



Holiday cocktails
raise the bar
FOOD, B1



Microfilm collection
boosts genealogy
research
CLARK COUNTY, A3

The Columbian

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Council: Harless violated ethics code

Section on avoiding
appearance of
impropriety cited

By **KELLY MOYER**
The Columbian

The Vancouver City Council voted 5-1 Monday night that Councilor Kim Harless had violated a sec-

tion of the council's ethics code relating to avoiding the appearance of impropriety.

The council also voted to sanction Harless with a private admonition, which is a formal but confidential reprimand.

Harless recused herself from the council's discussion and vote.

The council's action was in response to an ethics

complaint filed against Harless in August. A Vancouver resident argued that Harless should have abstained from voting as a councilor and as chair of the city's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee on nearly \$30,000 worth of lodging tax grants given to Vancouver Arena for the group's annual Pokémon GO event in downtown Vancouver. The nonprofit is run

by John Park, Harless' then-boyfriend and now fiancé.

Councilor Diana Perez cast the lone "no" vote against the ethics finding. She had previously made a motion to dismiss the ethics complaint against Harless. That motion failed in a 3-3 vote with Perez, Bart Hansen and Erik Paulsen voting in favor of dismissing the allegations against

Harless and Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle and Councilors Sarah Fox and Ty Stober voting against dismissing the ethics complaints.

"Ultimately, this is about holding ourselves accountable," Stober said. "I myself have walked out of the room when my husband's business was part of what was before this council."

Stober said he agreed

with a third-party assessment by Seattle attorney Brenda Bannon. She told Vancouver officials in an advisory report filed Dec. 2 that she did not believe the facts included in an August ethics complaint against Harless filed by Vancouver resident Brad Erhart were evidence that Harless had

ETHICS, Page A2

'We get to put a smile on someone's face': Make Adventureland memories



Photos by **TAYLOR BALKOM**/The Columbian

Nom-Nom the Elf, left, watches as a family prepares food for animatronic reindeer on Dec. 4 at North Pole Adventureland in Portland.



A Christmas ornament hangs from a tree Dec. 4 at North Pole Adventureland in Portland.

IF YOU GO

What: North Pole Adventureland
Where: 12435 N. Starlight Ave., Portland, in the Jantzen Beach shopping center
Hours: 4-7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec. 22 and 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24.
Cost: \$35 per visitor on weekdays, \$40 per visitor on weekends and the three days leading up to Christmas.
Information: www.holidayadventurecompany.com

By **SARAH WOLF**
The Columbian

Clark County families have a home-grown indoor Christmas-memory-making opportunity this holiday season.

Vancouver residents Amy Philip and her dad, Mark Philip, opened North Pole Adventureland at Jantzen Beach in Portland last year.

Mark Philip grew up going to the old Meier & Frank department store's Santaland in downtown Portland. The Christmas display, along with Santa Claus and the Cinnamon Bear, attracted kids from throughout the metro area. It featured a small monorail train suspended from the ceiling of the store. Mark Philip looked forward to it every year.

The father-daughter pair wanted to create a place where families could make their own modern-day Christmas memories.

ADVENTURELAND, Page A2

Groups get their own elf-guided tour through the North Pole and time with Santa Claus



Nom-Nom the Elf leads a family through Santa's mail room Thursday at North Pole Adventureland in Portland.

WA erred with 685 CDL licenses

They were issued
to noncitizens
who didn't qualify

By **JAKE GOLDSTEIN-STREET**
Washington State Standard

Washington state mistakenly issued nearly 700 licenses to drive trucks and buses to noncitizens who don't qualify over the past seven years.

This issue has drawn heavy criticism from the Trump administration and others after a semitruck driver, Harjinder Singh, allegedly made an illegal U-turn and killed three people in Florida. Singh wrongfully received a standard commercial driver's license from Washington, the state Department of Licensing concluded.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy has since threatened to withhold federal highway funding from states that issue these licenses to immigrants who don't qualify. He has also tried to restrict who qualifies for commercial licenses, a move that is being litigated.

The growing attention led Washington's licensing department to discover 685 other errors of the same kind over the course of seven years. All of those licenses were active when the mistakes were found. That figure doesn't account for errors with credentials that had already lapsed.

A U.S. Department of Transportation spokesperson said Washington's "failure to follow federal law is a blatant breakdown in its responsibility to protect the public."

"By handing out standard CDLs to drivers who were never eligible, Washington sent unsafe foreign drivers onto highways across America and put countless families in danger,"

CDLS, Page A2



Trump says of Ukraine President Zelenskyy, 'He's losing'

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Seahawks' Nick Emmanwori doing it all on defense

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Trudy Rubin: Why is that flotilla in the Caribbean?

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61°/54°

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