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Weather
Heat advisory in place until Thurs. evening - high 90s on Wed. Weekend to cool down with chance of showers Sun.



Odell student heading to Harvard for Ph.D. — A6
www.columbiagorgenews.com/enespanol

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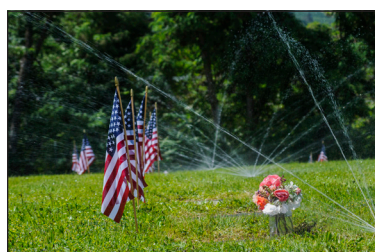
Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

Wednesday, June 2, 2021 Volume 2, Issue 8

\$1.00

Remembering The Fallen



Members of White Salmon American Legion Post 87 and Carson Legion Post 137 present the colors, with honor guard, above, during a veterans memorial ceremony on Memorial Day, May 31, at the White Salmon Cemetery on Snowden Road (Mark B. Gibson photo). Gorge communities honored veterans in a variety of ways over the weekend: At left, top to bottom, some scenes from the weekend: Flags wave in the morning at Idlewilde Cemetery, Hood River, as visitors prepare graves (Trisha Walker photo); A family cleans up and decorates a grave at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in The Dalles amid sprinklers and flags (photos courtesy Flora Gibson).

Residents challenge HR 'middle housing' codes

By Gail Oberst
For Columbia Gorge News

Unhappy with “Middle Housing” changes to Hood River’s zoning and building codes, Brian Towey and four other city residents say they will appeal the city’s decisions to a higher court. The City of Hood River did not give residents adequate notice for the March 8 public hearing on the new codes, Towey said in “Intent to File,” an appeal to Oregon’s Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA), the state’s highest tribunal for land-use decisions. As of publication, LUBA had received, but not yet agreed to hear, the case.

Hood River Mayor Kate McBride said she welcomed LUBA’s opinion.

“In addition to holding more than 14 public meetings on this particular legislation (between the Planning Commission and the City Council), we received

See **CODES**, page 2

Columbia High School students win first for communication invention

By Jacob Bertram
Columbia Gorge News

A group of six Columbia High School students invented a device, through extracurricular work with local afterschool program Gorge MakerSpace, that helps a third-grade student with a speech disorder communicate in the classroom. The invention scored the group first place May 16 at Project Invent’s Demo Day, an annual convention where student groups across the country pitch original invention ideas to industry leaders and compete for funding to further invest in their creation.

The group, composed of juniors Dylan Durand, Madison Swanson, CC Ahrens, Cin Ahrens, Wyatt Sheaves, and sophomore Henry Kirkwood, won the grand prize of \$1,000 for further development of their invention. The students introduced their device in a five-minute presentation to panelists and answered questions about their design process.

“I am super beaming with pride,” Gorge MakerSpace founder Jack Perrin said of the students. “There are lots of really natural-born leaders in this group.”

The students have been working since last fall under the mentorship of Perrin to create something tangible that would solve a need for someone in the community. Enter Aiden Dennis.

Aiden has a speech disorder called Childhood Apraxia of Speech. According to the Mayo Clinic, children diagnosed with Childhood Apraxia of Speech, or CAS, have difficulty making accurate movements when speaking.

“As a result, he often knows what he wants to say,” but can struggle with verbalizing his thoughts, often only able to speak one or two words at a time, the students told the panelists.

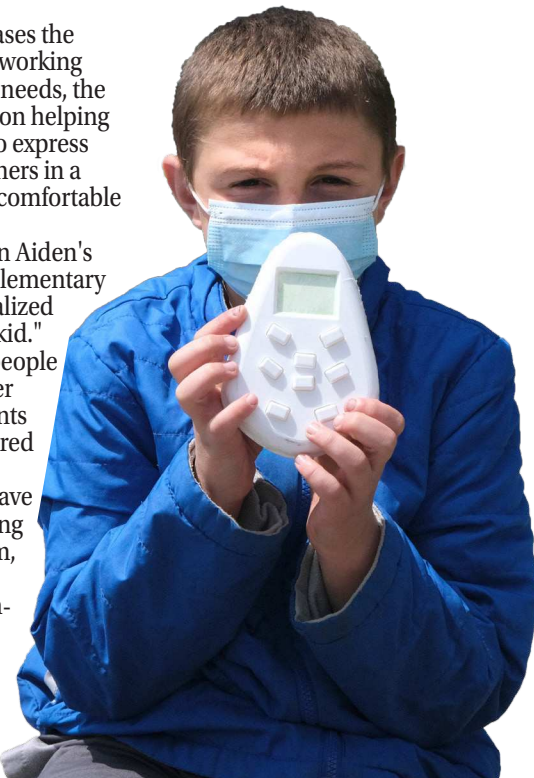
The students met Aiden last year for the first time and have been working with him during their free time to understand his needs and

develop a device that eases the burdens he faces. After working with him to identify his needs, the group decided to focus on helping Aiden have the ability to express his thoughts to his teachers in a manner that was more comfortable for him.

When they first met in Aiden’s classroom at Whitson Elementary School, the students realized that he “is a super cool kid.”

“He genuinely likes people and seems like any other third-grader,” the students said. What they discovered was that, without any assistance, Aiden can have a difficult time expressing himself in the classroom, where “it is vital that students be able to communicate with teachers and classmates alike and participate in class discussion.”

See **INVENTION**, page 2



Songer sued for cougar policy

By Jacob Bertram
Columbia Gorge News

A lawsuit seeks to declare Klickitat County Sheriff Bob Songer’s cougar sighting response program illegal.

Songer had announced the creation of the program in a post on the Klickitat County Sheriff’s Office Facebook page dated Aug. 27, 2019, calling cougar sightings in the communities of Goldendale, White Salmon, Glenwood, Husum, and other neighborhoods in the county a “serious PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERN.”

The program, which was later published under the sheriff’s directive titled “Dangerous Wildlife Policy and Procedures” (DWPP), gives sheriff’s deputies as well as members of the volunteer community policing program, Klickitat County Sheriff’s Posse, the authority to “respond to all reported dangerous Wildlife conflicts that is a risk to human safety or domestic pets and livestock.”

“A fully commissioned deputy will be in charge of the incident

See **COUGAR**, page 3

Riverbend Community School: New digs, and second chances for students

By Ben Mitchell
For Columbia Gorge News

FOR ASHLYN JONES, ATTENDING THE Dalles’ Riverbend Community School has been nothing short of life-changing.

Jones, 16, of The Dalles, says she used to struggle with her grades. She didn’t get along with her teachers. She didn’t think college was a viable option for her.

Not anymore. Since enrolling at Riverbend in November, Jones is thriving, loves her classes, and is thinking of attending culinary school — a dream she had previously deferred because she didn’t think she would get good enough grades to get in.

“Riverbend completely changed how I feel about school, and teachers, and everything,” she says.

While there are all different kinds of students who attend Riverbend, Jones’ story is not an uncommon one there, nor is her level of passion. Although, to be fair, Riverbend’s students are extra excited these days.

For one, Riverbend, a public charter school that is part of North Wasco County School



The Riverbend multi-use science classroom is housed at Columbia Gorge Community College. Photo courtesy Sean O’Connor/Story Gorge

See **RIVERBEND**, page 12

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