

Very different weeks for WHS teams

BY BRUCE DUSTIN
For The Columbia Press

Last week was a Clatskanie clash times two.

The girls softball team had a double-header at home and boys baseball had a double on the road.

It wasn't pleasant for the home fans. The girls lost 12-0 and 15-4.

Mia McFadden and Avyree Miethe split pitching duties in the first game and Avyree pitched throughout the second.

On the flip side, the boys won 18-0 and 12-1 in Clatskanie.

In game one, Duane Falls threw a no-hitter, striking out 13 batters. Josh Earls and Dylan Atwood had two of the Warriors' nine hits.

In game two, Dylan, Dawson Little, and Mikey Unness combined on a one-hitter. Dylan went four innings and allowed just one hit, striking out five.

Dylan had three hits in the second game, and Josh, Ethan Caldwell, and Dawson each contributed two.

On Tuesday, the girls played and lost to Portland Adventist, 9-5.

For more, go to thecolumbiapress.com.

Clatsop County home values soaring

The Columbia Press and news services

Homeowners who need some good news may want to check their home's value on Zillow or other home sales websites.

Value has risen substantially in the past year and especially in the past few months.

"The global pandemic hammered many industries and led to massive unemployment, but homeowners are coming away with a big win," according to Erik Knoder, a state economist for Oregon's Northwest region. "Home prices not only continued to

rise in many cities across the nation, but they increased even more than in the previous year."

The Case-Shiller Index of national home prices -- a product of the St. Louis Federal Reserve -- showed a more than 11 percent increase during the past year nationwide. The growth rate was nearly three times that of the year before.

And on the North Coast, which includes Clatsop, Tillamook and Lincoln counties, the news keeps getting better.

The average sale price for residential property rose 14.5 percent in January to \$425,300. The figure is based on a 12-month moving average of prices reported by Regional Multiple Listing Service.

The number of homes sold also increased in 2020, with the North Coast reporting 1,960 closed sales for the year versus 1,776 in 2019.

A drawback in using home sales to evaluate the real estate market is that the quality of houses sold each month is

not consistent, Knoder points out in a report on the housing market. One month may see more high-quality houses sold, the next month may see more low-quality houses being sold.

One way around the problem is to use economic models to estimate values for all the residential property in an area, he said. Zillow does this modeling and makes the data available on the company's website.

The Zillow estimates for Northwest Oregon, which includes the coastal counties plus Benton and Columbia, show that home values hit new highs in 2020. The price gap between the most expensive county, Benton, and the lowest, Lincoln, also narrowed.

In early 2005, when data for all five counties first were available, Benton's prices were about 44 percent higher than Lincoln. By 2020, the difference had dropped to 27 percent. And the gap seems to be closing even more in 2021.

Marijuana: City places further restrictions on businesses

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of downtown, near Hampton Lumber and Pacific Seafood, in a small pocket of land zoned industrial.

They had asked the city to allow businesses like theirs in any industrial zone, not just those east of the Highway 101 and had suggested allowing them as conditional uses.

While the developers' project was denied, the Planning Commission recommended city commissioners tighten requirements for all marijuana businesses, especially since a new middle school will open in the fall adjacent to the industrially zoned property.

Warrenton has one marijuana processing facility in the industrial zone near Astoria Regional Airport.

After Oregon voters legalized the recreational use of marijuana in 2014, cities were required to allow the businesses.

Cities that haven't made provisions for marijuana businesses can find themselves with marijuana retail stores, wholesale outlets, grow facilities and processing plants in places they may prefer not to have them.

Two property owners ad-

dressed city commissioners Tuesday, one in a letter and one in person.

In his letter, Gary Moore, who owns property on Dolphin Road, opposed the smell and potential loss of property value a processing plant would impose on nearby residents.

George Warren, who lives north of downtown, opposed any marijuana operation near him. Plenty of homes, churches and even downtown would

be negatively impacted, he told commissioners.

"This still keeps everything east of 101," Mayor Henry Balensifer told him. "The application you're referring to was denied. The person trying to make the zone change, ... It (the conditional use provision) doesn't bring it close to your neighborhood. It just makes it more difficult."

City commissioners unanimously approved the resolution.

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the **Warrenton Urban Renewal Agency**, Clatsop County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, will be held at the Warrenton Community Center, 170 SW 3rd Street, Warrenton. The meeting will take place on the 15th day of May, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 30, 2021 at Warrenton City Hall between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by visiting our website at www.ci.warrenton.or.us.

A subsequent meeting to discuss the budget, if needed, will be held on May 22, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Please call City Hall to inquire whether this meeting will be held.

These are public meetings where deliberation of the budget committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the budget committee. However, in order to maintain social distancing, seating may be limited. If you would like to provide public comment in writing, rather than appear in person, please contact Dawne Shaw at dshaw@ci.warrenton.or.us or (503) 861-0823. Any written comments must be received prior to 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2021 to be entered into the record.

A copy of this notice is also posted at the City's website: www.ci.warrenton.or.us under "News and Announcements."

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