



Debut of a view



New hiking trail takes teamwork and tenacity to complete

By **BEN MITCHELL**
News staff writer

In 2007, a year before she passed away, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Founder Nancy Russell purchased a 42-acre parcel of land east of Mosier overlooking the Gorge and donated it to the nonprofit she helped form nearly 30 years prior.

Six years later, that windswept section of the Mosier Plateau Russell sought to preserve is still free of development and now sports a new out-and-back hiking trail that will officially open this week for the public to enjoy.

A tour of the 2.5-mile Mosier Plateau and Pocket Park Trail will kick off at Ground Central Coffee Station at 1104 First St. in Mosier this Friday at 2:30 p.m. to celebrate the opening of a trail that has been in the making for nearly three years.

"It seems like this has been going on forever!" said Kate McBride, land trust manager for Friends of the Columbia Gorge, who oversees the acquisitions and management of the trust's lands.

All the efforts of volunteers and donors who help made the vision of the trail a reality, though, have finally paid off. The trail starts just east of the Mosier Creek bridge on Highway 30 and winds along the east banks of Mosier Creek in the city's Pocket Park before turning east to carry users over a packed-earth switchback that leads to the top of the plateau, where an overlook offers hikers panoramic views of the Gorge and the Mosier Valley.

"In the spring when everything is blooming back in the cherry orchards in the valley you have a view in both directions," McBride noted. "It's great. We strategically placed this so you could look both ways."

McBride and other members of Friends began the trail planning process nearly three years ago, but McBride knew the Mosier Plateau was worthy of preservation long before. Growing up in Odell, McBride would often travel to her grandparents' house in Mosier, which resided in the shadow of the plateau. McBride fondly remembers the many

days she spent trudging up the hill to the top of the grassy plateau with her grandfather to view the wildflowers in the springtime.

"This is where I hiked when I was growing up," she said. "I knew this area like the back of my hand."

In February 2011, McBride, Friends Executive Director Kevin Gorman and Friends Field Representative Peter Cornelison first approached the city of Mosier about creating a trail

help create Pocket Park. When approached by Friends, the Poveys graciously granted a one-year trial trail license — which McBride described as a kind of temporary easement — so that the trail could continue through their property and link Pocket Park to the Plateau.

"That was the only way we could get to land trust property," McBride noted, who said the renewal of the trail licensure will hinge on the Poveys' positive assessment of Friends' stewardship of the trail connection.

With the land acquisitions squared away and a conditional use permit from Wasco County in hand, Friends were ready to start building trail in October 2011 — a process McBride said has gone through fits and starts. "You can't (build trails) in the middle of summer because of the fire danger and you can't do it when it's too wet, which would be February and March," she explained, "so there's only certain times of year you can really work well out here, to do certain things."

Friends relied on help from volunteer groups such as Trail Keepers of Oregon and Washington Trails Association to assist with the work as well as private contracting companies. Daryl Hoyt and Krista Thie from Twin Oaks Construction in White Salmon did a large portion of the work on the trail, including the construction of the viewpoint.

Northwest Youth Corps, a nonprofit outdoor program located in The Dalles, helped build the switchback and stairs that connect Pocket Park to Mosier Plateau, but it almost didn't



Photos by Ben Mitchell; photo of trail work by Kate McBride

KATE MCBRIDE, land trust manager for Friends of the Columbia Gorge, walks along the Mosier Plateau Trail and pauses at a view point atop the plateau in the above photos. At the top of the page, teens from The Dalles volunteering in the Northwest Youth Corps work on a section of the trail this summer.

Trail basics:

- Length: 2.5 miles
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Style: Out and back
- Hazards: Ticks, poison oak; like other eastern Gorge trails, rattlesnake sightings are a possibility
- Restrictions: No motorized vehicles, horses, or bicycles. No smoking, fires, or hunting.
- Trailhead: Park at totem pole on U.S. 30 in downtown Mosier and walk to trailhead located just east of Mosier Creek bridge.

that would connect the city park to the plateau.

"We took Kathy Fitzpatrick, who was on (Mosier) City Council at the time and Andrea Rogers, who's the mayor of Mosier, out on an exploratory hike and came down the back side (of the plateau) and said 'What do you think?'" McBride recalled. "'Do you think the council would like this? Do you think the townspeople would want it?'"

