

Gorge artists Open Studios Preview Show at Columbia Gorge Museum

The Columbia Gorge Museum recently announced its newest exhibition, Gorge Artists Open Studios Preview Show. Located in the Encircle Technology Community Gallery, the artworks of various local artists participating in this year's Gorge Artists Open Studios will be on view to the public April 18-26.

The preview show allows guests to see works from Gorge artists before their studios open for public viewing from May 1-3. There will be an exclusive gallery opening 6 to 8 p.m., at the Museum on Friday, April 17. Guests can meet the artists and get an exclusive first look at the show.

Following the preview show, the 2026 anniversary tour features 50 artists across 41 studio locations in Hood River and Wasco Counties in Oregon, and Skamania and Klickitat counties in Washington.

The Columbia Gorge Museum is passionate about highlighting and supporting local artists and educat-

ing the community on the Gorge and beyond. They invite the public to learn more about the art and history in the region through new exhibitions and events at the Museum.

To view the newest exhibition, visit the Columbia Gorge Museum at 990 SW Rock Creek Drive in Stevenson.

For more information on Gorge Artists Open Studios Preview Show, upcoming exhibitions and events at the Museum, visit their website at columbiagorgemuseum.org or call 509-427-8211. Museum hours of operation and admission rates are available online.

The Columbia Gorge Museum is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization located in Stevenson. It is home to exhibits that reflect the cultural and ecological richness of the Columbia River Gorge. Supported in part by Skamania County and the City of Stevenson.

Source: Columbia Gorge Museum

A Special Sense of Place Pop-Up event with Jerry Franklin, 'Father of New Forestry' on Friday

Sense of Place presents a special pop-up event: Jerry Franklin: Rethinking Forests: Then and Now, taking place Friday, April 24, at the Bingen Theater, 210 Oak St., Cook, Washington. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

This evening offers a rare opportunity to hear from renowned forest ecologist Jerry Franklin as he considers what we've learned, what remains uncertain and where forest stewardship may need to go next.

A longtime professor at the University of Washington and former scientist with the U.S. Forest Service, Franklin helped pioneer "New Forestry," an approach that integrates ecological values and wildlife habitat into timber harvest strategies. His work also informed the landmark Northwest Forest Plan, which reshaped management of federal forests across Washington, Oregon and California.

Over the course of a long and influential career, Franklin has been called many things: an iconoclast, a forest doctor, a salesman, a troublemaker, a bridge-builder, a gang member, the father of New Forestry. And while no single word can encompass the man, what's certain is that few individuals have shaped how we understand – and manage – Pacific Northwest forests more than he has.

Franklin will reflect on the path that led him into the woods – from an early fascination with trees to the research that helped overturn long-standing assumptions about old-growth forests. He'll revisit the pivotal decades when science, policy and public debate collided in the Northwest, from the emergence of New Forestry to the controversy surrounding the Northern Spotted Owl, and the political moment that produced the landmark Northwest Forest Plan. And he'll consider the present and future of Pacific Northwest forests, and his own evolving views on how we might steward them in an era of climate change, wildfire, and shifting public expectations.

Franklin is an influential forest ecologist in the Pacific Northwest and a leading figure in transforming how forests are understood and managed. Over a career spanning more than six decades, his research fundamentally shifted scientific, economic and public perception of forests and their management.

This Sense of Place event was made possible by support from Columbia Land Trust and Resilient Forestry, with special thanks to Adam Lieberg and Russell Kramer.

Ticket sales support this and future Sense of Place programs. Tickets are available online at givebuter.com/jerryfranklin.



MGP Press courtesy photo | Skamania County Pioneer

Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez tours the Skamania Fish Hatchery in Washougal with county officials and local fishermen on Tuesday, April 7.

Gluesenkamp Perez visits Skamania Fish Hatchery after state decision to close it

Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez toured the Skamania Fish Hatchery in Washougal on Tuesday, April 7, which the state mothballed ahead of full closure this year due to budget cuts and increased regulatory costs from lawsuits.

Alongside Southwest Washington fishermen, who rely on the steady operation of the Skamania Hatchery, and county officials, Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez encouraged the Washington State Legislature to prioritize the necessary resources to reopen this critical facility.

"Lawsuits have significantly increased the cost

and perceived risk of running hatcheries. Combined with a constrained state budget, hatcheries are facing closure – but the kind of recreational and subsistence fishing that comes from steelhead cannot become an extinct species," Gluesenkamp Perez said in a press statement.

"Families in Washington have relied on steelhead for generations. At the fancier grocery stores, it costs \$79.95 per pound right now, but the cost per hatchery fish is roughly \$4 for taxpayers. That's high-quality protein at a time when groceries are becoming a real burden. An interest group's ability to sue until they get a favor-

able outcome shouldn't determine who has access to recreational or subsistence fishing."

Last month, Gluesenkamp Perez wrote to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Director Kelly Susewind, urging support for reopening the hatchery and ensuring its continued operation alongside the North Toutle Hatchery.

