



Photos by Adam Lapierre, Ben McCarty and Nicholas Bielemeier

On Jan. 6, The History Museum of Hood River County will reopen its doors to the public after being closed for nearly a year.

During that time the museum has undergone extensive renovation, transforming from dark and gray to a light and airy space to display the county's tradition and heritage. The major project was the first stage of three planned phases for

renovation.

"We still have some of the exhibit components that just weren't possible at this time due to budget constraints, but hopefully grant funding will take care of that over the next year," Museum Director Connie Nice wrote in an update on construction progress.

"For now, we have a beautiful new vibrant space filled

with interesting displays, plenty of historical photographs and unique artifacts.

"Some of the displays will change every few months to give us the opportunity to showcase more artifacts and more stories. While we are almost done with Phase I, we are not done with accomplishing our long-range goals for The History Museum."

## Then



**WHAT RESEMBLED** a gray bunker from the outside (left) is now drenched in brightness, from the new coating of exterior paint to the skylights to a new display case which highlights featured exhibits to passers-by.



**THE INTERIOR** has undergone a radical transformation, with entire walls knocked down to make it easier to pass through the museum as well as to bring in more light. The new atrium in the center of the museum will be used as a flex space for exhibits and events.

## Now



**THE REMODELED UPSTAIRS** area, which was once dark and used for storage (top of far left photo), now features museum staff office space, a research area, comfortable chairs in which to sit and relax and free Wi-Fi.



*"We are turning the page on a new chapter of the story of The History Museum. We have taken what was started by our grandmothers and grandfathers and have embraced the mission of continuing to preserve that story for the next generation."*

*— Museum Director Connie Nice*



### Volunteer

The museum will now be open year-round, with the exception of major holidays and weather emergencies. With the increased operating time, the museum is looking to bolster its volunteer ranks. To find out more about being a volunteer, visit the museum's website at [www.co.hood-river.or.us/museum](http://www.co.hood-river.or.us/museum).

### Ribbon cutting

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the renovated museum will be held Jan. 6 from 2-4 p.m. The public is invited by the museum to "commemorate all we have accomplished with your help...and celebrate our exciting future." The museum will have free admission the day of the ribbon cutting.

### Phase 2

The second phase of the renovation is a structure on the north end of the building for storage. Many artifacts were moved off-site as the museum underwent renovation, but now that they are coming back, Nice says there is an "extreme need to provide a long-term storage facility for our growing artifact collection." The museum also hopes to eventually add more gallery space.