McBride described the city as "enthused" about the plan, but unable put the money up to fund it. There was also another problem: A tiny sliver of private land bisected the city and land trust properties, making the connection impossible.

According to information provided by Friends, the individuals who owned the sliver in question, David and Lavonne Povey, were the same people who donated 3.8 acres of their land to the city of Mosier in 2003 to

Please see **PLATEAU**, Page B6



THE MOSIER PLATEAU and Pocket Park Trail winds through a mixture of public and private land, as seen in the map above. The trail starts in the city of Mosier's Pocket Park (outlined in purple), crosses over a sliver of private property (green triangle), then enters property held by the Friends of the Columbia Gorge land trust (outlined in light blue).



Photo by Peter Cornelison

MOSIER MAYOR Andrea Rogers (far right) and former Mosier City Councilor Kathy Fitzpatrick (second from right), listen to Kate McBride discuss plans to construct the trail on the Mosier Plateau in February 2011. Friends Executive Director Kevin Gorman is in the red jacket.

PLATEAU

Continued from Page B1

happen. McBride said that once again, generous souls stepped in to make sure the trail stayed on track.

“We applied for Northwest Youth Corps to do the work, but because of the sequester, they were only able to fund four or five different groups instead of eight,” McBride explained, “so we had a donor member of our organization who lives in the Tri Cities fund Northwest Youth Corps to finish the section.”

The five teenagers from Northwest Youth Corps arrived in June to complete the last half-mile of trail and two sets of stairs on the steep southern slope of the plateau, starting at 6 a.m. in order to avoid the sweltering summer temperatures as much as possible. After five weeks, their work was done.

Though the trail is opening at the start of fall, spring will be the best time to visit the plateau, according to McBride, when “huge, huge, amounts of wildflowers will be in bloom,” including, lupine, balsam root, shooting stars, grass

widows, fiddle necks, and desert parsley — just to name a few. However, she also noted that during the winter, the trail will be a prime location for hikers to watch bald eagles riding the thermals that whistle up the side of the plateau. In the summer, McBride suggested trail users take a dip in the nearby Mosier Creek Pocket swimming hole after finishing their hikes. She also envisioned the plateau to be used as an “outdoor classroom” for Mosier Charter School as it has in the past, where students are led on day hikes to learn about the wildflowers that bloom there in the spring.

The trail is all set for hikers to enjoy, but McBride noted it was still a work in progress. She explained some “tuning” still needs to be completed, and there are plans to possibly create a spur trail down to the swimming hole as well as an alternate access to the small loop located at the east end of the trail, which McBride said was “ADA-grade.”

One item that will not be constructed is a trailhead. Users are directed to park at the totem pole located in the center of Mosier and walk several minutes to the start of the trail at Pocket Park.

“And that’s the idea of

Gorge Towns to Trails,” McBride said. “You start in town so that people will park in town and you don’t have to build another trailhead. They’ll be able to use a restaurant, a restroom, and the amenities in town and bring commerce to the town.”

Gorge Towns to Trails was an initiative started by Friends in 2011 that envisions a “comprehensive trail system that wraps around the Columbia Gorge, linking communities with recreation, benefiting tourism, and highlighting and enhancing the beauty and wonder of the area,” according to Friends’ website.

McBride hopes that this vision of a network of trails that link Gorge towns together will one day become a reality. Visible at the terminus of the Mosier Plateau Trail, is another windswept hillside known as the “South 40,” which is also in Friends’ land trust. Though there’s no official trail there yet, McBride dreams that perhaps someday, hikers will be able to walk from Pocket Creek Park, to Mosier Plateau Trail, and then continue on to the South 40 via either U.S. 30 or a trail connector.

“Who knows?” McBride said. “There are lots of possibilities for the future.”

POLICE LOG

All calls were responded to within the City of Hood River Sept. 9-19.

■ Assaults, harassment, menacing and domestic violence:

Sept. 11 — Cascade Avenue — Two Hood River residents were arrested on the charge of assault IV domestic.

Sept. 14 — Marquez Court — Officer took report of a domestic assault. One party was being treated in the emergency room and the other was unable to be located.

Sept. 14 — 12th Street — Officer responded to a report of an assault. The reporting party told dispatch a male attacked a female and bystanders were holding the male back. The female juvenile was lodged for assault II and disorderly conduct II. The male suspect was unable to be located.

