

The Dalles Chronicle



Entertainment Update | A2



TD Boys beat 6A McMinnville A9 ►

Midweek \$1.00

January 1, 2020
The Dalles, Oregon
www.thedalleschronicle.com

Vol. 229, Issue 1

Food carts see new regs

By Mark Gibson
The Dalles Chronicle

Mobile food vendors previously permitted in The Dalles as transient merchants will be operating under new food vendor permits in the coming year, following adoption of new codes by The Dalles city council in December.

Prior to the change, food carts in the city were permitted as transient merchants, a category that included all temporary or short-term vendors, including food carts. Under the new rules, operators will be able to license their food carts under short, medium and long-term regulations, according to the staff report.

Type 1 or short-term licenses will be available in 30 day increments, renewable up to 180 days. Type 2 or medium-term licenses will be available in one-year increments, with a two year maximum. Type 3 or long-term licenses will apply to food carts with related

See **FOOD**, page A3

Bentz replacement considered

By Rodger Nichols
For The Dalles Chronicle

Oregon Second District Congressman Greg Walden's October decision not to run for re-election is having a ripple effect in Eastern Oregon.

State Senator Cliff Bentz, whose 30th District includes the eastern portion of Wasco County, is resigning on Jan. 2 to run for Walden's seat in the U.S. House. A story in the *Baker City Herald* on Friday reports that Republican precinct committee officials plan to meet Jan. 4 at the Grant County Airport in John Day to nominate at least three candidates to replace Bentz in the Oregon Senate.

Elected commissioners from each of the 11 counties in District 30 will then meet on Jan. 6 to choose from among those three. So far, the paper reported, two people have applied, one of them being former Wasco County Commissioner and current The Dalles City Council member Rod Runyon. The other is Lynn Findley of Vale, a state representative whose 60th District includes southeastern Wasco County and the towns of Antelope and Shaniko.

State law requires the precinct committee members to nominate three, four or five candidates. If fewer than three people apply, then Oregon Governor Kate Brown gets to appoint Bentz's successor. Whoever is chosen will fill out the remainder of Bentz's term, which runs through 2022.

When the county commissioners meet on Jan. 6, not all votes will be equal. That's because Oregon law provides for weighted votes based on county population. For every 1,000 people or greater fraction of 1,000 people in a county, the commissioners from that county get one vote. Deschutes County will have the most votes with 17, followed closely by Wasco, and Malheur counties, both with 16 votes. Jefferson County has 15 votes, Baker County has 12, Grant

See **REPLACEMENT**, page A3

2019 a Year in Review

By Mark Gibson
The Dalles Chronicle

WHERE 2018 WENT down in history as a summer of fire following a series of destructive wildfires, 2019 was a cooler and calmer year.

The Dalles struggled to come to grips with an increasing population of homeless men and women, worked through the collapse and partial demolition of a downtown building, and mourned the loss of an iconic rodeo announcer and local radio personality.

Here are some highlights from the first six months of 2019. A review of the second half of the year will be published this weekend, Jan. 4-5:

JANUARY

The Dalles Chronicle began its first full year as a twice-weekly newspaper after decades as a daily newspaper with its Jan. 5 edition.

The year's first baby, Jackson James Modar, the son of Travis and Katrina Modar, didn't waste any time getting the year started with his 7:32 a.m. arrival on Jan. 2. He was 21 inches long and weighed 7 pounds, and was pictured in the Chronicle with is dad and his sister, Harmony Modar.

A day-long event called "The Community Connection," held at the Mid-Columbia Senior Center, was organized by a group that formed in 2018 to tackle issues facing the homeless. The event provided a range of services, including veterinarian care for their pets. The inaugural event drew about 100 people Jan. 30, far exceeding the organizers' expectations. The event was created by The Dalles Housing Solutions Coalition to not only reach the homeless, but bring together those who can help the homeless.

