

Hood River Rotary hosts annual Ski Night Jan. 20

Proceeds help scholarships

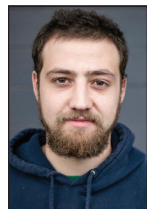
The annual Hood River Rotary Ski Night at Mt. Hood Meadows takes place Monday, Jan. 20 from 3-9 p.m. The event raises money for student schol-

arships. This fundraiser requires special Rotary Night lift tickets be purchased in order to ride the lifts after the normal 4 p.m. operating schedule. Tickets are \$20 when purchased online at skihood.com (click the Rotary Night box that appears on the Home page), or

\$25 the day of the event. Season passholders, 10-time passholders and other pre-scheduled passes will also be valid, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. A \$20 donation from passholders is appreciated, but not required, said a press release.

Walker Sacon joins Gorge news team

Western Washington University senior and Underwood, Wash., native Walker Sacon started a 10-week newsroom internship with The Dalles Chronicle this week.



Walker Sacon

Sacon will be covering news and features, and may provide some sports coverage as well, and his byline will also appear in the Hood River News.

Sacon (pronounced say-con) is interested in stories involving the arts and the outdoors as well as agriculture, forestry and

other local industries. Sacon looks forward to reconnecting with goings-on in the Gorge ahead of his expected March 2020 graduation. Having grown up farther west, he said he is excited to hear some of the stories of The Dalles.

"Sacon's enthusiasm and en-

ergy for storytelling is instantly apparent and inspiring. I look forward to seeing him explore The Dalles and Gorge as a journalist," Mark Gibson, editor of The Dalles Chronicle, said.

On his off days, Sacon explores the Gifford Pinchot National Forest with his dogs or records music. He spent the fall building a cabin and is always excited to talk shop with craftspeople and artisans of all varieties.

BREWERIES IN THE GORGE

Fourth annual Holiday Hangover beer festival set for Jan. 25 at The Ruins

Billed as "An Intimate Festival By Beer Lovers For Beer Lovers," the fourth annual Breweries in the Gorge (BIG) Holiday Hangover Beer Festival returns Jan. 25 at a new location.

The festival will feature more than 20 craft beers, including a rotating specialty pour by each of 11 breweries. New for 2020, this year's event will take place at a The Ruins in Hood River, from 1-7 p.m.

Guests can meet and celebrate with BIG members and sample a variety of brews from the Columbia River Gorge region.

The event features a dynamic lineup of regional live bands, kicking off at 1:30 p.m. with the Night Farmers. The Greenneck Daredevils will take the stage at 3:30 p.m. followed by Hillstomp at 5:30 p.m.



ing, green-necking, hill-stomping good times, drinking the best beer on the planet, join us for our annual Holiday Hangover at The Ruins! We picked the bands, we picked the beers, and we pick you to come party with us," Double Mountain Owner and BIG President Matt Swihart said. Free parking and shuttle service will be available by MountNBarrel. Guests can park at Lot 1 at the Hood River Waterfront and catch a ride on The HOP to and from the event.

Admission includes a collectable pint glass and eight taster tickets.

Additional tastings and Springhouse Cellars wine will also be available for purchase. This is a 21 and over event.

Advance tickets are \$20 and \$25 at the door. For tickets, visit www.beerfests.com.

Culinary creations will be available for purchase by regional food vendors Four & Twenty Blackbirds and Pa-co's Tacos. "If you're into night-farm-

State Department of Ed seeks Teacher of the Year nominations

Time is running out to nominate teachers for the 2021 Oregon Teacher of the Year, as those nominations close Friday, Jan. 31.

Each year, exceptional teachers are honored in up to 19 regions across the state, with Oregon's Teacher of the Year selected from among

those regional finalists. (Dave Case, from Hood River Valley High School, was the 2018 Northeast Oregon regional teacher of the year.)

The Teacher of the Year program was created to recognize exemplary public-school educators — Oregon teachers who inspire students and make a

positive impact in the communities in which they live. The award celebrates knowledge, dedication, innovation and leadership. Thanks to the Oregon Department of Education's partnership with the Oregon Lottery, the Oregon Teacher of the Year receives a gift award of \$5,000 as well as a special

fund to cover all travel costs for the year.

In addition, a matching gift of \$5,000 goes to the Teacher of the Year's school.

Know a great teacher? Fill out the nomination form at oregonlotteryteacheroftheyear.org to share what makes them exceptional.



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

SUET DUET

Bird at left does a split-second tail-over-head flip to get at fresh suet while another bird munches away, upright, amid windy sleet Monday.

SAIF hosts farmworker safety seminars in Hood River, The Dalles

SAIF is offering 29 free ag safety seminars in 17 cities across Oregon, continuing through March. Nine of the seminars will be presented entirely in Spanish, including in Hood River and The Dalles.

