

# The Dalles Chronicle

Guess new History Mystery | A5



TD boys, girls take first at Madras A9 ▶



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## Law firm named to provide city legal services

Transition to begin now; city attorney retires in March

By Mark Gibson  
The Dalles Chronicle

Following an unsuccessful recruitment to fill the city attorney position upon the retirement of City Attorney Gene Parker in March, The City of The Dalles' council approved a service contract with Campbell Phillips, PC, of The Dalles to provide the city with legal services at their regular meeting Jan. 27.

The transition from Parker to Campbell Phillips will begin immediately.

The firm was one of two responders to a request for qualifications, and were recommended

unanimously by a subcommittee made up of Mayor Rich Mays, councilors Linda Miller and Russ Brown, City Manager Julie Kruger and City Attorney Parker.

Kristen Campbell said she has worked as an attorney for 19 years, with a focus on municipal law and public sector law in general. She came to The Dalles six years ago to work for Wasco County. "I had an opportunity to become immersed in the community, and I enjoyed that so much that a year ago, I and my law partner Kiffanie Phillips opened a law firm in The Dalles," she said.

"We're very excited about this opportunity," Campbell told the council. "We are prepared to start, with as much overlap with the current attorney as possible." She spoke to the council with firm attorney Diana McDougle and

James Foster, both of whom will be working with the city and met with the subcommittee.

Councilor Rod Runyon noted that he had worked with Campbell as a Wasco County commissioner, when she worked with the county. "She is great, with a lot of experience in municipal law." Councilor Miller, who was on the subcommittee that met with the firm's attorneys, said she was skeptical of the idea. "I was hesitant to go with an outside law firm to do our legal services, but having met (the attorneys) I was very impressed, and I am fully on board," she said.

The council approved the contract unanimously, with one abstention due to a conflict of interest.

"We're looking forward to working with you going forward," Mays told the presenting attorneys as he adjourned the meeting.



Attorneys Diana McDougle, left, and Kristen Campbell of Campbell Phillips Attorneys at Law speak before The Dalles City Council during their Jan. 27 meeting at City Hall. The firm was hired to provide legal services for the city. Mark B. Gibson photo

## MCFR logo legal bill \$88K

By Neita Cecil  
The Dalles Chronicle

The fire district has spent \$88,269 so far bringing a lawsuit against its union over the use of logos.

The Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue board released the figure earlier this week, after a retired fire district division chief made a public records request asking for it.

The retired chief, Dan Hammel, told the fire board at its Jan. 27 meeting that it was "embarrassing" that he couldn't give a "logical explanation" to people for a lawsuit over a "ridiculous issue," especially after the fire district went to voters for a bond to buy fire apparatus.

He said voters during the bond campaign were "told the district was unable to put money away for replacement apparatus and facility maintenance."

The district filed the suit last summer, alleging the Mid-Columbia Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 1308, had wrongly adopted the district's trademarked logo for its own use.

The union and fire district each say they commissioned and used their respective logos first.

Both logos feature the same

See **LOGO**, page A9



Don Warren of The Dalles Main Street addresses a capacity crowd at The Dalles Civic Auditorium theater Tuesday night. Mark B. Gibson photo

## Community rallies for The Dalles

City undaunted by second-place finish

By Mark Gibson  
The Dalles Chronicle

"Look at what we did, together!"

That was the rallying cry of Don Warren, president of The Dalles Main Street, as he addressed a full house in the Civic Auditorium Theater Tuesday evening as the community gathered to learn whether the city would be the featured town on Season 5 of Small Business Revolution, an online video program.

Warren thanked a host of community groups, businesses, local media and others who helped bring The Dalles into the top-five cities being considered for the program.

The city was competing against four other U.S. towns: Benicia, Calif.; Fredonia, N.Y.; Livingston, Mont.; and Spearfish, S.D. To win, The Dalles had to receive the most online votes during a public voting period that ended Jan. 21.

