

2019 Tragedy, triumph marks year's start

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opened it up to anybody, veterans and non-veterans," Knopf explained. "There is no distinction." The group's primary focus is helping the homeless.

Superintendent Candy Armstrong announced she was retiring, as of July 2020, and the D21 school board began gearing up for a lengthy replacement search and planned to involve community input. That search has continued into the new year.

Also in February:

- Funding for street maintenance and ADA upgrades in The Dalles was found to be inadequate and the city council considered adding a \$5 transportation fee to city utility bills as one part of a long-term funding solution. The annual department budget falls \$1.2 million short of optimal maintenance, and federal law requires upgrading 1,614 non-compliant sidewalk curb ramps in the city that will further tax the street department budget, according to a report presented to the council at its Jan. 28 meeting.

- A judge ruled the regional jail's contract to house immigration detainees does not violate state law, but its practice of notifying federal officials of the release dates of foreign-born prisoners did. The ruling from Wasco County Circuit Court Judge John Wolf was handed down Friday, Feb. 8 and provided wins for both the plaintiffs—four Wasco County residents—and the jail. A key win for the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility (NORCOR) was Wolf's finding that the jail was not "apprehending" people whose only violation is being in the U.S. in violation of federal immigration law. Therefore, its contract to house U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was considered legal.

- A traffic stop Feb. 11 in The Dalles yielded nearly \$90,000 worth of

methamphetamine and heroin, according to The Dalles Police Department.

- A 43-year-old man was sentenced Friday to over eight years in prison for raping a teen in 2017 when he was a houseguest at her family's home.

- A Confluence project to connect people with the indigenous history of Celilo Falls was put on hold due to opposition from the Yakama Nation tribal government, according to a Confluence Project press release.

MARCH

A The Dalles man who was shot and killed by a city police officer March 16 as he stood on his porch firing a rifle had been the subject of a number of calls to police in previous weeks.

The Dalles police were called to his home around 10 p.m. on reports of a man shooting a gun at his neighbor's house, according to a press release from The Dalles Police Department.

When officers arrived, they heard gun shots and located a male subject outside his residence on the porch, the release stated. Officers observed the man was actively shooting rounds from a rifle.

At some point during the incident, the man was shot and killed. Officers attempted first aid, but he succumbed to his injuries, the press release stated. No one else was injured in the incident.

On March 27, The Dalles Police Officer James Finch was found to be justified in fatally shooting the man by Wasco County District Attorney Eric Nisley. The man had fired multiple shots into a neighbor's house, pointed a rifle at the neighbor, and then fired multiple rounds in the direction of responding officers, according to a press release issued by Nisley.

After voting in support of making the Mueller investigation report public, Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) returned to Oregon for a town hall meeting in The Dalles March 15, where his vote was met with applause. "What was I supposed to do? I've always been about transparency and accountability

in government, and I think Americans have a right to know what that report shows," he said. The resolution passed unanimously in the House.

Also in March:

- After more than 25 years on the job, Mary Reilly, 91, retired as office assistant at Cascade Eye Center in The Dalles. "I love the patients, I love the people. That's what's so wonderful about this job," she said on Feb. 28, her final day at the office.

- More teens were engaging in after-school activities and programs at The Dalles-Wasco County Library as the teen-focused redesign of the upstairs mezzanine neared completion and a unique team of two librarians work to create new programs and opportunities. "They call us the 'dynamic duo,'" laughed Jeannie Glaspy, who shares the teen librarian position with Zulema Martinez.

- The era of having a little extra wiggle room to deal with a ticket issued by The Dalles Police ended. For decades, the former clerk for The Dalles Municipal Court had a more relaxed method of processing traffic tickets, which kept the occasional tardy payer from facing a license suspension.

- Nathan Nanez, a senior at The Dalles High School, was chosen to represent the Eastern Oregon area as part of a campaign called Oregonians for Student Success. He was one of four students selected statewide.

- Gene Parker, longtime city attorney for The Dalles, announced he would retire in March 2020, giving the city time to find a replacement he could help train. He's been with the city for 28 1/2 years and has worked on several projects that "I believe have significantly benefited" the city, he said in his retirement letter.

- One of the sex abuse victims of a former Dufur coach sued Dufur School District and three officials, alleging the district violated her civil rights by failing to prevent the coach's predatory behavior.

- A crowded and diverse slate of candidates filed to



One occupant was burned as they escaped a fire that destroyed much of their home in the 1400 block of Nevada Street in January, 2019. The second occupant was not injured. Mark B. Gibson photo/file

be on the ballot for the May 21 election for North Wasco County School District 21, where 13 candidates sought six positions. Three of the six seats up for election had three contestants each. Two were unopposed and one had two candidates. Several candidates were Hispanic. The filing period for the

election ended March 21.

APRIL

In a rarity, \$1,600 that an elderly woman in The Dalles was scammed out of was recently returned to her by postal inspectors, who made a special trip here from Portland to do so. But an

alarming aspect of this case was that the scammers reportedly changed the woman's phone number, "not once, but twice," in an effort to isolate her, said Gwen Koski, postmaster in The Dalles.

- With the completion of a \$2 million high-density fiber

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WEATHER FOR THE DALLES, OR | JANUARY 1 - 7, 2020

Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
54° / 41°	49° / 39°	51° / 38°	49° / 35°	44° / 31°	43° / 30°	42° / 31°
Cloudy, a little rain; breezy	Rain and drizzle in the p.m.	Mild with high clouds	Spotty morning showers	A couple of showers possible	Partly sunny	Sun through high clouds

Actual High/Low	
Dec 23 - 29	
Monday	50/30
Tuesday	34/26
Wednesday	38/29
Thursday	41/31
Friday	43/30
Saturday	40/36
Sunday	39/36

Updated 12.30.19, 8:30 AM PDT
Data from Accuweather.com