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WEATHER
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HIGH-90S TO 100 THIS
WEEKEND IN THE DALLES



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Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

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Funeral homes update policies as state mandates change

By Trisha Walker
Columbia Gorge News

GORGEWIDE — The funeral industry has undergone many changes since the COVID-19 pandemic hit American shores, from online live streaming of events to scheduled viewing times.

These days, however, which side of the Columbia River you live on dictates crowd size and whether or not receptions are allowed after a funeral. In Oregon, businesses in Phase 2 can have up to 100 people indoors, but in Washington, Gov. Jay Inslee recently rolled back crowd sizes to 20 percent or 30 people — whichever is lower, and only if facilities are able to maintain a six-foot physical distance — because of recent coronavirus surges.

Oregon expands for counties in Phase 2

When Oregon's Executive Order 20-12 went into effect March 23, it limited gatherings to 10 people. Current mandates on gatherings make it possible for larger crowds; Anderson's Tribute Center in Hood River and The Dalles said current business guidelines for counties in Phase 2 allow them to accommodate 100 visitors inside and 250 outdoors. All must wear masks and practice social distancing.

Anderson's has disposable and homemade cloth masks, made by Office Administrator Mayra Sandoval, at both its Hood River and The Dalles locations. Face

See **FUNERALS**, page 2



Victoria Lara, licensed funeral director and embalmer, and Domanique Krentz, co-owner, sit in the outside venue of Gardener Funeral Home with Charles (middle). Submitted photo

White Salmon, Yakama Nation seek water supply

By Jacob Bertram
Columbia Gorge News

WHITE SALMON — Local, state, and tribal partners are exploring if the White Salmon River could be used as an alternative source for drinking water during the summer.

The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation is the latest member of a key advisory group to dedicate funding towards the next round of studies aimed at exploring the reliability and feasibility to establish a new surface water diversion on the White Salmon River.

Bill Sharp, project coordinator with Yakama Nation Fisheries, said the agreement, which is still in process, was created for cost-sharing purposes since the group uses a benefit to examining further whether the White Salmon River could provide suitable drinking water in the summer, leaving Buck Creek as a habitable tributary for instream aquatic resources during spawn season.

Sharp said there is data to show that decreasing the flow withdrawal could lead to an increase in natural resources.

"Post-Condit Dam Removal, within days after that we saw salmon move upstream," Sharp said, including Steelhead and some Spring Chinook. "That's the real driver ... it could go a long way in conserving resources." (The Condit Dam on the White Salmon River was removed in October 2011.) Sharp explained the Yakama Nation Fisheries has been involved with this project early on, one factor being the Treaty of 1855 signed between the Yakama Nation and the State of Washington, which cites the White Salmon Basin as ceded lands.

"The Yakama people have been on the landscape, it's part of their traditional home," said Sharp, explaining it is why they "work to preserve and protect the land."

See **WATER**, page 10

Live music returns to Bargeway

'Where taps, food, and people meet' once again

By Mark Gibson
Columbia Gorge News

WHEN THE COVID-19 PAN-demic shut down restaurants and bars throughout Oregon, Bargeway Pub & Catering in The Dalles was among the many "nonessential" establishments closing their doors. Live music, restaurant dining, happy hours and more fell abruptly silent.

Yet their doors didn't stay closed long — emergency personnel at medical facilities, fire stations and elsewhere still needed to eat, and Bargeway co-owners Stephen and Stacey Kane landed a contract to prepare and deliver meals to 450 essential workers in The Dalles.

The contract provided a critical



Stephen and Stacey Kane, co-owners of Bargeway Pub & Catering in The Dalles, take a seat in the outdoor dining area of the pub. The couple added a large outdoor dining area and stage prior to fully reopening. They first opened the pub about a year ago. Mark B. Gibson photo

lifeline early in the pandemic.

The Kane's were able to hire back much of their staff, and despite good unemployment benefits, the bulk of them returned. "Working the first responder thing, we

brought our staff back. They all came back, they take pride in their work here," Stephen explained. Which was a good thing for the Kanes. "It takes a team to run one of these places," he said.

With the catered meals out the door each morning at 11 a.m., the Kanes began turning their attention to the future, a future now dictated

See **MUSIC**, page 13

TD revives 'Beautification Award'

By Mark Gibson
Columbia Gorge News

THE DALLES Beautification Committee has awarded the August "Beautification Award" to The Dalles' homeowners Stephen and Vande Wegner, who reworked the outdoor areas of their home at 311 West 12th St. this spring.

"We thought it would be a neat way to thank people for their efforts, and inspire people to add to the beauty of our town," said beautification committee member Connie Krummrich. "It's about pride."

Krummrich won the award years ago, she said, but the award was discontinued when the sign disappeared. A new, wooden sign has been created by local artist Jeff Stewart and will be displayed in the front yard of the winning home.

The revived award will be given monthly through October. A December award will honor a home for its Christmas decorations, and another round of awards will be given April through October, and December, in 2021.

Committee Member Brenda Coats said currently, the committee itself will be choosing which home in the city to honor each month.

Winners will be announced in Columbia Gorge News and on the city's utility bill.

The award is sponsored by Columbia Gorge Real Estate. "We want to support the award,

help reinstate it and recognize improvements to yards and homes," said broker Jorge Barragan. "It's for homes that show pride of

See **BEAUTY**, page 10



After a hiatus of many years, The Dalles Beautification Committee has revived the "Beautification Award" to honor The Dalles' homeowners who have worked to improve the beauty of their homes and gardens. Pictured are, left to right, Connie Krummrich of the Beautification Committee; The Dalles Mayor Rich Mays; Beautification Committee member Brenda Coats; Columbia Gorge Real Estate broker Jorge Barragan; and award recipients Stephen and Vande Wegner. The home is at 311 W. 12th St., The Dalles. The monthly award will be awarded through October, with a Christmas award in December, and will return in April of 2021. The wooden sign was made by local artist Jeff Stewart. Mark B. Gibson photo

Second drowning victim found

Local area law enforcement have now recovered the body of a second drowning victim from a group of swimmers from the Ridgefield Church of the Nazarene, who were in distress near Marina Beach on Aug. 5.

The two victims, an 11-year-old male (name withheld) and 44-year-old Andrew Inskeep, were both in Hood River as part of a youth outing and were at the beach with 18 youth and adults, according to a press release from the Hood River County Sheriff's Office.

Hood River 911 received a call at approximately 6:53 p.m. on Aug. 5 of several swimmers in distress off the sandbar at Marina Beach on the Columbia River. Officers with the Hood River City Police were dispatched.



Divers and boats search waters of the Columbia in Hood River. Kirby Neumann-Rea photo

Of the swimmers who were initially reported as struggling in the water, five were able to either self-rescue or were rescued by adult church sponsors or nearby windsurfers, according to the Sheriff's Office, but two in the group were unaccounted for.

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