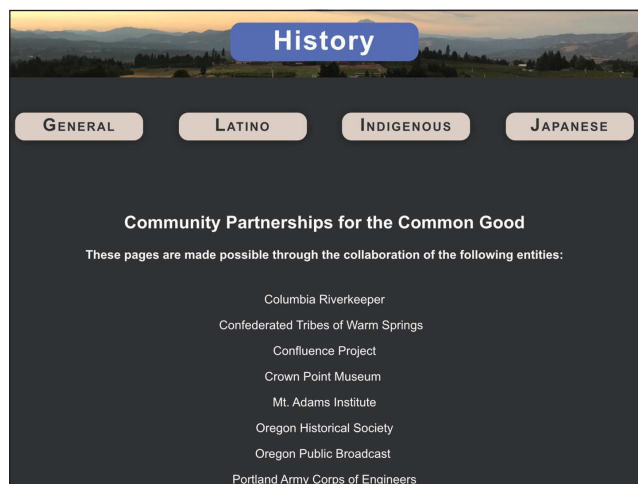


KidSpace

GORGE LEARNS



Screenshot from Gorgelearns.com, a new service of The History Museum of Hood River County. Ryan Zoellner photo

Winter play goes virtual



Hood River Valley High School's Performing Arts Department will broadcast its winter play, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned by Being in a Bad Play," via YouTube on Friday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.; login and donation information can be found at hrhstheatre.wordpress.com. The play features 10 actors, all of whom filmed their parts individually over the course of four weeks. Seen in this film still are actors Max Spears, Benjamin Bauman, Fiona Tesky Larsen and Ella Harvey. The play also features Seth Kelly, Abigail Rankin, Knox Foster and Yasmina Mayo, as well as HRVHS music teacher Dan Kenealy and guidance counselor Raenell Rafferty. Film still courtesy of Tay Lynne

HR Museum launches regional online educational tool

Last week, The History Museum of Hood River County launched its latest outreach effort: GorgeLearns.com.

The project is a website designed to connect people with educational resources from the Columbia Gorge region. Topics include history, music, art, and technology presented in short videos and lectures collected from local cultural institutions.

Samples include:
 ■ Lorena's story, and the Oregon Workers Relief Fund that sustained her and her family after her loss of agricultural work, and the work of The Next Door Inc. to provide funding to needy families, courtesy of donors.
 ■ Celilo Stories: Tribal members tell first-hand stories of the Columbia River and Celilo Falls before it was inundated by creation of The Dalles Dam.
 ■ Mt. Adams Insitue Vlog, videos of Gorge-wide wildlife and natural area conservation work, set to music.

The project came about as the "Capacity Building Initiative" of the museum's AmeriCorps volunteer, Ryan Zoellner. It was designed especially with older adults in mind — many of whom have been disconnected from cultural resources due to the pandemic. The website is built to be as accessible as possible, with explainers, easily navigable text boxes, and options for visual and auditory impairment accommodations.

While Zoellner handled the logistical details, much of the technical work was made possible through collaboration with web-designer Andy Wade, and staff at the museum. Despite temporary closures due to COVID, the museum hopes to continue to be a force for learning and engagement through efforts like this, according to Director Anna Goodman. Visit the site, GorgeLearns.com, or contact Zoellner at outreach.hrhm@gmail.com.

In a first, HR Museum gives students a virtual tour

Virtual tour explores local history

On Jan.22 The History Museum of Hood River County was able to make history of its own. Staff and volunteers hosted the Museum's first ever virtual tour.

The tour was given online for over 70 third grade students. Four classes from Cascade Locks and Westside schools gathered in their homes to learn about the history of innovation in the Gorge.

Later, students asked questions like: "How does the Museum get its exhibits?" "How old is the oldest artifact?" and of course, "Does the Museum have any dinosaur fossils?"

The tour covered much of the Museum's current exhibit "Ingenious! Creativity and Invention in the Gorge," which has been mostly unavailable for public viewing due to closures for COVID-19 safety.

The Museum has been closed since nearly the first lockdowns in March.

Virtual outreach has long been a goal for the History Museum.

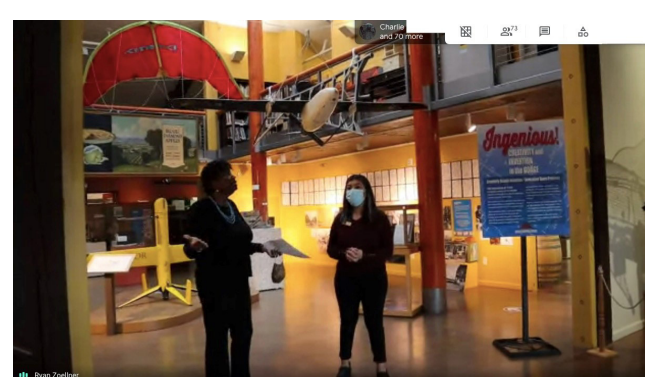
Funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust has made it



Evelyn Charity and Vanessa Banuelos lead the museum's first virtual tour. Screenshots by Ryan Zoellner

possible to do programs like this now and in the future, according to board chair Debby Chenoweth.

Evelyn Charity, a former teacher from Hood River Valley High School and museum board member, led students through the exhibit, accompanied by Museum associate Vanessa Banuelos. Ryan Zoellner, the Museum's Jesuit Northwest AmeriCorps



volunteer for outreach, provided technical support. Anyone who would like to schedule a tour with the

Museum contact staff at 541-386-6772 or info@history-museumhoodriver.com.

Williams takes helm at Chenoweth Elementary



Phil Williams

Phil Williams, currently vice principal at The Dalles High School, will be stepping in as the principal at Chenoweth

Elementary for the remainder of this school year following the immediate resignation of Monica Darnall, who had planned to leave at the end of the year, according to a press release from Interim Superintendent Theresa Peters.

Williams has more than a decade of administrative

experience at the elementary and secondary levels.

Peters said Darnall had previously notified staff and parents at Chenoweth Elementary that she would be resigning at the end of the year, but circumstances changed and due to personal reasons, she will be returning to her home in Utah immediately.

For the next five months, she will provide the district with consultation services regarding specialized programs, including Dual Language instruction.

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