

SUMMER

Summer school has high value

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do 100, 150 (students) so I hope, even if we don't get funding, from now on we find a way to make this a continued, every year thing because I really think it's incredibly valuable as a way to help those students who are having trouble and who need more support, especially in the summers."

Looking ahead to the fall, Polkinghorn said the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education released the Ready Set Schools Safe Learners Resiliency framework on June 26, shifting all decisions on school operations next school year to the individual districts.

"I plan to continue to partner with our local health department when it comes to developing a strategy on how to operate schools as close to normal as possible while still ensuring our students and staff are safe," he said.

Polkinghorn said that when schools open in September, students will attend a full day every day in all grades, and that after school programing will be offered at elementary schools.

"We all want COVID transmission mitigation strategies to go away, like these face masks, and the fastest way for that to happen is to stop contracting COVID," he said. "It's a preventable disease, and getting vaccinated is the simplest way to stop the spread of COVID; if you're not vaccinated, or even if you are, washing your hands, maintaining physical distance, wearing face coverings will also help stop the spread of the virus."

The district plans to share



Hood River Valley High School summer school students traveled to Dallesport earlier this month, above, for a ranger-guided trip to view petroglyphs and listen to a presentation on local tribal history, information they later used as inspiration for art, cartography and laser forge art classes.

Photo courtesy Jim Donnelly

At right, Cascade Locks students explore the world of color in art class.

Photo courtesy Jana Arthur



further reopening information in August.

Board members were pleased to learn of the full day schedule. "I'm excited for the planning for next year, where everyone's going to be back in school a full day," said Brandi Sheppard. "I think that's very exciting after the last year, so I'm looking forward to hearing more about that."

Said Hankins Elliott, "I am really excited about getting back to school, especially a

full day every day, and I want to encourage people to keep looking at the science and making sure we're looking at the sources where our science is coming from, and really realize that we had such a successful last year when we came in, a large part because of masking. We did not have a transmission in school, at all. And that did not mean we did not have COVID. We did have COVID ... one of the biggest losses that I felt from it was that

every time we had a kid with COVID, we had to quarantine all those kids around them and they all got sent home, and while we still did virtual (classes), that was really some lost instruction. And I am really hoping that won't happen this year. I'm hoping that we have the best school year ever coming up and am very excited about what is ahead."

The Dalles Cascade Singers are back in action

The Dalles Cascade Singers are back in action, preparing for the first live concert in 2021. This fall concert features music from the hit musicals "Anything Goes," "West Side Story," "Godspell," "Rent," and "Hamilton." The concert is slated for October and the group is inviting new singers to join.

Cascade Singers Community Choir in The Dalles was founded in 1976 by the late Lloyd Walworth, presenting their first concert that spring. Members hail from The Dalles as well as neighboring communities in the Mid-Columbia area.

The group is a non-profit organization that meets twice a week to enjoy choral music and to prepare public performances, said a press release. A typical season includes an annual St. Patrick's Day benefit concert presented at St. Peter's Landmark, as well as early summer, fall, and winter concerts presented at Zion Lutheran Church in The Dalles. Admission is by donation which, along with sponsorships, fund future activities.

Repertoire for Cascade Singers is eclectic, including choral music from all historical periods, folk

music, ethnic music, musical theater, jazz and contemporary music. Cascade Singers have taken six European tours, including performances in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Slovenia, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales in 1987, 1995, 1998, 2002, 2004 and 2008.

A press release said if you are 16 years old or older and like to sing, there is a place in Cascade Singers for you. Join them for a rehearsal Sundays and Thursdays, 7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church (10th and

Union streets) in Sawyer Hall (located in the basement). There is no need to audition and there are no dues. And even if you are not a singer, there are other tasks to which your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Director Garry Estep believes that participation in the arts should be enjoyable and fulfilling, and there is no greater joy than knowing that you have reached out and made your audience feel that joy also. If you would like more information, email estepgarry@gmail.com.

Port of CL receives Legislative funding

The Port of Cascade Locks has been allocated \$1.3 million from the 2021 Oregon Legislature to support key projects and economic development in Cascade Locks. The funds were secured by Sen. Chuck Thomsen from American Recovery Act money that Oregon received and was made available for legislative members to distribute in their districts.