As the time of the announcement neared, community members began standing along the walls of the theater's main floor, and Civic Executive Director Skot Barker took the stage. "I'd like to invite all those standing in the aisles to take their seats in the balcony," he told

the crowd. "This is really exciting, this is the first time in decades we have needed to seat people in the balcony!"

Remodeling of the theater continues in the upstairs balcony, and about half the seating was ready for use and was pressed into service to seat the standing-room-only crowd.

A video feed of Small Business Revolution co-host Amanda Brinkman was broadcast to the stage and the winner announced: Fredonia, N.Y.

Returning to the stage after the announcement, Warren reiterated his rallying cry, gesturing to the crowd and noting that The Dalles didn't win, "But look at what we did, together! The things we can do here are unlimited."

He then invited The Dalles Mayor Rich Mays to the stage.

"I'm the mayor of the greatest city in the United States," Mays said. He told the crowd that in his 40 years of public service, attending gatherings and events in the Midwest and the Oregon Coast, "I've never seen a community come together like I've seen The Dalles come together in the last month."

"This is a start," he said. "There are a lot of things going on here—now let's go and do great things. Fredonia may have gotten more votes, but there is no way they had more spirit than The Dalles."

## New rules take effect in OR

US Supreme Court lifts injunction on 'public charge' rule

The U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 27 issued a ruling that lifted the injunction on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's public charge rule—a rule that makes it more difficult for immigrants to get green cards in Oregon and elsewhere.

Federal appeals courts had previously issued injunctions blocking the rule. The ruling means the policy can go into effect in every state except for Illinois, which is covered by a separate

See **RULES**, page A2

## Center strives for community engagement

By Mark Gibson  
The Dalles Chronicle

You're never too young to take part in the services and activities available at the Mid-Columbia Senior Center in The Dalles.

"We are open to all ages, although our primary focus is older adults, and we are working on re-branding ourselves as 'The Center,'" said Executive Director Scott McKay. "We have heard people say, 'the Senior Center is just for old people, and I'm not old!' But age doesn't matter."

The confusion comes, in part, from the longstanding association between the Center and The Dalles Meals on Wheels program, a nonprofit which prepares and serves noon meals in the Center dining area for anyone over 60 with a donation of \$3.75.

Although the Center provides a home for the Meals on Wheels program and a weekly Thursday night Bingo fundraiser, the two entities are independent of each other: Meals on Wheels is funded

separately and leases the kitchen and dining space from the Center.

All other programs hosted at the Center are open to all ages, McKay said.

"The Center is a great place to meet people who may have common experiences. Our mission is to enhance the community by sharing and caring, and we do that by providing opportunities for all generations to explore, connect and contribute to their community."

What programs?

There are a lot of them, said Joan Silver, vice president of the Center's board of directors. "The general community does not know what we do here."

Here are many of their current services and activities:

### Loan Closet

The Center operates a loan closet for durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, commodes, toilet

See **CENTER**, page A3



A revised logo emphasizes the community focus of "The Center."

### Meal-A-Month Raffle

Three chances to win 12 \$25 gift certificates from local restaurants. Tickets one for \$10, three for \$25. Available at the Center and from board members. Drawing Friday, Feb. 7, 6 p.m., with drinks and appetizers, sponsored by NW Natural.

Participating restaurants include Beachwood Eatery, Casa El Mirador, Bargeway Pub, Montira's Thai, Hiway House, Last Stop, Cousins' The Riv, Denny's, Shari's, Route 30 Bottles and Brew, Clock Tower Ales, Zim's Brau Haus, Baldwin Saloon, Momma Jane's, Canton Wok, The Barbecue, Big Jim's, Spooky's Pizza and Kobe.

Fundraiser for the Mid-Columbia Senior Center, 1112 W. 9th St., The Dalles.

INSIDE

In the Sky..... **A2**  
Opinion..... **A4**  
History..... **A5**

Obituaries..... **A7**  
Comics..... **A8**  
Sports..... **A9**