Sept. 15 — Cascade Avenue — Male reported being the victim of an unprovoked assault and strangulation attack in the parking lot of a local bar. The victim also reported losing his cell phone during the attack. A female was cited and released on charges of tampering with a witness and obstructing judicial administration in connection with the case.

■ Controlled substance

violations (non-DUII):

None reported

■ Disorderly conduct, mischief, criminal trespass and vandalism:

Sept. 9 — N. First Street, 100 block — Male issued a criminal trespass citation after returning to a business after being lawfully told not to by both the establishment and the police.

Sept. 9 — Wasco Loop, 200 block — Two juvenile males were charged with cranial mischief for tagging personal property. They were also charged for theft III.

Sept. 11 — Windswept Place, 2100 block — A Hood River resident reported vandalism of a property he maintains.

■ Driving under the influence of intoxicants:

Sept. 14 — Old Columbia River Drive at Highway 35 — A Hood River resident was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

■ Identity theft or bank/credit card fraud:

None reported

■ Motor vehicle crashes, offenses and impounds:

Sept. 9 — Cascade Avenue, 3100 block — A two-car motor vehicle, non-injury crash reported.

Sept. 12 — Eighth Street at Columbia Street — Female cited and released for driving while criminally

suspended.

Sept. 13 — Hood River Toll Bridge — Officer received report of an item leaving the bed of a pickup and smashing into a passing car.

Sept. 13 — Cascade Avenue at Third Street — A White Salmon male was arrested for misdemeanor driving while suspended and lodged at NORCOR.

Sept. 13 — Wasco Street, 1300 block — Officer reported backing into a flower bed rock wall.

■ Outstanding warrants, parole, probation or terms violations:

Sept. 13 — State Street, 300 block — A client of Hood River Community Corrections was placed in custody for a probation violation.

Sept. 14 — Cascade Avenue, 1800 block — Juvenile female arrested on an outstanding warrant for failure to appear.

Sept. 15 — Cascade Avenue at Mt. Adams Avenue — A Lyle, Wash., resident was arrested on an outstanding probation violation warrant out of Klickitat County and lodged at NORCOR. Another Washington resident was cited for driving while suspended violation, driving uninsured and operating an unsafe motor vehicle.

Sept. 15 — Avalon Drive

NDI hosts parenting classes

Parenting is the most important job one will ever have. Parenting is learned and parenting practices are significantly influenced by one’s own upbringing. Effective early parenting contributes to development of cognitive and social skills, positive peer relationships and prevention of delinquency, risky behaviors and school failure.

All parents and child caregivers benefit from parenting education opportunities throughout a child’s life.

Nancy Johanson Paul, Columbia Gorge parenting education program coordinator at The Next Door, recommends that parents take parenting classes when their child is 18 months to 5 years old and then again when they are 10-14 years old.

The Next Door is offering a seven-week “Parenting Now!” series for parents and child caregivers of children birth to 8 years at Chenoweth Elementary in The Dalles starting Oct. 2. Hood River classes start Oct. 8 at May Street Elementary.

Both class series run 5:30-7:30 p.m. and cost \$20 per family. To sign up, contact Johansen Paul at 541-436-0319 or nancyp@nextdoorinc.org

Look for parenting education information on the fall classes at www.nextdoorinc.org.

More help for parents and adults who care for children is available online; see the “Pocket Full of Feelings” kit at www.pocketfulloffeelings.com.

According to Next Door Inc., there are new parenting education opportunities at the libraries in The Dalles and Hood River.

The children’s librarians have put together several kits of parenting resources that parents can check out. They are available in the ground floor children’s area.

■ The Baby Parenting bag includes the



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

LIBRARY CLERK Joanne Gibeau holds one of the parenting resource kits available in the children’s area of the library.

DVDs, “Advice for New Parents” and “Happiest Baby on the Block,” along with the Parents booklet for the “Incredible Infant” curriculum.

■ The Toddler Parenting bag features the “It’s Mine” DVD, and the “Make Parenting a Pleasure” curriculum on DVD with the Parent Booklet.

■ The Preschooler Parenting bag includes the “Make Parenting a Pleasure” DVDs and Parent booklet, and a “Helping Children in Resolving Conflicts” DVD.

Spanish language bags will also be available soon.

— A Hood River resident was contacted in regard to a possible restraining order violation.

