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Weather  
Snowfall expected through  
the weekend, lows down to  
13 degrees

# Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

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\$1.00

## No trolls under this bridge

**Crews start demolishing section of I-84 in Hood River**

By Kirby Neumann-Rea  
Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER — Gnarled rebar and piles of gray rubble line the deck of the Interstate 84 bridge over the Hood River, where traffic serpentine past an unusual public works demolition project.

Carter and Company crews are working with Oregon Department of Transportation to knock into small pieces — down to dust, in fact — the 380-foot east-bound span of the freeway as it crosses the river. Part of the mostly-asphalt freeway, the concrete portion is technically a bridge and dates to the freeway construction in the 1950s.

See I-84, page 6



Supervisor Jim Califf with the largest of the holes on the Interstate 84 bridge deck, about 100 yards east of exit 63.  
Kirby Neumann-Rea photos

## Skier endures 'minor frostbite' following his rescue by Trout Lake locals

By Jacob Bertram  
Columbia Gorge News

A 17-year-old skier from Trout Lake survived after getting stranded in whiteout conditions on Mount Adams last weekend, thanks to emergency communications and navigations systems as well as the expediency of a group

of five mountaineers who braved the winter weather to make the climb through the night, find the skier, and bring him home.

All told, the ordeal lasted from Saturday afternoon to around 4 a.m. on Sunday, when the group found the skier and brought him back down the mountain.

Jacob Stock, the skier's

father, said his son had suffered a minor hit of frostbite to his wrist, a fortunate turn of events from what he most deeply feared on Saturday.

"To have my son back, it was very relieving," Stock said. "I know I could never thank those five guys enough. Their bravery, knowledge, and experience are unmatched."

The young skier had made his way up the mountain early the morning of Jan. 30 to do some solo skiing, Stock recalled.

"It was nice weather when he was up there. He turned around and from what he describes, the weather started to go in at one time and it felt like he had vertigo," Stock said. The

skier then posted up on the Lunch Counter approach.

Stock and his wife were snowmobiling in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest at the time the first beacon signal went out, around 1:30 in the afternoon. They were out of range to talk to him through their Garmin

See RESCUE, page 2

## Tech team connects students, teachers with distance learning tools

By Trisha Walker  
Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER — For Hood River County School District and the approximately 4,000 students it serves, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent switch to Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) that began last spring has meant a heavy reliance on technology — both access to devices and internet services — to maintain a new model of public education.

But for the district's Director of Technology Tod Hilstad and staff, this story begins much earlier than March 13, 2020, the last day HRCSD schools were open for in-person instruction.

"A few years ago, the community of Hood River voted to approve a bond and invest in its schools," said Hilstad. "Part of this bond included \$3 million to upgrade classroom instructional technology and computing devices for teachers and students."

The district decided to apply that money

towards student iPads, so when the pandemic hit, all students in grades 6-12 already had access to the devices; high schoolers were already allowed to take their iPads home before the pandemic, while K-8 students used them in classrooms. For CDL purposes, all iPads were checked out (and checked back in) for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, and again distributed at the start of

See TECH, page 11

**Daniel, a third grader at Parkdale Elementary and participant in Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) through Hood River County School District, with headphones purchased with funds donated by Hood River County Education Foundation.**  
Photo courtesy of HRCSD



### COVID-19

"Keep following the safety precautions — we are going to keep going, we are going to get there."

Mimi McDonell  
Wasco County Health Officer

## New COVID infections dropping

By Mark Gibson  
Columbia Gorge News

Wasco and Hood River counties are both on track to meet state in-person school metrics, and closer to moving from Extreme Risk to the High Risk category of pandemic restrictions.

If current coronavirus trends continue, Wasco County may meet the metrics for on site hybrid education as early as next week, with new positive cases dropping to 88 and a test positivity rate of 3.7 percent Jan. 17 through Jan. 30, the first or "warning" week of a two-week cycle, Health Officer Mimi McDonell told the Wasco County board of commissioners Feb. 3.

"The trend is going in the right direction, the trend is going down," she said.

See COVID, page 8

## Chaos coming

Senior vaccine eligibility begins next week

By Gary A. Warner  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — The gap between COVID-19 vaccine eligibility and availability will make for a chaotic start to age-based inoculations this week.

Beginning Monday, Oregon residents 80 and older became eligible to receive their first dose of the two-shot Moderna or Pfizer vaccines.

People over 80 have accounted for just over half of the 2,002 deaths from COVID-19 in Oregon.

But Gov. Kate Brown and Oregon Health Authority Director Pat Allen said demand vastly outstrips current supply. Allen told a House panel earlier this week that there are an estimated 168,000 people 80 and older in Oregon, which is currently receiving about 40,000 first-shot doses of the vaccine per week. This includes doses for those in earlier priority groups who haven't been inoculated yet. The required second doses are in a separate count.

It all translates to a building wave of frustration and

See SENIORS, page 8

## COVID-19 VACCINE INFO: How to get vaccinated

### Oregon

WHO	WHEN	WHERE	HOW
	80+ FEB. 8	Public vaccination clinics	<b>ONLINE</b> <a href="https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov">covidvaccine.oregon.gov</a> • Local events/links • Get Vaccinated Oregon registration/notification tool • Chat box <b>211</b> • text ORCOVID to 898211 • email: ORCOVID@211info.org • Call 211
	75+ FEB. 15	Local public health & tribes	
	70+ FEB. 22	Long term care facilities	
	65+ MAR. 1	Participating retail pharmacies	

### Washington

WHO/WHEN	WHERE	HOW
<b>Winter</b> • All people 65 years or older • All people 50 years or older in multigenerational households (home where individuals from 2 or more generations reside such as an elder and a grandchild)	Public vaccination clinics	WASHINGTON 1-800-525-0127 1-888-856-5816 <a href="https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/vaccine">https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/vaccine</a> <a href="mailto:covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov">covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov</a> text the word "Coronavirus" to 211211
	Local public health & tribes	
<b>Spring/Summer</b> • High-risk critical workers 50 years or older who work in certain congregate settings: Agriculture; food processing; grocery stores; K-12 (educators & staff); childcare; corrections; prisons, jails or detention centers; public transit; fire; law enforcement	Long term care facilities	 <b>Find out if it's your turn at FindYourPhaseWA.org</b>
	Participating retail pharmacies	

