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WEATHER
CLOUDY IN THE GORGE:
60S IN HOOD RIVER,
WARMER IN THE DALLES



Zim's adult softball team wins regional championship. Page B1

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Mugen Noodle Bar opens — A9
The search for a home for homeless shelters in The Dalles, Hood River — B5

Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 Volume 1, Issue 28

\$1.00

Flagstone residents removed from facility

By Emily Fitzgerald
Columbia Gorge News

All residents of Flagstone Senior Living's Memory Care Unit have been transferred to COVID-19 units at outside facilities so the residents can receive 24/7 care and Flagstone can professionally clean and disinfect the Memory Care Unit, also known as The Atrium.

"Through this time, through the whole outbreak, we were working alongside the health department, who was giving us advice from the State of Oregon, and we were working on placement, getting

people, our residents, to the appropriate COVID units, so they could have some extra care during this time," said Tammy Doss, regional director of operations for Milestone Retirement Communities, which operates Flagstone Senior Living. Doss has been on-site at the Flagstone facility in The Dalles since the first week of the outbreak.

"The state helped assist with the outbreak at the Flagstone facilities by working with residents, families and the facilities to relocate COVID-19 positive residents to the state's contracted surge capacity facilities. By doing this, the

individuals who decided to move could recover from COVID-19 elsewhere and, in turn, help reduce workload for staff at the facilities as they are managing the outbreak," said Elisa Williams, communications officer with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)'s office of Aging and People with Disabilities.

Between Sept. 29 and Oct. 5, seven residents had been sent to one of ODHS's COVID-19 surge facilities, Pacific Health and Rehabilitation in Tigard, in order to comply with that state recommendation and ease the load at Flagstone.

By that Friday, Oct. 9, all remaining 10 residents from the Memory Care Unit had been transferred to the Emerson House in Portland, another ODHS surge facility.

"Pacific Rehab did not have the capacity to transfer all of our residents into their unit, and through our collaboration with the State and County Health Department, Emerson House became available, and we were able to use them," said Rosalyn Watson, executive vice president of clinical and compliance for Milestone.

See **CRISIS**, page 2



INSIDE LOCAL & STATE ELECTIONS

Oregon House, District 59 — **A10**
 Oregon House, District 52 — **A11**
 Washington House, District 14, Position 1 — **A13**
 HR City Council — **A14-15**
 Reminder: Ballots mailed Oct. 14 for the Nov. 3 General Election.
 Contact county elections office if you do not receive it by Oct. 20.



Wall Dog Artist Rick Scott of Portland adds details to the new mural facing city hall in The Dalles, above; photo courtesy Flora Gibson. Below, a well-worn wooden box holds a collection of paintbrushes. Mark B. Gibson photo

Wall Dogs color the Gorge

Painting teases next year's Mural Fest in The Dalles

By Jacob Bertram
Columbia Gorge News

You may have noticed some extra activity going on downtown The Dalles last weekend. If so, you probably caught a group of volunteers painting along the side of the Bohn-Wood building on the 100 block of E. Third Street, next to City Hall.

The volunteers were not painting just anything, though. This group of highly skilled sign painters and muralists belong to a group called the "Wall Dogs," a consortium of mural artists from around the world who take time off from their schedules and descend upon a city each

year to paint up to 15 murals in the community. This weekend, the group visited The Dalles to paint a "teaser mural," one that simply previews the best yet to come for the upcoming "Northwest Mural Fest," scheduled to occur Sept. 16-18, 2021, in The Dalles.

The Dalles Main Street Program is working with Wall Dogs to put together the murals as well as next year's festival. The work is funded through The Dalles Main Street Program as well as donations, according to Terry Chance, executive director of The Dalles Main Street Program. Chance said eight walls are currently under contract, and the program is seeking an additional seven walls to host additional murals.

The teaser mural depicts Wasco County's famous cherry industry, past and present, with an antique

mural and farm scenics. By creating the mural early, the group intends to build excitement for the 15 other murals they plan to paint around the city for next year's event.

Boise-based artist Noel Webber took on the work of creating the design, which was fine-tuned and

See **MURAL**, page 13



White Salmon sets 2021 city priorities

By Jacob Bertram
Columbia Gorge News

The City of White Salmon approved their policy priorities for the year 2021 at the latest city council meeting following the city's annual retreat.

The retreat takes place on a yearly basis, only this time it was hosted virtually through online conferencing platform Zoom because in-person meetings are not yet allowed under current reopening conditions with respect to the coronavirus. The meeting took place on Sept. 9 and the 2021 policy area priorities resolution was

confirmed by a unanimous vote of the city council on Sept. 16

"This is the clean slate where you guys (the city council) are giving us the direction of what's important and where you want to see your money and the community's money spent," said Mayor Marla Keethler at the retreat, opening the two-hour-long discussion.

The discussion makes sort of a pathway for city staff to follow when drafting a budget for next year, which will come across the desks of city councilors within the next month or so. Councilors debated during the two-hour discussion

different policy goals and their priority levels in terms of funding.

According to the priorities memo approved by city council, items added to the list of priorities include adding a position to the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department to "focus on social service issues," adding more city personnel for further code enforcement, researching funding options to develop street infrastructure, as well as reducing food waste at the landfill site and improving collection of recyclables. Other items have been budget priorities pointed out by councilors for over a year

since the last retreat. According to City Clerk/Treasurer Jan Brending, "A lot of that is stuff that is ongoing, has been ongoing from those 2019 priorities going forward." For example, the city is undergoing a lengthy update to the Comprehensive Plan as well as a review of the city's critical area ordinance and water system plan.

Aside from that, councilors made clear that new projects should be limited in resources required. As the city undergoes economic uncertainty stemming from the coronavirus shutdown, city councilors

See **PRIORITIES**, page 3



The Peace Pole above now stands at Waterfront Park in Hood River. Kitscht language of the Columbia basin, and Braille, are among the featured languages. Kirby Neumann-Rea photo

'Exactly what we need'

Rotary International dedicates newest Peace Pole in HR

By Kirby Neumann-Rea
Columbia Gorge News

MAY PEACE PREVAIL on earth.

From four sides, in nine languages, the message stands at the center of Hood River Waterfront Park.

"At this time, this is exactly what we need. Exactly what we need," said Hood River Mayor Kate McBride in dedicating the pole during a short ceremony Sept. 21.

The seven-foot white pole, with black lettering, joins four others sponsored over the past three years by Hood River Rotary International club, and the Peace Committee chaired by Rotarian Steve Schmidt.

The pole contains several languages new to any Hood River

See **PEACE**, page 3

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