

Hood River News

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Service

The best way to remember Dr. King

We could fill dozens of editorial columns with the powerful words of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., from throughout his career serving his church, his community, and the nation.

Many of those words will be spoken during Monday's community celebration on MLK Day (details on page A1).

Here are just 13 words that sum up the underlying mission of Martin Luther King:

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'what are you doing for others?'"

Groups around the country are focusing on these words of King in the MLK Day of Service, a part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems. In 2014, citizens in all 50 states delivered meals, refurbished schools and community centers, and collected food and clothing. Volunteers also recruited mentors, supported job-seekers, built homes and provided other services for veterans and military families, and helped citizens improve their financial literacy skills.

To learn more, go to nationalservice.gov, and register your project or idea, track what others are doing, and learn about more resources on the subject.

What are you doing as an individual or group, as part of the organized Day of Service, or on your own? Share it with readers by sending a short description — attach a photo if you'd like — to hrnews@hoodrivernews.com.

If you want to reach out at this time, or any other, to groups that are striving to deal with problems of literacy, hunger, aging, and domestic violence, our "How to Help" feature, running on this page, is a place to start.

King himself put a major emphasis on mentoring — caring adults spending time and giving their talents to young people — and numerous such programs are available and in need of volunteers. They include foster parenting and Big Brother/Big Sister programs through The Next Door, Inc., Aspire at HRVHS, reading and math assistance at any school, Start Making A Reader Today, and more.

The question is "persistent and urgent" because the needs are. Whether in memory of Dr. King or for the future of a young person, reach out and lend a hand. The giver is usually the greatest recipient.

WHERE TO WRITE

President — Barack Obama, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington D.C., 20500

E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

U.S. Senators — Sen. Jeff Merkley, 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, phone 202-224-3753

Sen. Ron Wyden, Dirksen Senate Office Building 221, Washington, D.C., phone 202-224-5244

2nd Congressional District Representative — Greg Walden, 14 N. Central Ave., Suite 112, Medford, OR 97504. Phone: 541-776-4646; E-mail: www.walden.house.gov/contactgreg

Governor — John Kitzhaber, 254 State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111; E-mail: www.governor.state.or.us/email.htm

District 26 State Senator — Chuck Thomsen, 900 Court St. N.E., S-307, State Capitol, Salem, OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1726; E-mail sen.chuckthomsen@state.or.us

District 52 State Representative — Mark Johnson, 900 Court St. N.E., Bldg. H-385, State Capitol, Salem, OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1452; E-mail: rep.markjohnson@state.or.us

Hood River County Board of Commissioners — Chair Ron Rivers, Vice Chair Maui Meyer, members Les Perkins, Bob Benton and Karen Joplin, Hood River County Courthouse, Hood River, OR, 97031. Phone: 541-386-3970.

County Administrator — Dave Meriwether, Hood River County Courthouse, Hood River, OR, 97031. Phone: 541-386-3970.

Hood River City Council — Mayor Paul Blackburn, members Laurent Picard, Mark Zannmiller, Kate McBride, Becky Brun, Peter Cornelison and Susan Johnson, Hood River City Hall, Hood River, OR, 97031. Phone: 541-386-1488. E-mail: cohr@gorge.net

Protesting point

In protest of Jim Burdick's letter to the Editor "Good Job, Obama." In it he demonstrates a profound ignorance of history, claiming that no other world leaders stood in support of the US after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Not only did Europe stand in unity with America, so did some of our traditional adversaries such as Iran, Cuba, Libya, and North Korea.

He forgets that no one was flying anywhere immediately after the attacks of 2001. However, the inability to physically stand on American soil did not deter the rest of the world from mourning with us.

Speaking with such force and conviction without an understanding of history demonstrates the arrogance of ignorance that leads to acts of terror like Sept. 2001 and Paris 2015. If we let these acts of terror drive a wedge between us, then the terrorists win.

Glen Patrizio
Hood River

Punchbowl Falls 'a gem'

I'm relatively new to the area. I moved to Parkdale in July 2013. I've been over to Punchbowl Falls for swimming. I heard about the area and just had to see it for myself. I'm a father of three boys, soon to be four. I've been to many of our National Parks and State Parks across the country, to include Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Everglades, and Great Smoky to name a handful.

Punchbowl Falls is a gem in this valley. The view from the pool is wonderful. The basalt wall towers at least a couple of hundred feet up. There is another waterfall nearby that is just a refreshing delight to visit. It has two small pools of its own. I'm 38-years-old, and it was strenuous for me to enjoy. In fact, I found much of the area to be precarious.

There are some real dangers at the site. Depending on the time of year, Punchbowl Falls gushes and is dangerous to approach. Guard rails are an absolute necessity. Warnings about approaching the falls while in

the pool are needed as well. In my humble opinion, it would be a great loss for this county not to acquire the land. I've visited both Tucker and Tollbridge parks. They are treasures for this area as well. Punchbowl could be the park that is missing. I would be willing to pay a small tax to help fund the county parks. I read before that grant money did not meet the sale price. There must be some way to supplement that grant money with aid from local citizens and businesses to turn Punchbowl into the next county park.

