

INDEX

Classifieds	B10-11
History	B6
Kidspace	B16
Obituaries	A7
Opinion	A4-6
Police, Sheriff Logs	B4-5
Public Notices	B8-9, B14
Senior Living	B3
Sports	A13-15, B15
What's Happening	B7



WS sixth grader wins \$5,000 for her classroom — Kidspace, B16

Home and Garden — Inside

Local election candidates — A13-14, A15

Sports — A13-15, B15

Weather
Warm and breezy through the week. Showers possible starting Fri. Weekly high of 82 across the Gorge.

Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 Volume 2, Issue 4

\$1.00

COVID-19



Volunteer nurse Kathy Schwartz prepares to give Becca Richelderfer her first COVID-19 vaccine shot during a Pfizer clinic held at the The Dalles High School's Wahtonka Campus Friday afternoon. At right, volunteer Eleanor Lemann walks a student through the sign-up process. The vaccine was offered to those as young as 16. Mark B. Gibson photos



Vaccination campaign launches in TD

By Walker Sacon
Columbia Gorge News

Mid-Columbia Senior Center, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce and North Central Public Health District have launched a campaign in hopes of increasing COVID-19 vaccination numbers in Wasco County, MCSC Communications Specialist Rachel Harrison said last week.

After the three groups met

and discussed the idea, they reached out to Columbia Gorge Community College, The Dalles and Wasco County which all joined the campaign as partners.

Chamber Director Lisa Farquharson said businesses are among the first to suffer when case numbers rise. She said not meeting state-mandated thresholds locally is "letting businesses down."

Farquharson said individuals doing their part to keep case numbers down

— regardless of their political views and beliefs about COVID-19 — help Wasco County's businesses face less restrictions.

NCPHD Interim Director Shellie Campbell said there are plenty of vaccine doses available in Wasco County at this point. She said individuals getting the vaccine are playing their part in reaching herd immunity, which will ultimately end

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 6

Plans reviewed for downtown Recreation Building

By Rodger Nichols
For Columbia Gorge News

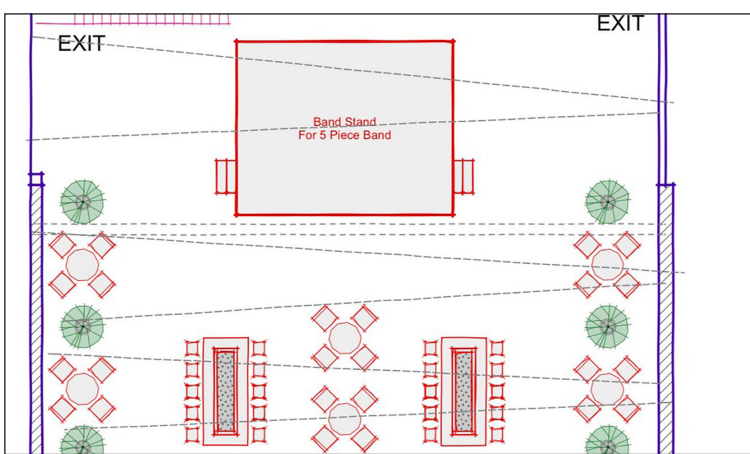
THE DALLES — If you've been wondering what new businesses are planned for the renovation of the old Recreation Building, at least part of the answer was revealed at the April 20 Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Area board meeting.

Todd Carpenter and Carla McQuade, who upgraded the old Vault building into the Last Stop Saloon, bought the Recreation property some time ago, and have been working on gutting and rebuilding it. Carpenter had this to share with the agency:

"We'll try to bring in an artisan co-op or a craftsman co-op,

something like they have in Hood River of a bunch of artists to be in there — some kind of made-in-the-Gorge, made-in-The-Dalles kind of thing for travel and tourism. The downstairs side, the furthest east area where the old archery range was, can only be used for storage. Under the middle building, the Horn Saloon, we've got that pegged as a recreation-type facility, so billiards or an arcade, a family-friendly kind of thing for the community."

Back at the sidewalk level, they plan an ice cream and candy shop, a sweet topping to the story. Look for work on the next phase to begin as early as next week, with completion by the end of the year.



An outdoor bandstand and dining area are planned for the former "Recreation Building" downtown The Dalles adjacent to the Last Stop Saloon on Second Street. The existing building would be removed. Contributed graphic

HR County rules change development timelines

By Gail Oberst
For Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER — The Hood River County Commissioners are mulling additions to the county zoning ordinance that could extend timelines for some land-use permits, while curtailing the number of extensions that could be allowed for developers to complete projects.

While most land-use permits would be limited to six years under the new proposed rules, the ordinance could allow an additional extension in extraordinary circumstances, such as delays in obtaining state or federal permits.

Currently, the county's process allows an indefinite number of extensions to complete a project, giving developers time to address unforeseen environmental, community or even their own appeals, some of which can take years.

The new rules aim to clarify the process for developers and for staff as they consider requests to extend

See **TIMELINES**, page 3

GORGE LOCAL — EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

'Classroom engagement' new normal for teachers

By Walker Sacon
Columbia Gorge News

THE DAYS OF "CLASSROOM management" as students distracted each other with side conversations gave way to seeking "classroom engagement" for teachers at Columbia High School during the pandemic, English and social studies teacher Kelly Hume said.

Math teacher Jenna Mobley said she was, at times, teaching to a virtual classroom populated with black boxes as students weren't required to leave their webcams on.

Science teacher Amie Ell said one teacher put it best, saying "she was like a stand-up comedian for her house plants."

Ell said students communication skills and ability to connect with one another seemed "repressed" when they did return to in-person learning.

Ell taught through a video screen with a substitute in the room for the first three weeks of the return until receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. She

"We really didn't have a map going forward. I think we just sort of left a trail behind us."

Peter Knowles
Columbia High School teacher

said she asked students if it was "this quiet in all of your classes," when she returned to the classroom. Students nodded.

"I said, 'Do you guys want to work on some skills for getting more comfortable talking with each other again?'" Ell said. "I thought, 'Oh, they're going to be like oh that old lady she's so weird,' but their smiles and their nods were huge under their masks."

Ell, Mobley, Hume and social studies teacher Peter Knowles worked together on several committees to plan for this year. Knowles said this year has, in a way, allowed teachers to "start from scratch" and think about what parts of "the old way" should be left



Amie Ell, Peter Knowles, Jenna Mobley and Kelly Hume stand outside Columbia High School on April 21. Contributed photo by Sydney Thornton

behind. "I think that's an opportunity to restructure how we all think about what it is we're trying to do while we're doing this thing called 'school,'" Knowles said.

Hume said the past year has particularly changed the way she looks

at assessing students' understanding of material. In her classroom, the days of multiple choice tests on paper are gone, she said.

"A lot of my assignments now, they have the ability to either type

See **ENGAGEMENT**, page 3

Contact Us at
541-386-1234
541-296-2141

delivery/Subscribe@gorgenews.com
news tips/ORnews@gorgenews.com
or WAnews@gorgenews.com
place an ad/Sales@gorgenews.com

Stay connected
Facebook.com/columbiagorgenews
Twitter.com/gorge_news

