

Master Gardener community classes start Saturday

All community members interested in learning more about garden related topics are invited to attend six classes that are a part of the 2020 Oregon State University Extension Service Central Gorge Master Gardener training program, held at the Hood River Valley Christian Church and taught by Oregon State University instructors.

The first in the series is Firewise Landscaping presented by Oregon State University Extension Professor Amy Jo Detweiler on Saturday, Feb. 8, 1-4 p.m. If you wish to participate in a class, just show up and pay the \$10 drop in fee.

Cash and checks only please. Coffee, tea and conversation with other gardeners will be flowing before the class and at break.

For more information, contact Megan Wickersham, at 2990 Experiment Station Drive, Hood River or 541-386-3343 (x38257).

CAT: GOrge Pass prices may increase after May 18

continued from A1



Photo courtesy of CAT

FOR A LIMITED TIME, GOrge Passes are available at an introductory price.

CRIME: ‘Unusual’ evidence in case

continued from A1

His probation was initially scheduled to end in May 2019.

On or about Oct. 13, 2018, Avila Torres committed Coercion by threatening the victim to stay in her house and not go to work. He was arrested on that charge, as well as two counts of Burglary in the First Degree, one count of Resisting Arrest and a Harassment charge, on Oct. 15, 2018, and released on a Conditional Release Agreement two days later, on Oct. 17.

The Rape in the First Degree conviction was related to an incident that occurred in sometime in February 2019. A Burglary in the First Degree charge related to that incident was dropped.

The Burglary in the First Degree charge that Avila Torres was convicted on, as well as the Strangulation charge, were related to a March 26, 2019, incident where, according to circuit court records, Avila Torres broke into his ex-girlfriend's home and surprised her while she was in the shower, "with the intent to commit the crime of Rape within."

"This is a very unusual case in that the rape and strangulation were recorded in their entirety," said District Attorney Carrie Rasmussen, who added that a Grand Jury has listened to the entire 10-12 minute recording.

"You can hear her screaming, ominous silence when she couldn't breathe, and screaming again," Rasmussen said.

Four charges relating to the March incident — Rape in the First Degree, Burglary in the First Degree, and Interfering with Making a Police Report — were dropped.

The victim was invited to Tuesday's hearing but did not wish to attend, Rasmussen said, and did not request restitution. "She's saddened and conflicted, as anyone would be about somebody that she has loved in the past hurting her in this way," Rasmussen said. "She frankly just wants to be done with this, to have this whole era behind her."

As of press time, Avila Torres owed the court \$2,900 in fees. While Avila Torres was sentenced by Judge John Olson on Jan. 28, he had not signed the official judgement for the Rape, Burglary and Strangulation charges by press time. The judgements for the Coercion and Assault in the Fourth Degree convictions were signed as of press time.

On weekdays, the CGE service begins in Hood River at 5:40 a.m. and ends at 6:30 p.m.; and on weekends, service starts in Hood River at 7:10 a.m. and ends with a final trip from Portland to the Gorge leaving at 5:30 p.m. Four of the weekday trips and two weekend trips also serve The Dalles. Online schedules are available for all routes at rideCATbus.org, and printed schedule

are available at the CAT offices and at business locations throughout the Gorge.

For more information, visit rideCATbus.org/gorge-on-the-go or call 541-389-4202.

HOW TO BUY THE GORGE PASS:

1. Buy a Virtual Pass online at rideCATbus.org/gorge-on-the-go to download to your phone.
2. Have a GOrge Pass card mailed to you when you call 541-386-4202 and pay with a credit card.
3. Pick up a GOrge Pass card in person by visiting the CAT office at 224 Wasco Loop, Hood River.

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