

# 2014

Continued from Page A5

tional attention. The fire damaged several structures and burned a home inside Foley Lakes Mobile Home Park located on the west side of The Dalles. The cause of the fire was not officially determined.

■ A former Insitu contractor was sentenced to jail time after he was arrested for trying to sell proprietary information related to one of Insitu's unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), or drones. Stephen Martin Ward, 49, of Owensboro, Ky., was sentenced in the U.S. Eastern District Court of Washington in Yakima to three months' prison after being convicted of Theft of Trade Secrets under the Economic Espionage Act after stealing proprietary information related to RQ-21A BlackJack drone. A one month undercover operation resulted in Ward's agreeing to exchange the data for \$400,000 in currency and benefits. During the operation, Ward e-mailed the cover page of the manual to foreign entities in Kuwait to gauge their interest in the information.

■ After more than two years of public review, analysis, and permit filings, delays, and extensions, the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) announces that it has rejected a crucial permit needed for the construction of the Coyote Island coal export terminal proposed for the Port of Morrow. Ambre Energy, an Australia-based energy company, had planned to ship via barges approximately 8.8 million tons of coal annually from the port located in Boardman, about 90 minutes east of Hood River. DSL stated the permit was "not consistent with the protection, conservation and best use of the state's water resources, and that the applicant did not provide sufficient analysis of alternatives that would avoid construction of a new dock and impacts on tribal fisheries."

**Update:** The decision has been appealed and is expected to go to a hearing in December 2015.

## September

■ The city announces it has reached a deal to help end a dispute over Naito Development's Nichols Landing project, which would create a four-story, 88-room hotel and a 20,000-square-foot commercial building at the southern edge of the Nichols Boat Basin. The deal pushes the development away from the water's edge and allows for the creation of a passive-use park that is to eventually be owned by the city. Work on the project was expected to begin sometime in early 2015.

■ Approximately 200 people attend a climate change march in downtown Hood River. The march, which was organized by the Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network (CGCAN), was part of a larger, worldwide

event held to draw attention to climate change issues such as global warming and the burning of fossil fuels. Protests also focused on the shipment of fossil fuels through the Gorge.

■ The county receives numerous comments on a plan submitted by Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort to develop a 179-space gravel park and ride in the center of the community of Mt. Hood. The proposal attracted some controversy after a neighboring property owner, Libby Rossknecht, filed appeals against it, arguing the county improperly approved the application. Meadows ultimately retracted the application in an attempt to find a different park and ride site along Highway 35.

