

July 20

April 24, 2018 KURY-Tour de Fonds

Hi, I'm April V. from Coastline Neighbors for Brookings Harbor Voices. Chances are you've never visited Powers, Oregon. It's a tiny town off Route 42-South, midway between Bandon and Roseburg, which is to say, a long way from anywhere.

-But on the third weekend of June every year, the town is transformed. Colorful signs go up along the road welcoming people in, and the campground north of town fills up with trucks, minivans and campers. It's rare to see traffic in quiet Powers. You can almost hear the ferns growing along the banks of its Coquille River. --But into Powers every June people come *by the hundreds!* —From Portland to Eugene, from the Rogue Valley, and from Gold Beach and Brookings. Because for about 20 years, the 3rd Saturday has been reserved for a bicycle tour that starts and ends in Powers. It's not as famous as the bicycle race through the French Alps called the Tour de France. It's better. It's the Tour De Fronds, and it features the vistas of the Cascades, the aroma of the Port Orford cedar, and the rustic sounds of the river as it rushes through the forest. It is more than just a great place to ride a bicycle because the Tour de Fronds is an expression of small-town spirit. The tour raises funds for local causes—the local Lion's Club; eye exams for kids who need glasses; other things that a small town like Powers needs. It is a Tradition. It draws devoted and new riders to come year after year. I rode the Tour this year, and I'm going to return.

Could my neighbors in Curry County think of ways we could sponsor an event. Maybe a sponsored hike along the trails in Boardman Park? Maybe a beach event at Harris Beach? People want to visit Curry County, and they'd love it even more to see our Community spirit expressed. The support we might garner, for our kids, our libraries, or our older neighbors would be great.

I'm April V. for Curry County Coastline Neighbors—where the next Tour de Fronds—or our personalized version of it—is just waiting to be set into motion.