## **THE PORCH**



ETRIE

Demographics, as told inside Brenna's Market, Mosier.

"Eyrie" is behind this sign in downtown White Salmon?

knows where the

Who



Pixan: Chrisoforo Devart of White Salmon painted this centerpiece art displayed in the White Salmon taqueria. Kirby Neumann-Rea photos



Pig-on-the-wing figurine, a near-twin of the Apple Valley BBQ symbol, was donated anonymously to the Parkdale restaurant last fall.

WELL SAID: "Democracy is the most difficult of all forms of government since it requires the widest spread of intelligence." — Historian Ariel Durant

WELL DONE: When a 70-foot pine tree fell in the wind across Plog Hill — the hairpin turn at where Dee Highway and Odell Highway meet — the Feb. 26 morn-ing traffic was backed up in both directions, and the serpentine nature of the roads meant something needed to happen quickly. Along came Juan Guzman of Guzman Towing, who pulled up and hooked the trunk that ODOT's Guy Mooney had cut away, and Guzman dragged the tree out of the way.

**RECYCLING 101:** "Please

using leaf blowers to send cinders off the sidewalks, filling the street with a blinding pink cloud ... lost masks, everywhere ...

**MİNIMALLY CIVIL:** In a restaurant in The Dalles, two men wear mini-masks of a kind we can only hope will not be a trend to stay: Strapped around their chins, with up-scooping plastic guards two inches from their mouths and barely covering their noses.

A TIME capsule of sorts hangs in White Salmon on the Estes Avenue exterior of the building that is now Umpqua Bank: Since 1981, the multi-panel map and business guide has become more and more weathered, some parts obliterated by sun, wind, and time. "Paper folding maps available inside" it reads, over ads for businesses such as Charburger, Shari's of Hood River, Schwigert's Old World Deli, Daisy Patch Floral, Tveidt's Sentry, Scandia Motor Lodge, and Meredith Hotel, all either closed, renamed or gone. SCANNER TALK: All-time great 9-1-1 description (italics mine): "RP (reporting party) said they saw a small ground fire, west-bound side of the freeway, no structures involved, about the size of five basketballs." (The fire was a permitted yard burn pile, attended by the owner.) **SEE IT, EVENTUALLY:** 

Blaine Fontana's mural surrounding The Hub building facing the north end of Laughlin Street in downtown The Dalles is worth a new look. "An Eventual Gathering" is a bright-ly-colored, richly-detailed two-story panorama of flora and fauna of the region, with Indigenous designs as well as barbed wire incorporated as a way to remind us of the arc of human habitation and influence in the Gorge. The mural, painted in 2018, wraps fully around the building. It is easily visible from the freeway but not so much from any other vantage, yet it demands to be appreciated up close. The mural would be a visual boon to anyone sitting at Sedition Brewery across the street. Fontana

will be featured in a show featuring Native American artists at Hood River's Columbia Center for the Arts in April along with Lillian Pitt, Sara Siestreem, and Joe Cantrell. You can see other murals done or coordinated by Villa in Mosier at the Century Link building and at Hood River Middle School, in the exterior alcove off the west courtyard of the campus. (Forgive my ignorance, as there are likely others.) LAST HURRAH: The

LAST HURRAH: The Porch ends its 20-year run with this edition. It's been a joy over the years to celebrate the underseen or underappreciated and rewarding and, in recent months, to expand its view to other communities of the Gorge.



Trout Lake: Long-abandoned phone booth mostly catches leaves now.



Dee Highway firewood sign, phrased to fit.



Eventual Gathering: Blaine Fontana's mural encompassing The Hub Building, at Laughlin and E. First streets, The Dalles.



put containers in the holes." The signboard at the Mt. Hood Town Hall recycling station puts recycling in the simplest of terms. Some people still need to be told.

SEEN AND HEARD: Remnants of the storm: In Hood River, a shattered truck tire and a pile of rusting truck chains along the fence at the ODOT yard on West Cascade ... Toddler on training wheels while Dad, barefoot, escorts him ... "The task before us is not as great as the power behind us" readerboard at Seventh Day Adventist Church in Hood River ... City of Hood River crew on both sides of State

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HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

Need exposure? Reserve this ad space one week in advance, and support this popular feature. Sales@GorgeNews.com had help from Toma Villa, Jeff Sheridan, and Jeremy Nichols. SAVE THE DATE: Speaking of Toma Villa, he

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Responses to this Porch welcome, however, at kirbyn@gorgenews.com. With thanks. Kirby Neumann-Rea

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