## October

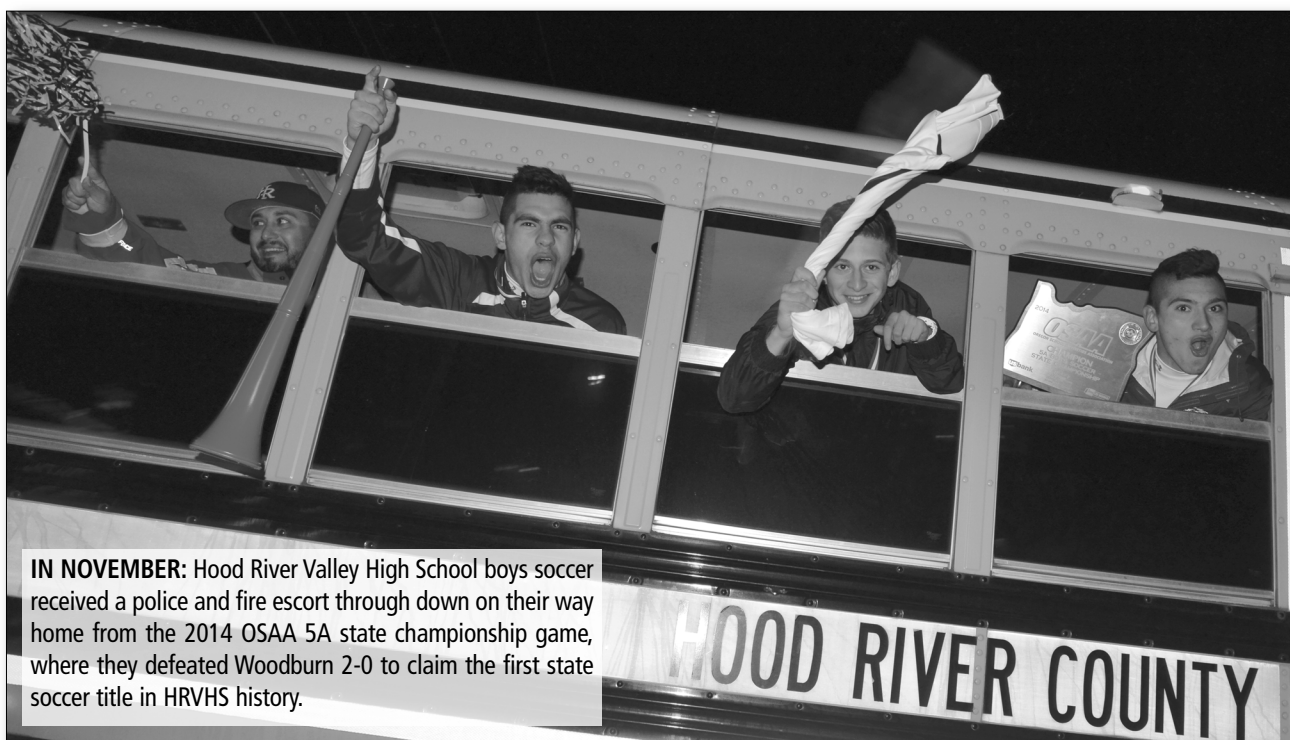
■ Farm and orchard equipment retailer Sheppard's enters into a memorandum of understanding with the Port of Hood River that would result in its move down to a yet-to-be-constructed facility at the corner of North Second Street and Riverside Drive. Sheppard's has been at its current location at First and State for 85 years, and in business for 10 years longer than that. The Sheppard family said they made the move in part due to logistical reasons and plan to expand their business at their new location.

■ Miguel Angel Soto-Quintana, 29, is arrested for allegedly murdering the mother of his child, Cecilia Campuzano-Ortiz, 23, after her body was found inside her apartment at 22nd and Montello. Soto-Quintana was convicted in 2013 of assaulting Campuzano-Ortiz and was ordered by the court to have no contact with Campuzano-Ortiz, with the exception of mail or email to arrange parenting time or text messaging in the case of a medical emergency of their 3-year-old daughter. The courts and law enforcement released little info about the case, although court documents noted that Soto-Quintana allegedly murdered Campuzano-Ortiz "while under the influence of an extreme emotional disturbance."



**MIGUEL SOTO-QUINTANA**  
**Update:** Soto-Quintana is scheduled for further proceedings Jan. 5.

■ Representatives of RipCity, that is, the Portland Trail Blazers, came to Hood River to film a commercial down at the waterfront with local fans. Blazer Dancers, color commentator Mike



**IN NOVEMBER:** Hood River Valley High School boys soccer received a police and fire escort through down on their way home from the 2014 OSAA 5A state championship game, where they defeated Woodburn 2-0 to claim the first state soccer title in HRVHS history.

Rice, and Blazers alum "Mercy Mercy" Jerome Kersey joined in on the fun. The commercial was scheduled to air at an undisclosed point in the 2014-15 NBA season.

**Update:** No sign of the Hood River spots yet, but the Blazers were 23-5 on Dec. 31.

## November

■ The Hood River Valley High School boys soccer team make history by claiming the school's first-ever state title, winning the OSAA 5A championship. The HRV Eagles shutout Woodburn, 2-0, and held a perfect 18-0 record to finish the season. Gio Magana, Uriel Torres, Alex Gutierrez, and Marco Cuevas were all selected as First-Team All-State players and fifth-year coach Jaime Rivera was selected as the 5A boys Coach of the Year.

■ Paul Blackburn beats out Greg Colt for the Hood River mayoral race, defeating him by a margin of 2-1. In the Hood River City Council race, seven candidates vied for three positions; winners were Becky Brun, Peter Cornelison, and Susan Johnson. Voters also approved measures supporting fire and EMS departments at West Side and Cascade Locks and re-elected U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, State Sen. Chuck Thomsen, and State Rep. Mark Johnson, all Republicans.

**Update:** Blackburn and council will take the oath of office Jan. 5.

■ Columbia Gorge Community College announces that it will have to close its Indian Creek campus on the Heights due to a \$2 million budget deficit. The announcement received significant negative feedback and was reversed a couple days later, although college administration has stated the deficit would require cuts elsewhere.

