June 30th. We will get our signs changed over as soon as we can and will issue permits as we have time. We will be going into the Hood River and Wasco county burn ban as of July 1 as agreed by all Departments and Agencies.

Matt Hoehna  
Assistant Unit Forester  
COD, The Dalles Unit  
[mhoehna@odf.state.or.us](mailto:mhoehna@odf.state.or.us) <<mailto:mhoehna@odf.state.or.us>>  
Phone: (541) 296-4626



## Gorge Artists Office Relocates

Gorge Artists, the not-for-profit group that organizes the annual Gorge Open Studios Tour, has moved its office. It has joined True North Productions in the new Tourism Center at 406 E. Second St., The Dalles, next to Petite Provence, the wonderful French restaurant and bakery.

The new location will feature art exhibit/sales space and a classroom. John Maher, Open Studios Tour coordinator, says, "We hope the move will stimulate more interest in Gorge Artists and will provide an ongoing opportunity to show Gorge art and artists at work."

A celebration of the new facility will be held Friday, July 18th from 5:30 until 7:00 as part of Third Fridays festivities in The Dalles. A selection of work by Gorge-area artists will be featured. Refreshments will be served.

Gorge Artists received state-wide attention this year for their Gorge-wide Open Studios Tour. The event was featured on the cover and inside of Oregon Arts Commission's /Creative Vitality Index in Oregon/ as well as in feature stories in /Columbia Gorge Magazine/ and /The Gorge Guide/. For more information about Gorge Artists see: [www.gorgeartistsopenstudiotour.com](http://www.gorgeartistsopenstudiotour.com). Artist applications for the 2009 event will be available online after July 15.