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Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

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'ABCDE' IN CASCADE LOCKS

Thunder Island Brewery ups its game with move to WaNaPa Ave.

■ **By Kirby Neumann-Rea**
Columbia Gorge News

Thunder Island Brewery's move was not entirely an uphill climb. Owners Dave and Caroline Lipp embarked on a new building project and started a family all within the same year, operating their popular riverside brewery and pub under COVID-19 conditions as they prepared in late August to move from the original riverfront location 100 yards up to 601 N.W. WaNaPa Ave.

Parts of the brewing system itself are coming with them, for now. The 10,000-square-foot, three-story Thunder Island is located next to the old fire hall, just down from the post office and features off-street parking and access that wraps around the building.

All these preparations led up to the Labor Day soft opening. Things went well Sept. 7-9, the menu featuring small and large plates, burgers and sandwiches ranging from lemon grass chicken skewers to ginger tofu bowl to a Kimchi chicken sandwich, and beers including standards such as Easy Climb Golden Ale, and new ones such as Dual Eagle Amber and Sais-Awesome Nelson Edition.

On day one, Labor Day, some high winds and wildfire smoke (that at the time felt heavy) did not deter diners from filling the socially-distanced tables outside. The spacious L-shaped deck seats about 80 people, even with coronavirus precautions in place. Via the elevator or broad stairway overlooking the ground-floor brew house, diners find their way to the airy second-floor, with its dining room surrounding the bar, and that deck.

"Things got off to a great start," said Dave Lipp.

But then just as things were clicking between kitchen and dining areas, last week's historically-heavy wildfire smoke covered the Gorge and all of western Oregon and Thunder Island had to shut down, as did every Gorge establishment relying on outdoor seating.

"It's pretty deflating. We were doing well and just getting going, staff was doing great with things, and we had to stop," Lipp said. "It's been tough, we feel like we will have to start over again, but we have learned a lot. We will open again."

Thunder Island is part of a developing brew-town scene in Cascade Locks: Son of Man Cidery opened in 2018 in the port's Herman Creek business park, sharing space with two wineries; pFriem Family



Mike Mehrens pours beers at the Thunder Island second-floor bar, which is surrounded by seating.
 Kirby Neumann-Rea photos



Smoke and wind did not deter diners from enjoying the Thunder Island deck on the restaurant's opening day, Sept. 7, above. Dave Lipp, left, in 2014, with the bisected 'knot table,' he made, to be put into place in the new restaurant.

Brewing built its 10,000 square-foot barrel aging facility next to Bear Mountain Forest Products; and construction is underway on Gorges Brewery, a few blocks east on WaNaPa near Marine Park, with planned opening in May or June 2021.

Gorges co-owner Willis Boyer said they are brewing in southeast Portland, adjacent to Tap and Table Restaurant, which is owned by partner Travis Preece. Tap and Table has kept operating with pod seating throughout the pandemic. In Cascade Locks, Gorges will build up to three stories and feature two

dining areas in addition to the brewhouse.

Thunder Island goes three stories, with the first and second fully built out for dining and drinking with a view. A third-floor roof bar is an addition that the Lippes hope to finish out in a couple of years. The elevator goes to the third, and a second elevator and another stairwell will be added once the roof goes into service.

The Lippes plan to use the main dining for community events, trivia nights and live music and, via a large drop-down screen, movie

nights. "We'll do Timbers games, of course," Lipps said.

The bar and dining areas are designed to maximize views of the Columbia River and Table Rock and other Washington peaks overlooking Cascade Locks and Stevenson, as well as the dramatic south view to the Cascade foothills.

"I will show you the best seat in the house," Lipp said. He escorts the reporter to the seat just right of center of the second-floor bar.

See **THUNDER**, page 3

Klickitat County adopts multi-hazard mitigation plan

■ **By Jacob Bertram**
Columbia Gorge News

Klickitat County recently adopted a multi-hazard mitigation plan, the first of its kind to be done for the district.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires jurisdictions to develop and maintain such plans to remain eligible for certain funds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. What it does for the county is multifold, said County Emergency Management Director Jeff King.

King said the 330-page document, prepared in coordination with county and city staff, community partners, and contractor Northwest Management Inc. of Moscow, Idaho outlines potential disaster scenarios, including wildfires, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and mass casualty events,

and refines different projects that would help to mitigate disaster, the effects of potential disaster, and recovery efforts. It also makes the county and local jurisdictions eligible for disaster funds through federal programs.

King said another essential piece of the plan is the addition of information to the base of knowledge available for future planning and risk prevention. It highlights what resources are available to each participating agency, what hazards they need to consider, and strategies to mitigate risks to life, property, and infrastructure. King said the plan points to specific actions that can be taken to reduce risk. Number one on the list: establish more stations for emergency medical services.

"The three current EMS stations are not sufficiently covering the

county," the planning group wrote in the multi-hazard mitigation plan. They then go on to recommend the establishment of two stations, one in Glenwood and another in Wishram areas, to provide more coverage to the county, a cost estimated at \$1.25 to \$1.5 million each. The planning group also recommended further upgrades to emergency facilities, including installing backup generators and remodeling structures to adhere to seismic standards in case of such activity.

King said mitigation activities can help protect human life in the event of an emergency.

"You can't prevent everything, but there are things we can do to help ... We can make money available to drive mitigation efforts," King said.

The multi-hazard mitigation plan

took about five years to complete, King said, spanning nearly the entirety of his tenure as emergency management director for Klickitat County. King conceived of the idea to get the project started after two separate wildfires in the area occurred in 2015. If a multi-hazard mitigation plan were in place at the onset of the fires back then, the county would have been eligible for more than \$1 million in federal funds for mitigation activities, including fuel-reduction. Instead, those funds went back to the federal government, King said.

"That's what got the whole thing started," said King.

Klickitat County then contracted with Northwest Emergency Management Inc. and assembled a team of resource professionals, including city and county staff,

See **PLAN**, page 3

Man stabbed in TD

■ **By Emily Fitzgerald**
Columbia Gorge News



Jeremia James Kenick

A man is in custody for allegedly breaking the windshield of a car parked in The Dalles Bi-Mart's parking lot and stabbing the vehicle's occupant around 4:15 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17.

The victim, a 39-year-old man (name withheld by press), called 911 after an assailant, suspected to be Jeremia James Kenick, 29, broke the windshield of his truck while he was sleeping inside and stabbed him in the arm before fleeing. The victim followed Kenick and two others from the scene in his truck and met up with police near the overpass at 6th St. and Hostetler Way, where he received medical attention for his wound.

Kenick was arrested by The Dalles City Police and he is currently lodged at the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility (NORCOR). He faces charges of second and third degree assault and first degree criminal mischief, all felonies, and unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, a misdemeanor.

Council rules against 'The Grove'

■ **By Mark Gibson**
Columbia Gorge News

The Dalles City Council adopted a resolution granting the appeal of a 83 lot subdivision known as "The Grove," confirming their preliminary decision of Aug. 31 to deny the application submitted by Legacy Development LLC.

The decision reverses staff and planning commission approval of the project and passed on a vote of four to one on Monday, Sept. 14.

The proposed project is located off Richmond Street between E. 10th and 12th streets.

The question before the council was whether the resolution and attached findings reflect the council's decision on Aug. 31.

Voting against the approval was Councilor Darcy Long-Curtiss, who said she did not think the

See **GROVE**, page 2

CONTACT US AT
541-386-1234
541-296-2141

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