

HRV seniors 'first' day



Hood River Valley High School senior Damian Trejo joins classmates on Thursday, April 8 — senior orientation day. School staff made signs and decorated the hallways, then cheered as students went to their first class. HRVHS began in-person instruction this week.

Dave Case photo

NEWS IN BRIEF



A firefighter sprays water on the Whiskey Creek Fire last week. Contributed photo

Campfire, debris pile spark wildfires

Oregon Department of Forestry firefighters responded to a pair of wildfires south of Hood River off Highway 35 last week.

ODF Public Information Officer Christie Shaw said "active fire suppression work" has been completed on both fires.

The Fir Mountain Fire was reported the afternoon of Monday, March 5 about 11 miles down Fir Mountain Road. Growth was stopped at 5.8-acres, according to Columbia Dispatch's website. Shaw said in an email the fire was caused by an abandoned campfire and has been placed in "check status," meaning crews are returning to the fire periodically to check for smoke and heat.

Shaw said The Whiskey Creek Fire was an escaped burn on Tuesday, April 7 which responders handed off to the landowner the next day after favorable weather overnight left minimal fire activity to be mopped up.

Resources from ODF's The Dalles Unit, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Wy'East Fire, Hood River Fire, Parkdale Fire and Mosier Fire responded, according to ODF Central Oregon's Facebook page.

Zoom until at least June 1.

- The Fire Museum and Veteran Museum at City Hall will be open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- City Hall offices will be open by appointment only Monday through Thursday. Call ahead to arrange an appointment with the respective department: Community Development/Planning: 541-296-5481 Ext 1125; Finance/Utility Billing, 541-296-5481 Ext 1111; Traffic Court, 541-296-5481 Ext 1124; City Manager/City Clerk, 541-296-5481 Ext 1119; Human Resources, 541-296-5481 Ext 4448.

Masks and social distancing required.

Skyline Health offers Department of Transportation CDL medical exams

WHITE SALMON — Skyline Health Medical Clinic is now offering DOT (Department of Transportation) CDL physicals for the convenience of Gorge area truck drivers. This exam tests vision and hearing impairments, blood pressure, blood sugar and drug use. Successful completion of the exam provides commercial drivers with the Medical Examiner's Certificate needed when on the road.

"We are thrilled to offer this additional health care service to Gorge residents," said Bobbi Sloan, Skyline Health Medical Clinic director.

Since the DOT physical is required for commercial truck drivers, individuals should schedule the exam before their old certificate expires.

To schedule an appointment contact Skyline Health Medical Clinic at 509-637-2810. The clinic is accepting new patients, and offers in-person and virtual visits. Walk-ins and same-day appointments are welcome. The clinic is following all COVID-19 safety protocols for the protection of its patients and providers.

April is Distracted Drivers Awareness Month

April is Distracted Drivers Awareness Month, said Hood River Chief of Police Neal Holste in a press release.

"Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system," he said. "It is anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving."

Holste said that a person cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has their full attention. In 2019, 3,142 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

"The ultimate goal is to educate the public of the dangers of distracted driving," said Holste.

Child, 2, drowns in White River near Tygh Valley

A 2-year-old died in a drowning incident last week in the White River near Tygh Valley.

According to Wasco County Sheriff's Office activity logs, the child wandered away from view in the afternoon of April 6. A half-hour later, a neighbor reported the child missing.

Wasco County Sheriff's deputies responded to the incident. Life Flight responded as well as K-9 patrol from Klickitat County Sheriff's Office. The K-9 unit from KCSO was contacted minutes later to stand down when agents found the child in the river.

The child was transported to Mid-Columbia Medical Center and succumbed to injuries, an official from Wasco County Sheriff's Office said.

City of The Dalles opens for limited in-person visits

Beginning April 5 new hours and services were available at The Dalles City Hall, according to a press release.

Current schedule plans include:

- Traffic Court will continue to be held via

The Dalles-Wasco County Library welcomes Carole Lindstrom

By Kelsie Cowart
For Columbia Gorge News



Author Carole Lindstrom

of the highest distinctions in children's literature.

According to "Library Happenings," the Wasco County Library District Newsletter, the events will include "a reading of 'We Are Water Protectors,' a discussion about the book, and a Q&A with the author. Attendees will also have a chance to win an autographed book."

To register for the virtual event, visit wascocountylibrary.com/we-are-water-protectors, where you can choose to attend either the 1 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. presentation.

The Dalles Wasco County Library will hold a virtual meeting with New York Times Best Selling Author in Literature for young people, Carole Lindstrom, author of the children's book "We Are Water Protectors," April 22. Lindstrom is Anishinaabe/Métis, as well as an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe, and according to the author's website, was inspired by Standing Rock and other Indigenous-led movements to write this book urging the protection of the Earth's water and other natural

resources.

The recent winner of the Jane Adams Children's Book Award, the Golden Kite Award for Picture book Text, as well as the Caldecott Medal, "We are Water Protectors," has earned some

SBA Economic Injury Disaster loans available to small businesses

Hood River, Wasco and Klickitat counties eligible

Small non-farm businesses in 12 Oregon counties and neighboring counties in California and Washington are now eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, announced Director Tanya N. Garfield of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West.

These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought in the following primary counties that began March 15.

Primary Oregon counties include Wasco; neighboring Oregon counties include Hood River, Gilliam, and Sherman counties; and neighboring Washington county includes Klickitat.

"SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster," Garfield said.

Small non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit



organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

"Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage."

"These loans have an interest rate of 3 percent for businesses and 2 percent for private nonprofit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years and are available to small businesses and most private nonprofits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Garfield said.

By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster.

The secretary declared this disaster on March 12, 2021.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Agricultural enterprises

should contact the Farm Services Agency about the U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance made available by the secretary's declaration.

However, nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance in drought disasters.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at disasterloanassistance.sba.gov.

Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call 800-877-8339.

Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for economic injury is Nov. 12.



Joyfully Celebrating In Joyful Remembrance

Willa Jane (Wolff) Varner's

March 23, 2021 95th Birthday

1000 Vey Way #356,

The Dalles, Or 97058

541-296-6334

Kenneth Edward Varner's

March 26, 2021 100th Birthday

(Born 3/26/1921 - Died 2/14/2014)

Originally from Pennsylvania, Ken and Willa moved with their 2 children to Astoria, OR after Ken's WWII service in the Navy. They had 3 more children and raised their family at 1861 8th Street for 20 years (1948-1968). Then, 53 years ago, the family moved to The Dalles, residing at 1315 East 19th Street. Later, Ken and Willa moved into an independent apartment when The Springs at Mill Creek opened and Willa lives there today.

Ken and Willa raised 5 amazing kids: Willa (Janie), Marge, Donna, Phyllis, and Kenny. Ken was the Electrical Supervisor at the John Day Dam and Willa worked as a Safeway checker to help fund college. Education was very important in our family. We were blessed with wonderful parents for whom family was paramount. We love them very, very much & they remain role models for us, our spouses, and grand to great, great grandchildren.

Happy 95th & 100th Birthdays, Mom & Dad!



Restaurant GUIDE

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Family friendly. Extensive breakfast & lunch menus. Organic eggs, omelets made with love, pancakes, waffles, skilletts, eggs benedict, organic coffee, espresso, soups, salads, sandwiches, hamburgers. Full bar available

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541-386-1127 | eggrivercafe.com

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Sun. -Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.,

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Only \$0.10 a word with a 25 word minimum- To add your restaurant, email sales@gorgenews.com

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