

# Easter Sunrise



Rev. Lea Mathieu of the United Church of Christ in The Dalles speaks from atop "Pulpit Rock" in The Dalles as the sun rises Easter day. The celebration was the 97th Community Easter Sunrise Service held at the rock, where work to establish a Methodist mission began in 1838. The annual service is sponsored by The Dalles Masonic Organizations. Donnamae Grannemann stands in front of Pulpit Rock in The Dalles as she leads hymns during the Community Easter Sunrise Service April 4. The event is sponsored by The Dalles Masonic Organizations. Accompaniment was provided by Organist Caroline Homer, the public address system by Hew Hillis. Event coordinator was Bob McNary. Mark B. Gibson photos

# Hangar approved, noise considered

■ By Gail Oberst  
For Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER — Plans for a new hangar and business building at the Ken Jernstedt Airfield two miles south of Hood River got the green light at the Port of Hood River's Board of Commissioner's meeting March 2. The commissioners held a special airport work session March 16 to discuss additional plans for the airport, including addressing noise complaints.

Commissioners approved paying architect Aron Faegre up to \$95,000 to design the structure and oversee construction. As proposed, the \$3 million building could be up to 27,000 square feet, including four bays and business space, according to Michael McElwee, port executive director. If the commission moves forward on construction, the hangar will be owned and managed by the port. The commission also discussed other sites at the airfield to lease land for the construction of hangars by private parties.

The port has seen \$11 million in improvements to the airport in the last eight years, including, in 2013, moving the runway further from Tucker Road, and adding a grass landing taxiway alongside the tarmac. The funds for planning and some improvements come from the Federal Aviation Administration,

with additional funds coming from Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Department of Aviation. The port is working on the details of a master plan that includes nearly \$5 million in projects over the next five years, including the new commercial hangar. The Port of Hood River has owned it since 1976.

Approximately 15,000 flights come through the airport annually. In addition, the airport is home to 100 aircraft stored in three-dozen T-hangar spaces, or tied down on the tarmac. TacAero offers self-serve fuel, flight school, private lessons, sight-seeing flights, aircraft rentals and mechanic services at the airport. The land has been an airstrip since 1946 and a hard surface airport since 1959.

Port staff and commission are currently working on an airport business plan. Hangar and land leases — almost \$200,000 annually — help pay for port staff, utilities, maintenance and other expenses.

## Beautiful nuisance

The growing popularity and improvements at the airport are not without challenges, especially as the airport is in a rural residential area. Noise complaints came to a head in 2016, spurring a year-long public outreach process followed by a "Fly

Friendly" program. The voluntary program aimed to reduce noise by alerting pilots to fly in a respectful manner around sensitive communities.

In 2020, at another community meeting, 164 residents made it clear that noise was still a significant issue.

In October last year, the Airfield Noise Workgroup identified several contributors to noise, including loud planes, planes flying low over residences, the amount, duration and pattern of plane traffic, orbiting (planes following other planes), and flights outside of normal business hours. Port commissioners asked the group to find solutions that would reduce the impact to residents.

The group suggested several actions that could be put in place, and some the required further investigation. Establishing voluntary best management practices for all operators, the fixed base operator (TacAero), lessees and

concessionaires, improving the noise complaint procedure, and considering noise implications during expansion planning were among top recommendations. Other recommendations that required more investigation included tracking specific flight operations, capturing data on low-flying planes, implementing a landing fee, and purchasing a quieter prop for the Hood River Soaring Club tow plane.

The commission approved referring voluntary best management practices to airport users and said they would consider the Noise Workgroup's recommendations as they make plans for the future.

McElwee said the Commissioners appreciated the lengthy and thoughtful efforts by a group of very dedicated people in the Noise Committee.

# Gorge economic planning forums underway

The five-county Mid Columbia Economic Development District has begun a series of virtual meetings, to be held over the next nine months, on planning for the Gorge economy.

The Strategy Development meetings will help inform MCEDD's 2022 Gorge-wide strategies for assisting local businesses.

To participate in the strategy development, visit [mcedd.org/strategy/get-involved](https://mcedd.org/strategy/get-involved).

Upcoming meetings will focus on the following areas:

April 28 — Demographics

and Data

May 26 — Sector Focus Areas

June 30 — Analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

July 28 — Vision and Goals

Sept. 1 — Strategies

Oct. 6 — Measuring Success, and Implementation

Nov. 5 — Annual Gorge Economic Symposium, with draft presented, and a "call to action," according to executive director Jessica Metta.

Contact MCEDD for assistance: [Jessica@mcedd.org](mailto:Jessica@mcedd.org), and 541-296-2266.

## EVOLUTION: BIOLOGICALLY IMPOSSIBLE #25

As you can see there are many examples that can be given from the biological functions of the body that should at least give some doubt that life came about bit by bit over millions of years. With your patience I want to give one more example using blood as a very good excuse that evolution is impossible. Once you honestly think about this so called process you can see the incredible difficulties that need be explained. Like enamel teeth "prove" evolution impossible so does blood clotting. If you had the courage this is a subject you could take some time to Goggle up. If you want to shake your little world upside down learn a little bit about blood clotting. Blood clotting is a process that would require millions of years to mutate into the blood. How many animals that cut them selves would die because their blood did not mutate the ability to clot for a million years? Clotting would need to be a property of blood immediately not in millions of years. Blood needs to hold to opposing properties at the same time. When to clot and when not to clot. Once again the concept that Darwin envisioned was from a broad outward surface view that did not take into consideration what we see today, microbiology. Biochemical investigation is the key. Asking questions and demanding satisfactory answers exposes the theory for what it is, an idea that "saves" men from any form of repulsive annoying controlling religion. Science or an excuse?

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# TRASH TALK



**Q.** Where do I need to take my old fridge, and is it free? Christine, Hood River

**A.** Christine, Old fridges and freezers (air conditioners too) need to be "de-commissioned", which means to remove the harmful Freon gas. Transfer stations do this. (Hood River Garbage and The Dalles Disposal). Cost is around \$35.

questions to:

**Tri-County**

Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program

(541)-506-2636 [www.tricountyrecycle.com](https://www.tricountyrecycle.com)

