



# COURIER-HERALD

SOUND PUBLISHING, INC.

COURIERHERALD.COM

75 CENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019

## Black Diamond's Rock Creek Bridge gets pedestrian walkway

BY RAY MILLER-STILL  
Editor

A new pedestrian bridge is being added to Black Diamond's Rock Creek Bridge on Roberts Drive.

The bridge has been a topic of debate for more than two years. In April 2017, the city council had trouble deciding what sort of repairs and improvements it should receive, with parties split 2 to 3 between wanting to just repair the bridge or replacing it outright; either option would have included a pedestrian walkway, city staff said at the time.

Since the majority wanted to replace the bridge, arguing that repairs to the century-old structure would only delay the inevitable, the council decided to add the replacement project to the city's 2018 Transportation Improvement Plan. But two members of the majority declined to run for their seats in 2017, and the third was ousted after a recall vote was supported by residents in 2018.

With a new council in place, plans shifted to just repairing the bridge, and the bid for the project was awarded to Goodfellow Bros. on Feb. 7, 2019.

According to city documents, the city has budgeted roughly \$550,000 for the project. About 85 percent of the project has been funded via a grant from the State Transportation Improvement Board. An additional \$46,000 coming from the developer Oakpointe, which is currently in the midst of building out Ten Trails, a housing development that's expected to add more than 6,000 homes to Black Diamond in the next two decades.

It's this development that has

See BRIDGE, Page 9



## Councilwoman Lauk resigns seat

BY RAY MILLER-STILL AND  
KEVIN HANSON  
*The Courier-Herald*

In a surprise announcement, Enumclaw councilwoman Kimberly Lauk will be resigning from her seat, effective immediately.

Lauk planned to make the announcement during the April 22 council meeting, after print

deadline, but provided The Courier-Herald with an advanced copy of her official resignation letter.

"Serving the city of Enumclaw and all who call this wonderful town home has been a tremendous honor. I will carry the knowledge I have gained and relationships I have built during my service here for the rest of my life," she wrote, adding that she's



Kimberly Lauk

resigning "for personal reasons" and "with a heavy heart."

"For that I will be forever grateful. I also want to thank all the people who encouraged me, believed in me

and trusted me enough to grant me this opportunity to serve this city. I hope that by my service on the council, and even by resigning at this time so that you continue to have the representation that you deserve that I have maintained that trust.

"I would like to thank our current Mayor and Council members as well as past Mayor

See LAUK, Page 8

## Thrill of the hunt



The Plateau was awash with Easter activity Saturday, with community organizations and churches from Edgewood to Black Diamond hosting egg hunts. Pictured is Mia Blochberger, far left, Lincoln Ozune, left, and Oliver Palmer, below, enjoying Bonney Lake's annual hunt at Allan Yorke Park. Photo by Ray Miller-Still



## Carnegie Hall appearance for White River band

BY KEVIN HANSON  
Senior Writer

White River High musicians had the distinct honor of performing on one of the most prestigious stages in the world.

A contingent of 55 band members, under the watchful eye of director Rich Kuntzelman and accompanied by 15 chaperones, recently trekked to New York City where they took center stage at Carnegie Hall.

The group left home March 30, performed on April 1 and returned April 3.

The story behind a bunch of Buckley kids playing at storied Carnegie Hall actually began three years ago. Kuntzelman maintains a goal of taking his Hornet band on a major trip every few years and, during a 2016 appearance in New Orleans, the White River group was noticed.

The band was then invited to submit an audition tape to those

in charge of the Carnegie Hall appearance. "It was of the caliber they liked," Kuntzelman said, and the wheels were set in motion.

With Carnegie Hall in mind, students embarked on a major fundraising trek that lasted two and a half years. Each band member was responsible for coming up with \$2,700 and Kuntzelman helped by providing fundraising opportunities. The White River Education Foundation chipped with a financial contribution that

eased the burden.

In the end, Kuntzelman said, students experienced much more than just Carnegie Hall. As part of an organized tour, the White River group took in Broadway shows, met a Radio City Rockette, visited Tin Pan Alley and enjoyed a riverboat cruise.

"There was never a down moment," Kuntzelman said. As a bonus, the trip went according to plan. "It went swimmingly," he added. "Not a single hitch."