This article corrects dates for Spanish-language seminars published in an article earlier this month.

This year's seminars will focus on four topics: Respiratory personal protective

equipment, working at elevation, safety leadership for anyone, and incident analysis — a structured process for identifying what happened and reducing recurrence of injuries moving forward. In March, SAIF will also offer webinars online in English and, new this year, Spanish.

The seminars are designed primarily for people working in agriculture but are open to anyone interested in ag safety

and health — they don't have to be insured by SAIF.

English seminars will be Jan. 22 at The Fort Dalles Readiness Center and Feb. 12 at Hood River County Fairgrounds. Spanish seminars will be Feb. 13 in Hood River, and Jan. 23 in The Dalles.

All will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and lunch will be provided.

Employers with small ag businesses who attend the

seminar, or watch the webinars, will meet OSHA's instructional requirement — one of four requirements that exempt small agricultural operations from random OSHA inspections.

Three hours of technical and one hour of business continuing education credits will be offered if approved by the Landscape Contractors Board. More information at www.saif.com/agseminars.

Oregon AG forms Labor Trafficking Task Force

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, in commemoration of Human Trafficking Awareness Day, announced Monday the creation of a new Labor Trafficking Task Force. The task force was formed between legislative sessions to study labor trafficking across the state and identify ways the Oregon legislature and other leaders can tackle the issue, according to a press release. Oregon Criminal Justice Commission reports that there have been no prosecutions of labor trafficking, under the relevant crime of Involuntary Servitude, anywhere in the state.

The task force is co-convened by Oregon Senator Kathleen Taylor and includes im-

migration attorneys, organized labor groups, law enforcement, district attorneys, representatives from the Mexican Consulate, and other state agencies.

"Human trafficking includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, but almost all of our public awareness focuses on sex trafficking. What we hear so far is that labor trafficking is very real, and it is happening under the radar in all corners of the state," said Attorney General Rosenblum. "I want this task force to dig into this terrible crime. All sources suggest we lack the tools to identify, investigate and prosecute labor trafficking in our communities. We need to change that."

Labor trafficking may include using threats of violence and coercion to force a person to work against their will, sometimes with no or little pay or inhumane conditions. Common industries that may engage in labor trafficking include domestic servants, farmworkers, factory workers and other day laborers.

The members of the task force include:

- Attorney General Ellen F. Rosenblum
- Senator Kathleen Taylor, Senate District 21
- Aaron Knott, Legislative Director, Oregon Attorney General's Office
- Kate Denison, Policy Analyst, Oregon Attorney General's Office

Chanpone Sinlapasai, Marandas Sinlapasai Garcia, LLC

- Melissa Contreras, Mexican Consulate
- Renee Cummings, Oregon Immigration Group
- John Haroldson, Benton County District Attorney
- Officer Natasha Haunsperger, Portland Police Department
- Amanda Kraus, Oregon Senate Democrat Caucus Office
- John Marandas, Marandas Sinlapasai Garcia, LLC
- Beatriz Navarro, Consul in Charge, Consulate of Mexico in Portland
- Sarah Purce, Catholic Charities Legal Services
- Sonia Ramirez, Wage and

Hour Administrator, Oregon Labor and Industries

- Chanpone Sinlapasai, Marandas Sinlapasai Garcia, LLC
 - Amanda Swanson, Trafficking Intervention Coordinator, Oregon Department of Justice
 - Matt Swanson, NW Carpenters Union
- "I'm proud to partner with the Attorney General and others to stop human and labor trafficking in our state. This critical issue disproportionately impacts women and people of color and must be addressed with a trauma-informed approach. Our agency's job is to defend Oregonians' civil rights and prevent exploitation, and

issues of trafficking are intimately connected to that," said Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle.

The Attorney General announced the new task force at the Oregon DOJ's second annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day event honoring community members and state partners who are working to stop trafficking and support victims.

The Task Force will meet throughout 2020 and will make recommendations for consideration by the Oregon legislature in the 2021 session.

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) is led by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, and serves as the state's law firm.

WEATHER FOR HOOD RIVER, OR | JANUARY 15-21, 2020

Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Actual High/Low January 8-13
							Wednesday 46/35
33° /25°	36° /25°	37° /31°	37° /33°	40° /30°	44° /33°	45° /34°	Thursday 44/33
Cloudy, p.m. snow, up to 1"	Periods of snow, 1-3"	A bit of afternoon snow	Chilly with snow, then rain	Remaining cloudy	Rain and drizzle possible	A couple of showers possible	Friday 39/33
							Saturday 48/35
							Sunday 45/35
							Monday 39/20

Updated 1.13.19, 8:16 AM PDT
Data from Accuweather.com

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