CIRCULATES IN THE HEART OF THE SCENIC COLUMBIA GORGE

The Skamania County Pioneer

Volume One Hundred Thirty-Seven Number Forty-Three, Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026 Single Copy $1 Publication No. 497720 Stevenson, Washington

Your Chamber In Action



October was a busy month for the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce. On October 21, the Chamber celebrated National Support Your Local Chamber Day with a happy hour at the Chamber office.



The Chamber partnered with the local Democratic and Republican parties to co-host a Candidate Forum.



The month concluded with the Chamber Board's Annual Planning Retreat, where board members reviewed Chamber programs, membership services, and revenue streams while setting priorities for 2027.



Board members and staff welcomed AWB's Manufacturing Tour to Skamania County during its visit to Silver Star Industries.

Skamania County Chamber invites the community to have input on Destination Development Plan

By SCCOC
For The Pioneer

The Skamania County Chamber of Commerce is inviting community members, business owners, tourism partners, and local stakeholders to participate in upcoming community input sessions for the Skamania County Destination Development Plan.

The Chamber is working on a countywide Destination Development Plan to help guide the future of tourism development and management in Skamania County. The plan will focus on strengthening the local visitor economy, identifying tourism opportunities and challenges, supporting thoughtful destination growth, and balancing the needs of visitors, residents, businesses, and community partners.

As part of this process, the Chamber is hosting two public input sessions:

Monday, Nov. 2
5 – 6:30 p.m.
Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for networking
Underwood Community Center

Tuesday, Nov. 3
5 – 6:30 p.m.
Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for networking
Hegewald Auditorium, Stevenson

Attendees will learn more about what the Chamber has been working on around tourism development and management and will have the opportunity to share feedback on priorities, opportunities, challenges, and needs that should be considered as the plan is developed.

"Skamania County has incredible natural assets, recreation opportunities, small businesses, events, and communities that make it a special place to visit and live," said Angie Martin, Executive Director of the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce. "This planning process is about listening to local voices and creating a sustainable path forward that supports our economy while respecting the character and needs of our communities."

The Destination Development Plan will help identify strategies related to visitor services, infrastructure, recreation access, marketing, community partnerships, tourism management, and long-term implementation. Input gathered from residents, businesses, public agencies, and tourism stakeholders will help shape the direction of the plan.

Community members are encouraged to attend the session that works best for them. No RSVP is required.

For more information, contact the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce at info@skamania.org or call 509-427-8911.

The Skamania County Chamber of Commerce supports local businesses, strengthens community connections, promotes tourism, and works to enhance economic vitality throughout Skamania County.

Skamania EMS & Rescue addresses infrastructure repair construction and limits on station access

Beginning Nov. 9, access to Skamania EMS and Rescue's Station 7-1 in Stevenson will be limited as the District undertakes critical exterior infrastructure repairs. The project is part of the District's Long-Term Facilities Plan and is intended to improve facility access, safety and accessibility.

TMC Contractors, LLC is scheduled to begin construction on Nov. 9, with completion anticipated by the end of November. The project includes demolition and replacement of the concrete apron serving the apparatus bays, replacement of the primary walkway leading to the administrative offices and construction of ADA-accessible sidewalks.

Emergency response crews will continue operating from Station 7-1 throughout construction. However, public access to the facility will be limited. Skamania EMS and Rescue asks community members to plan accordingly and follow the guidance below:

- Medical Emergencies: Anyone experiencing a medical emergency should call 911.
- General Business Assistance: Administrative staff will remain available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., by calling 509-427-5065.
- Document Drop-Offs: Community members needing to deliver paperwork should remain in their vehicle and call the station. Administrative staff will come outside to assist.
- November First Aid/CPR courses will be held at an alternate location. Registered students will receive an email with details regarding the new location.
- The District's Nov. 16 Board of Commissioners business meeting will proceed as scheduled but will be held off-site. Once the alternate location is confirmed, meeting details will be posted on the District's website at skamaniaems.com.

These infrastructure improvements are being funded through careful budgeting and responsible spending. The District will cover the project costs through a proportional allocation from its operating fund and Cumulative Reserve Capital Improvements Fund.

"These repairs are an important investment in the long-term functionality and accessibility of our station," said Captain Maury Hildenbrand with the Operations Division. "We appreciate the community's patience and understanding while this work is completed. Our crews will remain operational throughout construction, and we are committed to maintaining emergency response services while minimizing disruptions to the public."

For additional information, community members may contact Skamania EMS and Rescue at 509-427-5065, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., visit skamaniaems.com or email info@skamaniaems.com

News Briefs

Emergency Management seeking support

Skamania County Emergency Management is seeking support from local businesses and community partners to help equip and prepare the volunteers who serve local communities during emergencies and disasters.

Financial sponsorships or in-kind donations will help provide volunteer identification shirts and apparel, training and readiness supplies, and community emergency preparedness materials.

Businesses interested in supporting these efforts or learning more about volunteer opportunities can contact Matt White at matt.white@skamaniacounty.gov or (509) 427-3893.

Such efforts can help strengthen emergency preparedness throughout Skamania County.

Spruce-Up Stevenson is Nov. 7

Register to Volunteer for the fall 2026 Spruce-Up Stevenson event scheduled for Nov, 7.

Gather your family and friends. Bring our neighbors together to strengthen community connection and celebrate our shared pride in Downtown Stevenson.

The community clean-up is scheduled from 9 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Participants meet at the Stevenson Downtown Association office, shared with the Skamania County Chamber at 167 2nd Street, Stevenson, to check in, gather for announcements and get assignments.

Bring tools and wear your Spruce Up T-shirt from past years. We will have more shirts available.

All volunteers receive a $15 lunch coupon to use at participating downtown establishments!

Register and choose your preferred task: https://bit.ly/2026SpruceUpFall.

Stop the Bleed training on Nov. 2nd

North Central Public Health District is offering a free Stop the Bleed training on November 2, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, at The Gloria Center, located at 2505 W. 7th St., The Dalles.

The Stop the Bleed program empowers individuals to go from bystander to lifesaver, with no experience necessary. 5 million people across the country have learned how to stop life-threatening

Continued on p. 5



Inside:

- Letters to the Editor.....Page 3
- Church Directory .....Page 3
- Classified Ads .....Page 4
- Obituaries .....Page 5
- Athletes of the week .....Page 6

This day in history

1886	Statue of Liberty dedicated.
1919	Congress overrides presidential veto of the Volstead Act, ushering in Prohibition.
1962	Nikita Khrushchev orders withdrawal of missiles from Cuba.
1965	St. Louis' Gateway Arch is completed.
1998	President Bill Clinton signs the Digital Millennium Copyright Act into law.