Under the 1938 Mitchell Act, Congress provides funding to support salmon and steelhead production in the Columbia River Basin. Gluesenkamp Perez has consistently advocated for the highest possible fund-

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Skamania County agrees to \$20,000 payout in Flock license plate camera lawsuit

By Emily Harris
Courtesy of UpLift Local

On March 30, Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson signed a new state law regulating automated license plate readers. Among other things, it explicitly says images taken by the roadside cameras are not public records.

But that came too late for Skamania County. Six days earlier, the county had agreed to pay nearly \$20,000 to settle a 2025 lawsuit alleging that county officials had broken public records law by not releasing images taken by the cameras.

The lawsuit was filed by Jose Rodriguez, an Oregon resident who has been on a mission to push back against the growing use of the license plate readers. Starting in September 2024, he made public records requests to dozens of cities and counties across Washington, asking for images of vehicles captured by local license plate reader cameras. The cameras automatically record license numbers and other identifying information about passing vehicles.

Rodriguez said he started making the requests under public records law as a way to share information about how local cameras are being used.

"I wanted to see what all the cameras captured

What else the new license plate reader laws do
<p>Washington's new law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bars license plate readers from being used near schools, health care facilities, food banks or immigration offices. Forbids Washington agencies from sharing data collected by the cameras with out-of-state law enforcement, or using it for immigration enforcement. Forbids cameras to monitor access of protected health care services or political protests.
<p>Oregon's new law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forbids use of the cameras for immigration enforcement. Forbids using the cameras to collect "political, religious or social views" unless directly relating to a criminal investigation. Requires Oregon agencies that share camera data with out-of-state law enforcement to track certain information, such as who wanted it, why and from how many cameras. Ongoing access isn't allowed. Critics say it dropped a definition of encryption that they felt added protection against widespread data sharing and allowed wiggle room that could lead to federal immigration enforcement accessing local data.

and use the images to spread the word to everyone else," Rodriguez told UpLift Local in an email interview. "If I am not doing anything wrong and not suspected of committing any crime then the government should not have devices that log my travel for any time period."

Out of 49 agencies Rodriguez originally asked for camera records, he said that 37 either gave him the records or were willing to if he paid a fee. He filed lawsuits against a dozen who would not release the records, and two sued him.

What the cameras collect

According to a market survey of automated license plate readers done for the Department of Homeland Security last year, the technology has been used by law enforcement for more than two decades and is now a "critical component" for effective policing, such as tracking car theft and missing people.

But recent evolutions are "radically changing who is able to access ALPRs and what they are able to do with them," the survey says. Opponents' concerns

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News Briefs

Run With Heart 5K Saturday benefits Operation Warm Heart

Skamania PUD, The Columbia Gorge Running Club and Skamania Lodge are proud to announce the Run with Heart 5K, a community race on Saturday, April 18, that raises funds for Operation Warm Heart, a program dedicated to providing essential home energy assistance to individuals and families in Skamania County experiencing financial hardship.

The race will start and finish at the scenic River-view Pavilion at Skamania Lodge, looping around the Lodge's grounds on paved golf cart paths – a unique opportunity rarely open to pedestrians. Participants will be treated to breathtaking views of the Columbia River Gorge throughout the course.

Runners will have the chance to win an overnight stay donated by Skamania Lodge. One-hundred percent of race proceeds and additional donations will go directly to Operation Warm Heart to support residents in Skamania County.

The Run with Heart 5K is made possible with the kind support of sponsors, including A&J Market, whose community partnership helps make this event a success.

Check in starts at 8 a.m., wit race starting at 9 a.m., at Riverview Pavilion, Skamania Lodge in Stevenson. Registration is \$25 per person, youth 18 and younger are free, additional donations welcome. Register online at runsignup.com/skamaniarunwithheart

Source: Skamania County Public Utility District No. 1

County seeks volunteers to serve on Planning Commission

Skamania County is seeking applicants to fill the following positions on the Planning Commission. Interested applicants must be residents of District 2.

District 2 generally includes the areas east of Beacon Rock including North Bonneville, Stevenson and portions of Carson (west of Wind River Hwy. and the Wind River). The northern cutoff is the northern boundary of TIN, R7E (south of Blackledge in Stabler).

These are volunteer positions with an appointment period ending Aug. 31, 2028. The Planning Commission meets 5:30 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month and other times as needed. Members may spend several hours preparing for meetings, in

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Washougal Beaver Bash Saturday, April 18

The inaugural Washougal Beaver Bash will take place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 18 at Reflection Plaza in downtown Washougal. The free, family-friendly event will feature art projects, live music, a puppet show by Red Yarn and exhibitor booths with beaver experts ready to share knowledge about the ecosystem engineers.

Source: Cascade Forest Conservancy

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This day in history

1865	President Lincoln dies.
1912	Titanic sinks.
1947	Jackie Robinson becomes first African American player in Major League Baseball.
1998	Pol Pot, leader of Cambodia's genocidal government, dies in his sleep.
2013	Three people killed, hundreds injured in Boston Marathon bombing.