

EDUCATOR Everyone was scrambling

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Dowsett said some students who had issues with attendance during virtual classes have been showing up every day since the building's doors opened back up to students. She said social distanced classrooms of 11 or 12 kids have cut down on time in class but allow teachers to check in with each student individually.

Ramsey, who received his master's degree in a hybrid program that met in-person one weekend a month, said he helped other teachers get familiar with distance-learning programs and asked more experienced teachers for tips on keeping curriculum fun and engaging.

He completed his student-teaching in 2019 at Chenoweth Elementary School before getting a job at St. Mary's, which he finished back in the virtual space when the pandemic reached the U.S. last year.

His interview for the CWES position was conducted via webcam — from the maternity ward where his wife had just given birth.

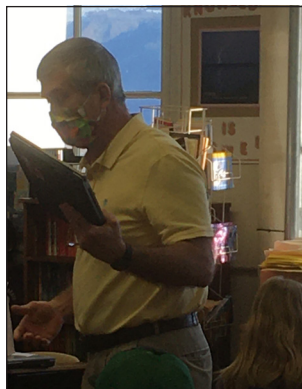
"I had to run home and grab a collared shirt. I tucked it into my sweatpants and turned the camera for the best light," Ramsey said.

"I think how long I had been awake calmed me down because I'm usually nervous for those kinds of things," he said. Ramsey said the uncertainty eased his



Above, Colonel Wright Elementary School teachers Abigail Timmons and Destin Ramsey pose at a curbside Halloween "packet pick-up." At right, Timmons and teacher Steve Chance are pictured in their classrooms at CWES recently after students returned to the building.

Contributed photos



new-job-anxiety. "The cool thing, for me, was that everyone was scrambling as I was starting, not just me."

Dowsett said staff have settled into a cycle of planning and replanning as case numbers and guidelines fluctuate. She said they no longer

set their sights on "hopefully back to normal" dates. At least one of their previously tossed-out schedules has come back around and ended up in use. Chance said staff have continued searching for best-practices and "Band-Aids" for problems as they arise, but ultimately

there will be no real resolution until everyone is back in school. He hopes next year's fifth graders will again end the year with an all-nighter in the school gym.

"There's things like that that're so much a part of being in school that we don't get to do," Chance said.

TOURISM 64 ship stops canceled in 2020

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staff.

COVID-19 was not the only culprit threatening tour ship visits. The port this year repaired dry rot damage to a beam on the south section of the Event Site Dock, making it ship shape just in time for tours to resume.

If state and county officials approve American Cruise Lines' COVID protocols and operating procedures, the first tour stop in Hood River could be as early as May 8, Scholl said.

The cruise ships canceled 64 stops in 2020, eliminating the port fees and local business that accompany them. Typically, cruise ship operators pay the port \$200

per visit plus utility charges. Despite cancellations, American Cruise lines paid its \$6,000 infrastructure 2020 fee, as well as the 2021 fee that helps maintain the Marina Jetty. This year, American is slated to visit Hood River 34 times, and Lindblad, 16.

Businesses that are set to operate this year on the Hood River Waterfront include five kiteboarding shops, two food concession stands, and four lesson and rental services for people interested in windsurfing, kayak, stand-up paddleboarding and kiteboarding. The businesses are also open to locals and visitors not associated with cruises. A copy of the American Cruise Line safety protocols is at www.americancruiselines.com/account/covid-19-operating-protocol; Lindblad's protocols can be viewed at www.expeditions.com/covid-protocol.

Aman leads CHS's all-Trico volleyball selections

Columbia High senior Mya Aman was selected by league coaches to the second team Trico League volleyball all-star team.

Teammates Sofia Larson and Hannah Polkinghorn

were honorable mention picks for the Bruins.

Co-players of the year were Rachel Gallagher of Goldendale and Tiffany Chandler of La Center.

ANOTHER VOICE

Former Rotary exchange students share experiences

By Pamela Zachary Morneault
White Salmon-Bingen Rotary

The White Salmon-Bingen Rotary club appreciates the article in the March 17 issue of Columbia Gorge News. Our youth exchange program is quite unusual for a club our size and is recognized both in our district as well as larger circles. The unique three-year process starts with selection, assimilation with Rotary and other "outbounds" for a year and then the year abroad, finally returning home to another year of high school and sharing their experiences.

The current use of Zoom, as well as a connection with some of the students sent out in the mid '90s and early 2000s have created opportunity to "bring them back."

We have been pleasantly overwhelmed with these initial responses, describing their lives since their exchanges and gratitude for the opportunity.

Emma Pfister

Emma Pfister went to Chile in 1996. She quickly adapted by learning Spanish and finding a second home and family that she loves to this day.

She has used these skills

throughout her career in humanitarian work world wide, even picking up other languages to aid in placements at UNICEF USA, Water for People and now World Vision International on their disaster management team at an initiative they lead with Save the Children and Oxfam (three of the largest world aid organizations).

In addition to communication, she gained a love for a continent, as her career has been largely based in Latin America.

Her passionate work has also taken her to Africa, the Middle East and India. Emma continues to be supporting of the most vulnerable populations, especially during difficult times.

She is presently in the Gorge, volunteering at Skyline Hospital in their vaccination efforts.

Tabitha Trospen Voeller

Tabitha Trospen Voeller traveled to Mexico in 1997. For the first time in her life, she felt that she had "won something" and was

simultaneously thrilled and frightened.

Her large city had very different terrain, weather and customs and she had rudimentary use of the language at first.

Rotary, at that time, required a period of no phone contact with home, after a required call upon arrival. She felt a higher degree of independence, all within Rotary guidelines.

She speaks of feeling overwhelmed with her peers' perceptions of Americans and of experiencing "privilege" for the first time, which has shaped her life perspective.

In addition, the culture shock of returning home fueled a desire to attend college, major in geology and receive a master's degree in geologic sciences.

She has spoken at numerous conferences and returned to Mexico to work on special projects.

Her life now is in Anchorage, Alaska, where she has worked for geotechnical engineering firms.

She and her husband have two small children.

Carol Morneault Alcock

Carol Morneault Alcock left for the Philippines in 1999.

She had a particular



Pamela Zachary Morneault

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