

## 2019 Storm triggers roof failure

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and the viability of the structure was unknown since its roof was failing. A structural engineer for the insurance company was due to inspect the building, located downtown on East Second Street.

Jake Grossmiller, a legendary rodeo announcer known to generations of rodeo fans throughout the Northwest and particularly at the Fort Dalles Rodeo, died at his home Aug. 19. He was 80.

Ambulance Service Area (ASA) contracts have lapsed and some rural ambulance providers are struggling to provide timely service due to a chronic shortage of volunteers, emergency manager Sheridan McClellan told Wasco County commissioners Aug. 8.

The Dalles City Council agreed Aug. 26 to delay issuing a request for bids to demolish the Waldron/Gitchell building for at least six months, allowing building supporters to plan for stabilizing, restoring and removing the building from its current location between the city's sewer plant and Lewis and Clark Festival Park.

Also in August:

- In a move discussed for over 10 years and actively planned for two, the Northern Wasco County PUD, began switching out its 10,100 meters with "smart meters" that report usage digitally to the PUD.

- A man was spotted on top of the water tower located in the old aluminum plant site at the west end of The Dalles at approximately 6:30 p.m. Friday. A man from The Dalles was arrested that evening after climbing down, and accused of criminal trespass in the second degree.

### SEPTEMBER

With two engineering reports calling for immediate demolition of portions of the Recreation Building downtown, the Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Agency voted 6 to 3 Wednesday, Sept. 11, to declare an emergency, enabling staff to enter into

contracts for the work.

Mid Columbia Center For Living (MCCFL) celebrated the completion of a new facility, located at 1060 Webber Street in The Dalles, on Sept. 20 with dedication ceremonies, cookies and tours.

Five Pacific lamprey were introduced into the Great Northwest area at the Oregon Zoo in July, and the ancient fish are making themselves right at home, according to zoo officials. The lamprey exhibit will join the salmon, sturgeon, and bald eagle habitats in the cascade stream building.

Also in September:

- Boaters at Pine Hollow Reservoir will soon have new and improved launch facilities, and the years-long effort to replace one boat ramp and repair another was celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony.

- Work began on a project to repair part of the irrigation system on the eastern portion of Sosis Park. The repairs cover the ground between the picnic shelter and Columbia Gorge Community College, as well as the rose garden.

### OCTOBER

A large crane was used to remove large sections of the failed roof of Recreation Building in October, and Second street, which had been closed down to one lane since roof troubles were first spotted in mid-August, was re-opened. A long, single facade installed in the 1950s that incorporated three building into one was also removed.

Robert Ward, owner of Custom Design & Construction, said, "the superstructure's gone and half the roof is gone. I'm looking up at blue sky." The roof was fully removed, and after cleanup a temporary "floor roof" was built to protect the remainder of the building.

The building's owner, the Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Agency, was paying for the \$80,250 job as its insurance agency had not made a determination for coverage of the loss.

Congressman Greg Walden, R-Hood River, who was the fifth most powerful member of Congress when Republicans most recently



A large crane is used in the removal of the damaged roof from the Recreation Building, where interior beams sag dramatically and banks of ceiling-suspended TVs are askew. A lane of travel remained open for vehicles on Second Street throughout the demolition. Mark B. Gibson/file

held the majority, announced he won't seek re-election.

JoDe. L. Goudy, chairman of the tribal council of the Yakama Nation, made an impassioned call for the removal of The Dalles, Bonneville and John Day dams on Indigenous People's Day, Oct. 14. "We have a choice, dams or salmon," he said. "This isn't just for native people, this is for all of us." Joining the Yakama Nation at Celilo Park east of The Dalles was the Lummi Nation, as well as native leaders from the Mid-Columbia River region, including Klickitat and Celilo.

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce Director Lisa Farquharson was named chamber executive of the year by the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce Tuesday in Lebanon.

Also in October:

- Two infants in The Dalles area died over the course of two days in October.

- It would cost \$70 million to repair D21 schools, and \$257 million to replace them, an architect leading a long range facilities planning process for the school district said Tuesday.

### NOVEMBER

Oregon will lose its last Kmart when The Dalles' store closes at the end of February 2020. Transform Holdco, the company formed in January to buy the remaining assets of bankrupt retailer Sears Holdings Corporation, named the local department store Nov. 7 in a list of 96

Sears and Kmart stores to close by the end of February.

Orchard View Farms Inc. of The Dalles was fined \$37,800 for five job safety violations—four of them repeat offenses—including failure to train employees in the safe operation of tractors and the inability of the hand or emergency brake to securely hold loaded tractors on orchard slopes. The failures "exposed workers to serious injury or death," according to a report by the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OSHA) and the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services.

The first ever Ageless Awards were presented Wednesday at the Mid-Columbia Senior Center in The Dalles to Lucielle Peterson, Prudence Amick, Terry Stoddard and Bill Hamilton.

Deputies found a man and woman deceased in a camper trailer on private property on Ketchum Road Tuesday, Nov. 12, after another law enforcement agency asked that they look for them there. Evidence at the scene suggested carbon monoxide poisoning was a factor, according to a press release from the Wasco County Sheriff's Office.

Also in November:

- The Dalles City Council approved municipal code and comprehensive plan changes to allow more and larger accessory dwelling units following a public hearing Oct. 28. Provisions were also made to allow duplexes in all residential zones and



Congressman Greg Walden, R-Hood River, who was the fifth most powerful member of Congress when Republicans held the majority, announced he won't seek re-election in October. Contributed photo/file

for "cottage clusters."

### DECEMBER

Wasco County District Attorney Eric Nisley appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court a 30-day suspension of his law license for making a false statement to the state bar. On Thursday, the Supreme Court ruled he made four false statements and handed down a 60-day suspension. The suspension takes effect 60 days from the Dec. 12 date of the decision.

The office of Mid-Columbia Health Foundation resembled Santa's Workshop in December, with 600 toys donated and delivered by

staff members of Dynalectric and their business partners.

Also in December:

- A "coalition of concerned citizens" allege the Northern Wasco County District 21 superintendent's office "failed to follow adopted school district policies" and "is involved in a cover-up to protect administrative staff from accountability" in removing Debbie Park as transportation services director in September, according to documents presented to the D21 board.

- An average 2.15 percent increase in garbage pickup and disposal costs in The Dalles were approved by the city council.

# New Year's Sale

Sunday, January 5th & Monday, January 6th



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