

# Youth Pfizer vaccine event Friday night

## "Friday Night Lights" on April 23

On Monday, all Oregonians 16 and older become eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, and on Friday, April 23, a Pfizer vaccine clinic for 16-17 year olds and their families is set at Wahtonka Field in The Dalles from 4-8 p.m.

The vaccine is safe, effective, and free, according to North Central Public Health, which is organizing the clinic.

Dubbed "Friday Night Lights!" the Pfizer event, will feature music, free pizza, and prizes. The Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine authorized for those 16 and older. North Central Public Health District also has the Moderna vaccine, which is authorized for those 18 and older.

To sign up for the Pfizer event visit [www.ncphd.org/](http://www.ncphd.org/) to book your own

appointment or call 541-506-2600 if you need assistance. The health district also has openings for Moderna clinics next week. The Pfizer event has 240 slots and they are likely to fill fast. Wasco County has 34 percent of the population vaccinated, and vaccination is the best tool to end the pandemic. The county is seeing a third surge in cases, and hopes are that increasing vaccination rates will blunt the effect of the surge. It is still important to wear a quality mask, keep distance, ensure indoor spaces are well ventilated, and avoid gatherings.

For more information, visit COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon, contact North Central Public Health District at 541-506-2600, visit [www.ncphd.org](http://www.ncphd.org) or find them on Facebook.



A ground squirrel appears to be struggling to position a face mask over its nose while foraging at Sorois Park in The Dalles. In reality, the squirrel was working a strip of paper torn from a food bag between its jaws. It then carried it away to its underground burrow nearby. Mark B. Gibson photo

# Hood River bridge repairs scheduled; replacement plans move forward

By Gail Oberst  
For Columbia Gorge News

While a new bridge awaits funding amid a flurry of meetings, studies and reports, the nearly century-old Hood River/White Salmon Interstate Bridge will get some needed repairs this year.

April 26-30, testing and repairs to the lift span, which allows ships to pass under the bridge, is expected to delay traffic for up to 30

minutes or more depending on traffic, according to Genevieve Scholl, Special projects manager for the Port of Hood River. Up to six lifts are planned April 27, but work crews will be on the bridge between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Port commissioners this month also approved engineering in preparation for resurfacing the approach ramps on each side of the bridge, as well as funds for

underwater inspections of the structure.

"We want to keep the current bridge safe and operational until the new bridge is in place," said Michael McElwee, executive director. At the same time, commissioners are limiting repairs to "all but the necessary" until they secure funding for the new bridge.

"If we don't get it," said Fred Kowell, the port's chief financial officer, "we've got another set of problems."

Last month's state-imposed weight limits to the old bridge — reduced from 80,000 to 64,000 pounds for some vehicles — prompted commissioners to review of potential tests and repairs needed to restore the current structure to former weight limits. The limits have already impacted local and interstate truck traffic, including farmers and construction contractors, commissioners said.

The future for a new bridge remains murky until funding is in hand — estimates place costs at \$330-390 million or more to remove the old and build the new bridge. Despite the lengthy process, the environmental and land-use studies, required for permitting and federal clearance, may be completed in November. The port

staff is also applying this month for transportation and stimulus fund grants to support continuing bridge work, and commissioners discussed opportunities for funding in President Biden's proposed infrastructure bill. The Bi-State Working Group, of which the port is a part, April 13 considered preliminary bridge design and finance details. Port staff listed more than a dozen meetings planned this month aimed at forwarding the bridge's progress. Since 2018, the port has spent \$2.7 million in grant funds from the state of Oregon on environmental work. For more about the preparations, visit the port's webpage, [portofhoodriver.com/bridge-bridge-replacement-project](http://portofhoodriver.com/bridge-bridge-replacement-project).

Commissioners mulled other details April 6 at its

spring planning meeting, among them, the potential loss of toll income when the new bridge is in place.

By 2029, if the new bridge is in place and operational, the Port may lose an estimated of \$1.7 million per year in toll revenues, according to a report from consultant Steven Siegel.

Siegel was hired to help commissioners make plans to offset potential losses. This year, the commission has already approved some measures to shore up its future budget. Paid parking on the waterfront and increasing building and hangar lease rates are among the measures.

The port plans to adopt its 2021-22 budget by June 15.

# Register now for May 18 election

Tuesday, April 27 is the last day to register to vote in the May 18 special district election.

Citizens can register to vote or change their political party affiliation for the upcoming election through April 27. Oregon residents are encouraged to participate by registering or updating their current voter information.

Visit the Wasco County Elections or Hood River County web page to find links to register online, or go to [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov).

You can also download and print a paper registration to mail or turn in at your county clerk's office.

The Wasco County Courthouse is located at 511 Washington St., Suite 201 in The Dalles. Call the elections

office at 541-506-2530 if you need assistance.

Hood River County residents can contact the Hood River County Courthouse, or call 541-386-1442 to schedule an appointment. The Hood River County Courthouse is located at 601 State St., Hood River.

\*\*\*  
Abril 27 es el ultimo día para registrarse para las elecciones especiales de distrito de mayo

El martes, abril 28 es el ultimo día para que los ciudadanos se registren para votar o cambien su afiliación a un partido político para las próximas elecciones especiales de distrito de mayo. Se anima a todos los residentes Del condado de Wasco a participar registrándose o

actualizando su información de votante actual. Visite la página web de elecciones Del condado de Wasco ([www.co.wasco.or.us/departments/clerk/voter\\_registration\\_and\\_absentee\\_ballots.php](http://www.co.wasco.or.us/departments/clerk/voter_registration_and_absentee_ballots.php)) para encontrar enlaces para registrarse en línea o visite [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov). También puede descargar e imprimir un registro en papel para enviarlo por correo o entregarlo en la oficina del secretario del Condado de Wasco County.

La oficina Del secretario Del condado está localizada en la corte de Wasco County: 511 Washington Street, Suite 201, The Dalles, OR 97058

Si necesita asistencia, llame a la oficina de elecciones al 541-506-2530.

## CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT CLASS

Valid in 35-States, including Washington

Shaun Curtain  
360-921-2071

or email: [ShaunCurtain@gmail.com](mailto:ShaunCurtain@gmail.com) | [www.ShaunCurtain.com](http://www.ShaunCurtain.com)

## April 24th

Shilo Inn  
3233 Bret Clodfelter Way  
The Dalles



Class at 9 AM  
SPACE IS LIMITED

Oregon Only \$45 Multi-State \$80  
Oregon Included No Fee

# Restaurant GUIDE

## EGG RIVER CAFÉ

"Breakfast of champions" - New York Times

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

Open daily, 6am-2pm  
1313 Oak St., Hood River  
541-386-1127 | [eggrivercafe.com](http://eggrivercafe.com)

## HOOD RIVER TAQUERIA MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Featuring fine authentic Mexican food and cocktails. Spacious outdoor seating. Closed Tuesdays

Sun. -Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.,  
Fri. - Sat. 9:30 am to 10 pm  
1210 13th St., on the Heights,  
Hood River | 541-387-3300

Only \$0.10 a word with a 25 word minimum-  
To add your restaurant,  
email [sales@gorgenews.com](mailto:sales@gorgenews.com)

Advertise your restaurant here!

L A Z BOY | ComfortStudio

# LIMITED TIME SAVINGS

We are all about comfort.



Cuddle up in the new styles for your home all at very comfortable prices.

# Downey Furniture

Downtown The Dalles | 541-296-2871

Our store is a clean and sanitized shopping environment.