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**NW Natural: Outage expected until Wednesday in HR — page B3**

**Weather**  
Chilly temps — rainy Christmas day — and sub-freezing nights in HR

# Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

Wednesday, December 23, 2020 Volume 1, Issue 37

\$1.00

## Dalles to max out shelters

By Mark Gibson  
Columbia Gorge News

Purchase and citing of a total of 18 Pallet emergency shelters for the homeless was given the go ahead by The Dalles City Council in a 3 to 2 consensus at the regular Council meeting Dec. 14. Twelve additional shelters will be purchased and installed just west of the six shelters currently in place on city property along Bargeway Road.

Additional CARES Act funding already allotted by the city included \$10,000 each for St. Vincent dePaul and Windy River Gleaners and \$5,000 for Point Man Ministries, all of which provide immediate needs assistance in the city. Remaining funds, which must be spent by the end of December, will be used to compensate the city's first responders, primarily the city's police department. That amount was estimated to be about \$250,000.

Councilor Darcy Long-Curtiss, who has been working on the emergency shelter project since its inception both as a council member and as a private citizen, said she was hoping to use some of the remaining CARES Act funding to max out available shelters at the city-owned site.

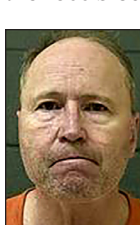
"I was hoping to use some of this funding for more shelters," Long-Curtiss told the council. "We have to do this isolation (using shelters) because of COVID-19. We would like to use some of these funds to max out our shelter capacity." She said the current site, which will be in place through March, has room for a total of 18 shelters. Six are currently in use,

See **SHELTERS**, page 9

## TD man indicted following stabbing

By Jacob Bertram  
Columbia Gorge News

A grand jury indicted a resident of The Dalles last Tuesday on multiple assault charges and unlawful use of a deadly weapon after a Dec. 4 stabbing at a residence on the 1900 block of W. 13th Street.



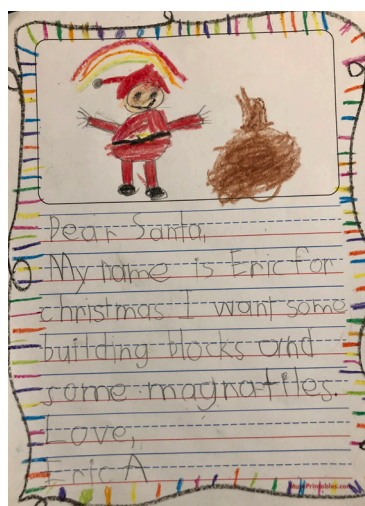
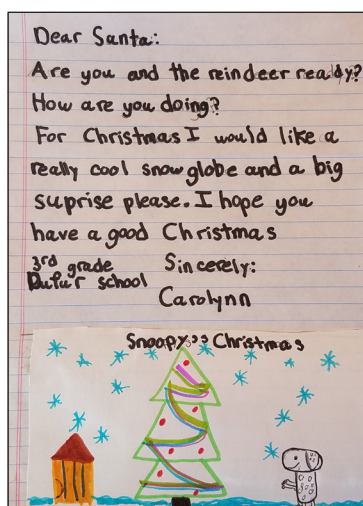
Clary Faro Parsons

Clay Faro Parsons, 63, was booked Dec. 9 at Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility and is being held on \$250,000 bond. A plea hearing is scheduled for Jan. 19 at 1:15 p.m.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, officers of The Dalles Police Department, aided by Wasco County Sheriff's deputies, responded to a report of a stabbing in West The Dalles at around 3:45 a.m., the morning of Dec. 4. According to the affidavit, Parsons was on the phone with dispatch stating he had stabbed the victim after he (Parsons) was accused of hitting on the victim's "women."

A witness told investigators he had not seen Parsons stab the victim, but did witness a struggle between Parsons and the victim, and after seeing him hold a knife, told Parsons to drop it and leave,

See **STABBING**, page 9



## Dear Santa...

Kids from throughout the region wrote letters to Santa Claus, some submitting them online to the Columbia Gorge News and others through a "Santa Mailbox" at the Hood River Chamber of Commerce. Above, a drawing by Malena of White Salmon; at left, an illustrated letter from Eric A. of Parkdale and far left, a Snoopy Christmas with Carolyn C. of Dufur. Find more letter inside, page B1.