That effort was one of many. "Bridges to Change" worked with the county to provide those released from jail or prison with safe, sober and structured housing as they move back to the community on parole or probation, reported Wasco County Community Correction Director Fritz Bachman. He told to The Dalles City Council the program had decreased jail time and arrests as clients were more successful in supervision and less likely to re-offend when they left.

Later in the month, the Oregon Department of



Representatives from throughout the region gather for the dedication in front of the new Quenett Creek Substation in The Dalles for a group photograph. The substation, dedicated in June, increased availability of electrical power throughout the region. Mark B. Gibson photo/file

Transportation installed fencing beneath two overpasses in The Dalles to prevent transients from camping under them.

Also in January:
• Following federal requirements, Mid-Columbia Medical Center posted its standard pricing for everything from baby aspirin to ER visits to medical procedures on its website. With an eye to improving transparency and allowing cost comparisons, federal law required all hospitals to post their pricing on the internet by Jan. 1. MCMC posted its pricing before Christmas.

• In mid-January, Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) decided to pursue an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with The Dalles and Wasco County for \$3.5 million in enterprise zone funds and proceed with a \$7.6 million full faith and credit bond for construction of a skill center and housing project at The Dalles campus, following a unanimous vote by the Board of Education at its January board meeting. "Sometimes we have to gamble. It's a risk, but it's a calculated risk," said CGCC president Dr. Marta Croninin, expressing her support of the program.

• A partial shutdown of the federal government, then in its record-setting 24th day, closed two area offices, the Farm Service Administration in The Dalles and the Barlow Ranger District office in Dufur. Some 25 percent of the federal government was impacted by the shutdown.

• A traffic stop Jan. 12 in The Dalles led to the discovery of a cache of stolen items in Dallesport, according to The Dalles Police Department. Two men were arrested following the stop near The Dalles Marina. Thousands of dollars worth of stolen industrial pruning equipment, chain saws and concrete-cutting saws were found at a home in Dallesport after police obtained a search warrant based on information gained from one of the suspects at the traffic stop, said The Dalles Police Detective Austin Ell.

• The words "thank you" are often such a throwaway nicety that it's striking to hear them when they actually come from the heart. There was no doubt about the depths of gratitude felt by the steady stream



Winter storms brought out members of Point Man International Ministries of The Dalles and "Operation Wrap Up." The group expanded its operations to include non-veterans in 2019. Contributed photo/file

of people who showed up to get a free load of firewood from Wasco County's wood program. "Thank God," said Kammie Jensen of The Dalles. "Being disabled and stuff I can't go out and cut wood." The slick operation, in which someone was scheduled to arrive at the county lot at 10th and Walnut every 10 minutes all morning long, was the handiwork of Nicole Beaman. She's been working on the county's wood program for nine years now and serves as the community work crew supervisor for Wasco County.

• The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce 2019 Man of the Year, Tim McGlothlin, paid tribute to his wife Laura at the chamber's annual awards banquet Jan. 26-27.

• U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden fielded wide-ranging questions from students and community members at Dufur School, and in response to one, said that attorney general nominee William Barr considered presidents "royalty" and above the law. "In his actual own words, he pretty much thinks the president is royalty," Wyden said of Barr at the town hall meeting. He said if Barr

was up for confirmation, he would be voting against it.

• The D21 school board gave the go-ahead Jan. 16 for staff to look at starting a dual language immersion program. Dual language immersion is a form of bilingual education in which students are taught literacy and content in two languages. It contrasts with full immersion, where instruction is entirely in the non-native language. The issue would circle back in December, when a proposal to create such classes at Colonel Wright raised the ire of staff and parents, who felt they had been given no say in where the classes would be based or how they would be set up.

FEBRUARY

Expanding its outreach programs, Point Man International Ministries, long active in The Dalles, began serving area residents and veterans alike, according to outpost leader Michael Knopf, MCPO, US Navy, Retired. "We've

See **2019**, page A4

INSIDE

Entertainment..... **A2**
Senior News..... **A3**
Marketplace..... **A6**

Obituaries..... **A7**
Comics..... **A8**
Sports..... **A10**