## December

■ The Hood River City Council votes down Walmart's application to expand its Wasco Avenue location during a remand hearing from the Land Use Board of Appeals. Walmart had planned to add an additional 30,000 square feet to the 72,000-square-foot store. The council voted 4-3 that the store's vested right to expand had expired.

■ Columbia River Gorge Commission receives a mixed message on funding after getting an 89-percent increase in its budget from Oregon, but only a 7-percent increase from Washington. Because the commission has to be funded equally, it is required to take the lower amount. Administrators of the commission have repeatedly said it does not have enough staff to process the backlog of National Scenic Area building permits, and needs double the funding it currently gets to

fulfill its obligations mandated by the federal government.

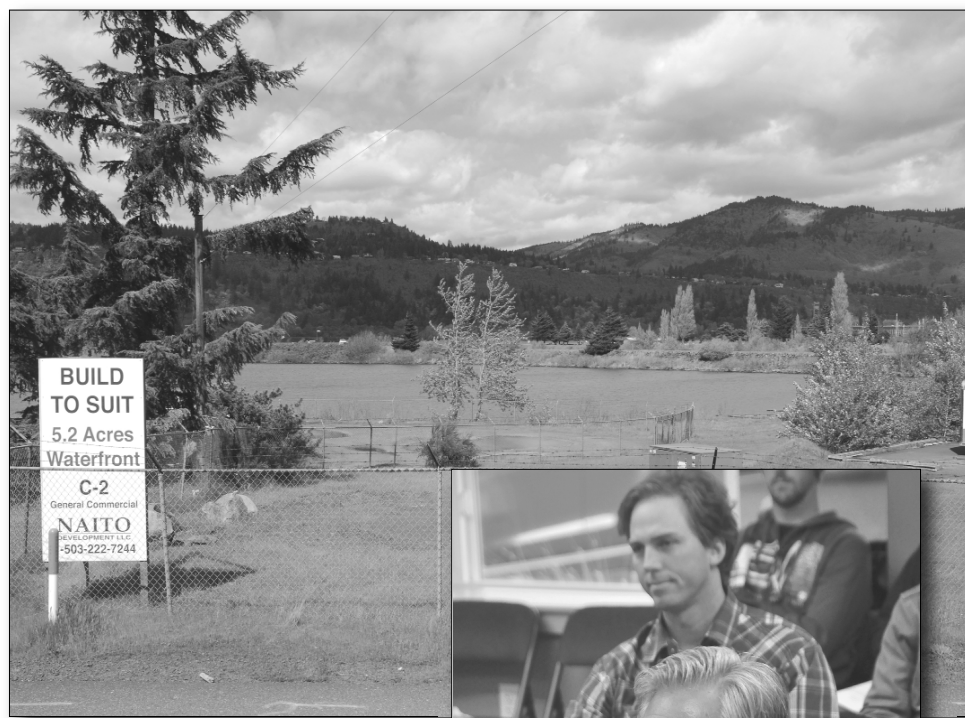
**Update:** Budget could alter in upcoming legislative hearings.

■ The city of Cascade Locks says it has come up

with a way to fast track a proposed Nestlé water bottling plant, cutting down the process from an anticipated four years to two. The change is designed to reduce the time needed to process appeals from envi-

ronmental groups. The plant is expected to cost \$50 million, and be 250,000-square-feet in size.

**Update:** Application will come to CL city council for approval Jan. 12.



**IN SEPTEMBER:** After a long and drawn-out process, a deal was reached between parties involved in development of a waterfront lot owned by Naito Development. In foreground, developer Bob Naito; behind him is Friends of the Waterfront attorney Brent Foster during a 2012 City Council discussion.

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**IN SEPTEMBER:** About 200 people attended a climate change rally in Hood River, organized by the Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network.

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## Athlete of the Week

**Nathan Koch**  
Knight of Sufferlandia

Nathan Koch was one of six local residents to complete the ten-hour Knights of Sufferlandia Challenge, which the group did as a fundraiser for Athletes-4-Cancer. The Athlete of the Week will receive a large pizza with 2 toppings from Papa Murphy's. Congratulations to our winner 1-03-15.

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