## Businesses learning to cope with COVID

By Walker Sacon  
Columbia Gorge News

**F**IVE WOMEN WEARING down jackets and gloves spread out across a patio on May Street in Hood River. They lunge and squat as a child watches curiously from the back of a passing tandem bike.

Stephanie Adams leads the group with another 17 students following along online through the laptop resting on a stool in front of her. Adams closed Flow Yoga's downtown Hood River location in May after spending 17 years in the space where she settled down after traveling North America to teach.

Adams worked out an arrangement with Susan Sorensen of Columbia Gorge Dance Academy to rent part of Sorensen's space which had been closed to classes. The mutually beneficial arrangement allowed the studio to remain useful while giving Adams a place to host outdoor and online classes.

"Your muscles don't know numbers. They know fatigue!" Adams calls out, coaxing a few more reps from the class. During the pandemic, local businesses have known both. Adams said her business has made less than half of a normal year's income. She has been "constantly" researching precautions to take and has applied for "every grant that's out there." She said there have been several moments where she found herself considering giving up on the business.

"Maybe buy a gift card or a beautiful gift you wouldn't normally think about."

Lorraine Lyons  
64 Oz



Stephanie Adams, owner of Flow Yoga in Hood River, teaches a strength class outside the studio she shares with Columbia Gorge Dance Academy in Hood River, above. At left, Adams chats with students after a live-streamed strength training class. Students can join Adams and other Flow Yoga instructors online or outside the studio.

Walker Sacon photos



Hood River County Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Mary Ellen Holmes said many local businesses are struggling. "It's hard for a lot of people, and there's a lot of fear around losing businesses, for sure," Holmes said.

"I think people are really digging in to support each other, there's a good sense of community out there," she said.

The chamber has been hosting video meetings every Friday morning where entrepreneurs can share stresses or innovations with others in similar situations. Holmes said businesses have found creative ways to maximize revenue within

COVID-19 restrictions. Lorraine Lyons, who owns 64 Oz., said the pandemic has forced business owners "to do some very intense introspection on what makes their business profitable and what doesn't."

64 Oz. was one of several businesses in Hood River to put up "parklets," as a way to offer outdoor dining where none had existed before. The tables set in downtown parking spots led to a weeks-long battle with ODOT which Lyons said only ended when businesses rallied support from state legislators,

See **COPING**, page 3

## Bingen outbreak details emerge

By Jacob Bertram  
Columbia Gorge News

WHITE SALMON — COVID-19 cases are rising in Klickitat County, evidence which Mount Adams Fruit's management team is pointing to as a factor in the outbreak at the Bingen facility, which was announced Dec. 11.

Doug Gibson, vice president of Mount Adams Fruit, told *Columbia Gorge News* that the company began testing Dec. 10 after the team had expressed concern regarding the spread of the virus county-wide.

Upon recommendation and oversight by the Klickitat County Health Department, they tested around 200 employees, "just about everybody," Gibson said. According to Erinn Quinn, Director of Klickitat County Public Health, nearly all of the employees

See **OUTBREAK**, page 11

## Businesses seek to challenge restrictions

By Walker Sacon  
Columbia Gorge News

A group of businesses in Wasco County have been strategizing and preparing for a legal battle as they seek to challenge the governor's order restricting indoor gatherings due to COVID-19.

Todd Carpenter, who owns Last Stop Saloon in The Dalles, said an LLC — Wasco County Business Alliance — was formed Dec. 17 to retain an attorney and "assemble a defense fund for county and state-level lawsuits."

Carpenter said owners of at least seven other restaurants in The Dalles have discussed a potential legal challenge. He said businesses are forming a plan to open safely which they will present when they find the best legal avenue to do so.

"We opened safely for six months, why are we shut now?" Carpenter said.

Beachwood Eatery owner Ken Catlin said small businesses have been disproportionately impacted by restrictions. Catlin has been cooking at Beachwood while his wife and mother-in-law help handle orders. He said he has put the last of his savings into the restaurant's account, despite laying off staff to cut overhead.

See **BUSINESS**, page 2

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