The funds will be allocated as follows:

- \$350,000 will be used to fully develop a new parking area at a key recreation trailhead on port-owned

property in Cascade Locks.

- \$250,000 will be directed towards expanding electrical infrastructure in the port's Business Park.
- \$700,000 will be applied toward property acquisition to expand the Port's Business Park.

"These funds will help us address important needs for the Port and the growing Cascade Locks community and ensure that we can continue to move forward with our goals of creating good paying jobs and growing incomes in the Gorge," said port General Manager Olga

Kaganova.

"Sen. Thomsen has always been supportive of Cascade Locks," said port President Jess Groves. "We thank him for his outstanding work during the 2021 session and for once again making our community a priority for his efforts in Salem."

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The port recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for two new manufacturing facilities it completed in the past year for pFriem Family Brewers and the Renewal Workshop. Together these new facilities in the port's

Business Park will employ nearly 100 workers in Cascade Locks. The port was able to leverage \$2.4 million in lottery bond funding from the State of Oregon to secure financing for these projects with help from Sen. Thomsen and Rep. Anna Williams.

New D21 superintendent shares entry plan

■ By Kelsie Cowart
Columbia Gorge News

On July 22, Carolyn Bernal attended her first regular school board meeting as District 21's new superintendent. Bernal was officially selected to take over for Interim Superintendent Theresa Peters in February and began her duties July 1.

In the July 22 meeting, Bernal outlined her entry plan for the 21-22 school year, titled "Listen, Learn, Lead." She shared her four goals: to build trust with stakeholders, keep a "lens on equity" for all students, build a strong governance team through a positive relationship with the school board, and to safely reopen all schools.

With each goal, Bernal outlined the actionable steps she plans on taking in order to meet them. Among these steps, she detailed an importance of consistent communication and collaborations with board members, administrators and external community stakeholders, as well as regular interactions with students in order to ensure that all voices are heard.

"I'll be regularly visiting school sites and district properties," Bernal said, "engaging with stakeholders to really help me build that foundational understanding of the day-to-day operations, and to interact — which for me is the best part — with the student body, and really being a visible community leader."

Bernal plans on giving a status update on the progress of these goals January 2022, then a summary at the end of the school year. She concluded the presentation with a list of personal values and principles that she intends to lead with in the superintendent's position.

To view the entry plan in its entirety, visit the North Wasco County District 21 Facebook page and click the July 22 meeting link to watch it in full.

Before the meeting was officially called to order, the board of directors held a public hearing in regard to the Riverbend Community School [formerly Wahtonka Community School] Charter renewal application, where eight written public comments — no verbal ones were submitted — were read. A ninth comment was submitted past their June 21 deadline and could not be shared, but the board welcomes a re-submission for their August 26 board meeting, they said.

Once the meeting commenced, Oath of Office was read for new and re-elected directors, including Director Rebecca Thistlethwaite, Chair John Nelson, Director Brian Stevens and Director Judy Richardson. Other events included the recognition of summer staff, read by Bernal.

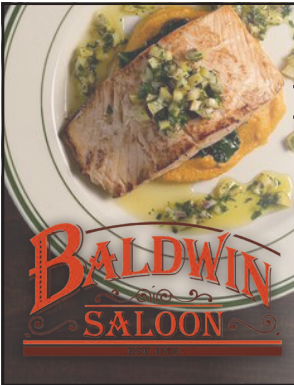
Action items consisted of making Special July Board Organizational Designations, electing a board chair and vice chair, the positions going to Jose Aparicio, and David Jones respectively. Further items included the unanimous passing of the annual board organizational chart for the 21-22 school year and the appointment/re-appointment of board members to school board sub-committees.

After the reading of the chief financial officer report, the board unanimously approved the purchase a 2015 Izuzu refrigerated truck for nutritional services from a local dealership, using summer school funding with the approval of ODE, at the cost of \$45,346.19, plus the cost of titling fees, which will be paid with 75% state grant funds and 25% federal ESSR III funds.

The school board's next regular meeting is scheduled for Aug. 26. Check out the North Wasco County District 21 website and Facebook page for updates.

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