



# Hood River News

## 'Album of the Almost' Unseen in '19



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## 'Locals Downtown' event debuts Jan. 1

The first day of the new year brings a new event to Hood River: Locals Wednesday Downtown, running 3-6 p.m. Jan. 1.

Approved by Hood River City Council last month, "Locals" is designed to bring residents to downtown to shop, gather, and enjoy activities.

Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Business Association sponsors the event each Wednesday, with a rotating selection of sales and events offered by merchants and downtown entities.

Parking will be free after 3 p.m. on Wednesdays. Chamber and Business Association members told council in its request that without free parking, "Locals" would not succeed.

"Consistency is really important to create a lasting tradition that is to

be supported," Chamber President Kate Schroeder said. "We want locals to get into the habit of 'LWD.'"

"We want locals to feel welcome by offering them something important to them: Free parking," she said.

Hood River City Council approved LWD on a pilot basis, which will not run June through August.

The first LWD event features activities at the Makerspace at Hood River Library, and special deals at merchants including 64 Oz. taproom, Gorge Greenery and others.

### FREE PARKING

3-6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 1

## Retired PE teacher takes home a piece of a beloved gym floor

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA  
News editor

Larry Madsen loaded a piece of history into another piece of history last week.

A section of the old May Street gym floor went into the back seat of the single-owner 1947 Chrysler sedan Madsen keeps running.

Principal Kelly Beard presented Madsen, the long-time Physical Education teacher at May Street, with a two-by-five-foot section of the fir gym floor, salvaged from the July 2019 demolition of the building, thanks to Mike Carter, supervisor on the demolition and construction project for Kirby Nagelhout Construction.

Carter and Beard were fulfilling

See FLOOR, page A8



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

**GYM FLOOR:** Larry Madsen, right, with May Street Principal Kelly Beard in front of the portrait of gym namesake Teddy Webber. Visible on the gym wall are repurposed and resurfaced bleacher seats from the old gym, demolished in 2019.

# 2019: The Year In Review, Part 2

The second half of 2019 saw businesses and clubs reach milestone anniversaries, leadership changes at the city and county level, including the appointment of Gladys Rivera, the first Hispanic woman to serve on the city council.

Part 1 of Hood River News' look back at 2019 ran in the Dec. 28 edition.

### July

John Logan started his new role leading the Cascade Locks Fire and EMS Department July 4, as reported in an October News article. It was a fitting date for such a beginning, because it was the Fourth of July some 28 years ago that Logan formed his desire to become a firefighter. He is now captain of the department. The Hood River Valley native has been a volunteer for the past 17 years with West Side Fire District.

While Mt. Hood Railroad and Wildwood Academy have been attempting to negotiate a parking deal for a little over a year, negotiations were closed on July 9, when Iowa Pacific Holdings, the company that owns Mt. Hood Railroad, terminated the easement agreement between the two businesses. By the morning of July 10, Mt. Hood Railroad had blockaded the parking lot with a parked van and a backhoe.

Hood River County Fair achieved an odd sort of balance at this year's fair: The smallest Thursday attendance in memory was followed by a record turnout on Friday, according to Fair Manager Clara Rice. Rice said she believes the Thursday impact was partly due to Hispanic residents staying away from fairgrounds after rumors — unfounded — emerged that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents were at the Odell fair site.

### August

Milestones: Oak Grove Park celebrated its 45th birthday with an af-



Photo by Emily Fitzgerald

**MEASURE 14-67** co-petitioner Tracey Tamashpol gathers signatures at a summer event for the charter amendment approved by voters in November.



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

**GLADYS RIVERA** took the oath of office with her son, Alessandro, 10, at her side on Dec. 9 as the newest member of Hood River City Council. Municipal Judge Ruben Cleaveland administered the oath. Rivera is the first Hispanic woman to serve on council and will finish the term vacated by Mayor Kate McBride.

ternoon of softball, live music and birthday cake. Hood River Art Club celebrated its 70th anniversary, and Don Numanaker Realtors, celebrated its 50th. And the new May Street Elementary School building was all but finished by the end of August, just in time for students to arrive Sept. 3.

The third annual Latino Festival returned to Jackson Park, featuring food, music and information

booths. "Our main message is that we are part of the community," said Martha Verduzco of the Hood River Latino Network, which organized the event. It was co-sponsored by Oregon Human Development Corporation.