Sept. 16 — Ninth Court — Female reported her estranged husband had violated a restraining order.

Sept. 16 — Wasco Avenue, 2700 block — A Portland, Ore., resident was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Multnomah County and lodged at NORCOR.

■ Theft, burglary or robbery:

Sept. 9 — May Street, 1600 block — An iPhone was reported stolen from a local school.

Sept. 10 — May Street, 3200 block — Officer took a report of an attempted unlawful entry into a motor vehicle. There was no damage to the vehicle, and nothing was taken.

Sept. 10 — Sierra Lane, 2500 block — A Hood River resident reported the loss of a \$6,800 camera and lenses

from a vehicle.

Sept. 12 — 12th Street, 1300 block — Officers responded to a bank robbery in progress call. Officers arrived on the scene and searched for the subject. The subject was not located on scene or the surrounding area. Multiple agencies responded to assist and statements and evidence were collected.

Sept. 13 — Belmont Drive, 4400 block — Male reported a theft after paying a company \$2,494 in order to get a \$3,000 loan. He then realized it was a scam.

Sept. 13 — Cascade Avenue, 3300 block — A business reported a person stole a generator from just inside the front door.

Sept. 16 — 12th Street, 1800 block — Employee cited for stealing \$100 out of a deposit bag.

■ Sex offenses:

None reported

■ Other:

Sept. 10 — Freedom Drive, 1600 block — Female reported finding marijuana near her house. It was turned over to police for destruction.

Sept. 11 — Montello Avenue, 2600 block — Officer took report of two juvenile males who made unauthorized departures from NORCOR Juvenile Department custody.

Sept. 13 — Indian Creek Trail — Male arrested for failing to register a new address as a sex offender and lodged at NORCOR.

Sept. 15 — B Street, 1700 block — A wallet was found by a homeowner in her flowerbed.

Sept. 16 — Cascade Avenue, 2200 block — A wallet was found and turned into the police department.

Sept. 16 — Oak Street, 300 block — A Hood River resident reported that he had lost his wallet while at a downtown business.

Special Sections of the Hood River News: PLAN AHEAD, DON'T MISS OUT!



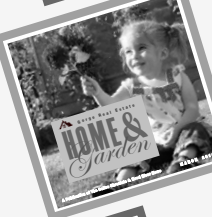
JANUARY
•Bridal Guide
•New Beginnings
•Biggest Winner
•Winter Sports Poster

JULY
•Women in Business
•Fourth of July



FEBRUARY
•Valentines Day
•Presidents Day
•Wine Guide
•“Say No to Drugs” Coloring Book
•Who’s Who

AUGUST
•Pet Photo Contest
•Fall Sports Poster
•Gas Giveaway



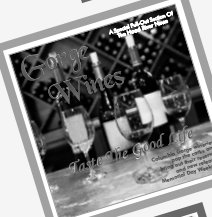
MARCH
•Spring Sports Poster
•Home & Garden (March-Oct.)

SEPTEMBER
•Gas Giveaway
•Labor Day Weekend Wine Guide
•Football Contest
•Protecting Our Kids



APRIL
•Panorama - Blossoms, Recreation, Community, Reflections
•Visitors Guide
•Shop Locally Promotion

OCTOBER
•Fall Car Care
•Harvest Festival
•Gorge Medical Guide



MAY
•Memorial Day Weekend Wine Guide
•Mother’s Day Specials
•Memorial Day Tribute Page

NOVEMBER
•Gift Guide
•Thanksgiving Wine Guide
•Holiday Beauty Guide



JUNE
•Fruit Loop Wine Celebration
•Full Page Frenzy
•Gorge Business Review (All Year)

DECEMBER
•Christmas Turkey Giveaway
•First Baby Contest
•Holiday Ad Bundle



541-386-1234

SCHEDULE YOUR ADS TODAY!
with Megan Slanning, Debbie Jones or Jody Thompson

Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association
Brought to you by this newspaper in partnership with

PUBLIC NOTICES
Always in your newspaper:
Now in your inbox, too.

If nobody knows what’s going on, nobody can do anything about it.

That’s why we keep saying your local and state government should keep publishing their public notices in the newspaper.

Now you can stay informed **AND** keep those public notices in the newspaper.

Just go to publicnoticeads.com/or, sign up for the free SmartSearch service, and get all of this paper’s public notices delivered to you via email.

publicnoticeads.com/or