Dr. Kristen Dillon of Hood River has been named to a one-year fellowship and will serve in Washington, D.C., starting in September. The National Academy of Medicine

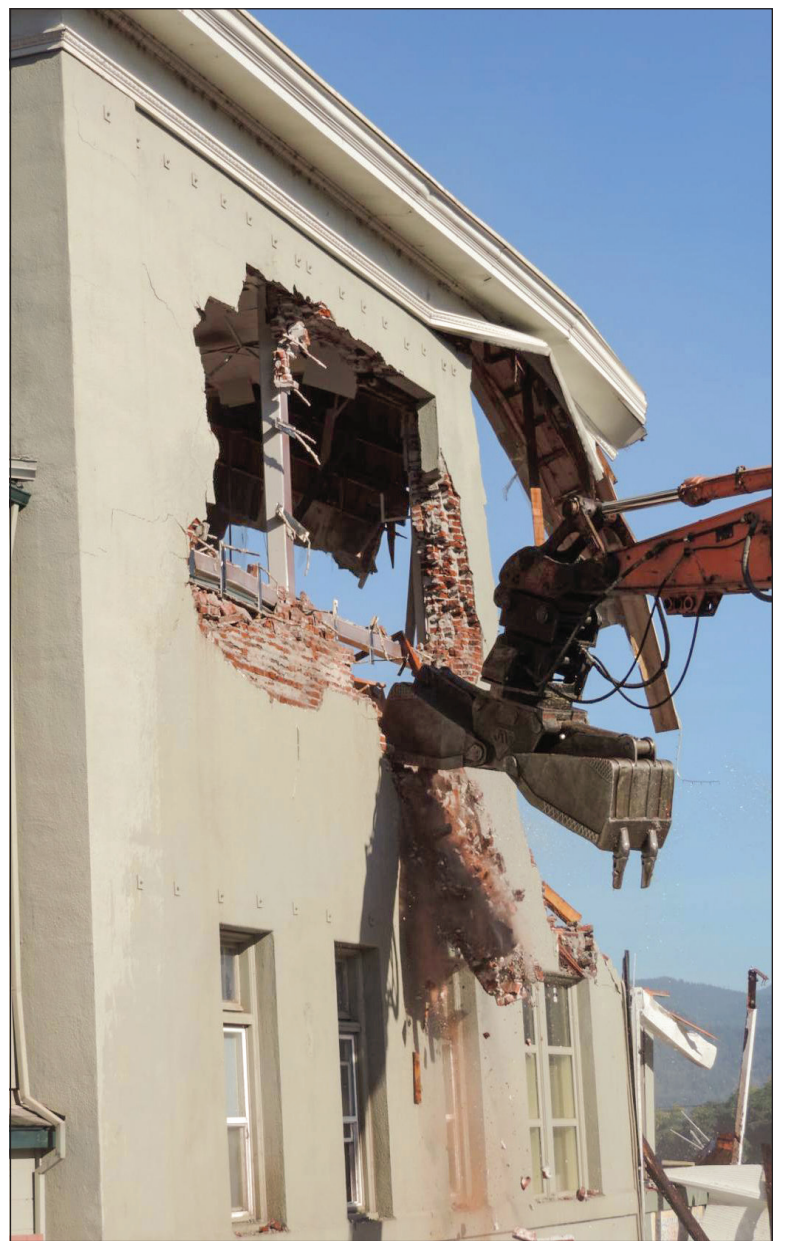


Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

**MAY STREET** Elementary underwent many changes during the year — the building of the new school and the tearing down of the original structure (above, in August).

(NAM) and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) named Dillon and five other professionals to the 2019-2020 class of RWJF Health Policy Fellows. Dillon will be working on health-related legislative and regulatory issues with members of Congress and the executive branch.

Dillon's husband, Mayor Paul Blackburn, announced his resignation as mayor, effective Sept. 1, in May; his last city council meeting was Aug. 26.

### September

The Labor Day Roy Webster Cross Channel Swim returned in a new location after a two-year absence — from Hood River to Cas-

cade Locks, with the 469 swimmers emerging in front of hundreds of spectators at the crescent swimming marina beach.

The new Jim's Market food cart was back in business Sept. 11, much to the relief of patrons and owners Paco and Sylvia Magaña. Jim's Market, a market, deli and gas station, and Paco's Tacos, a food cart, located on the same premises two miles north of Parkdale, were a total loss after a fire March 29. The Magañas have been working to rebuild and reopen ever since.

City Councilor Kate McBride was appointed to the mayor position on Sept. 23. McBride was interviewed

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"This will be an important tool, especially for organic growers."  
— Ashley Thompson, A2

### BRIEFS

#### HRVHS Cheer fundraiser

HRVHS Cheer will collect redeemable cans and bottles to pay for uniforms and choreography on Jan. 4 at the Leo's drop off location at Rosauers, or call 541-490-0338 for pick up.

#### City accepts trees

City residents may drop off Christmas trees at Public Works Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Remove non-compostable materials. Public Works yard is at 1200 18th St.

#### HR Hobbies Magic Club

Hood River Hobbies hosts a Magic Club from 4-5 p.m. on Fridays, at Hood River Hobbies for kids ages 10-15. Bring Magic the Gathering cards. More at www.hoodriverhobbies.com.