Mike Teems, Jr.
Parkdale

Money talks

If you do not believe this, then you have not looked at the recent Supreme Court decisions regarding political contributions, or the recent decisions regarding zoning in Hood River.

I decided to look at the local decisions only.

Hood River used to have a zoning that restricted housing to lots 100 by 100. This has been reduced to allowing five houses on a lot sized for two units.

This is only an extreme example. Others include allowing multiple units for single unit housing, allowing parking units that were impossible to use.

This only results in many additional costs to those who do not profit from the recent zoning decisions.

The additional costs for water and sewer pipes, which were not designed for the in-fill decisions made by selected developers, are going to be paid by residents who followed the previous rules.

Why don't we require these developers pay for the additional services required by their developments?

I propose a cost, per unit, be added to development expenses for all units added to the fee for multi-units on ANY site other than the original 100 by 100 site. This cost should equal the anticipate fee for providing this service.

Why should they profit at the cost of older residents?

Leonard Hickman
Hood River

Missing the point

I think people are missing the real reason why Obama did not go "Stand with France" recently. If you read his "Audacity of Hope" crap you know that in reference to the Muslims he said, "I will stand with them should the political winds shift in an ugly direction." His words exactly, not mine. I think what he is doing by staying away from France is exactly that, "standing with the Muslims." It does not surprise me. He and Michelle, like most liberals, are ashamed to be American. That's my opinion.

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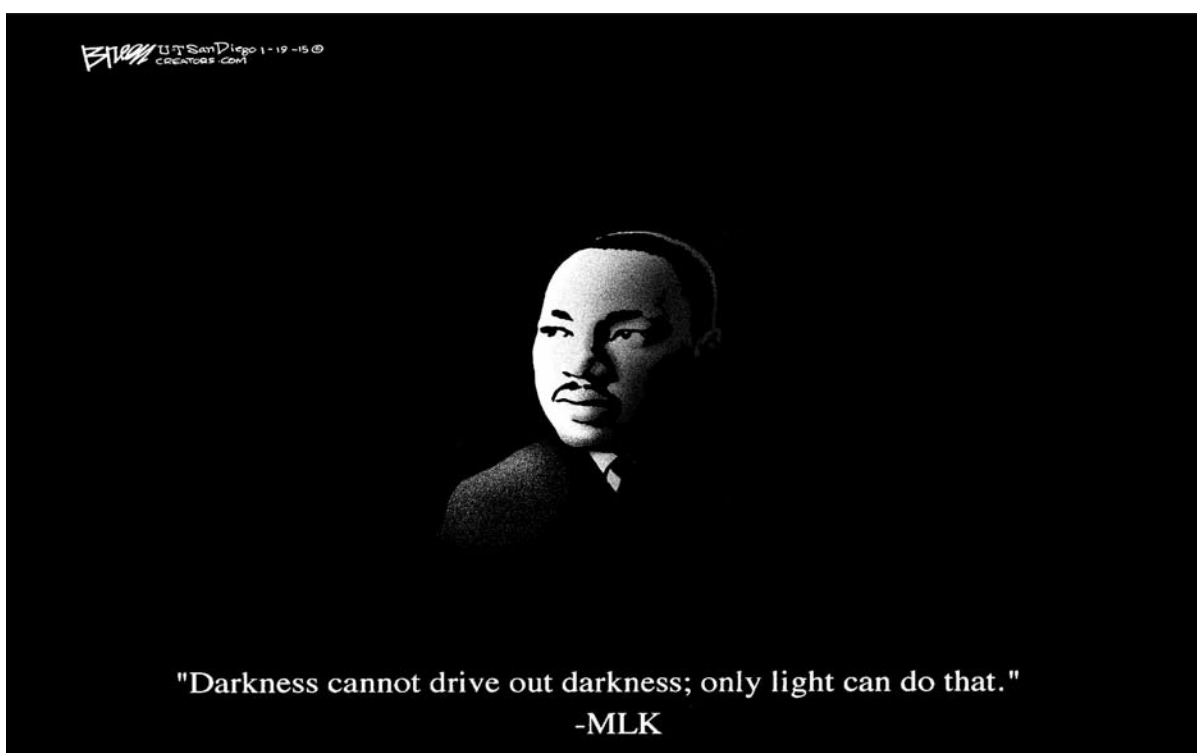
Thank you for thank you notes

"The Elusive Thank You Note" by Wendy Best said it best. I have been concerned for a long time that adult children and grandchildren do not write "thank you" notes for anything from wedding gifts to bringing their friends for a weekend of playing on the slopes of Mt. Hood.

Of course we are grateful that they come and want to bring their friends, but they should be grateful too, for the invitation, beds, food and welcome. Since they do not send "thank yous," they are not teaching their children to do it either.

Great aunts and uncles, grandparents and old family friends are usually on fixed incomes. When "we" send money for birthdays and other gifts, we would like a note (and maybe a crayon drawing) from the recipients showing their gratitude. It is a labor of love to get over 30 cards a year, add money and mail them to the right people at the right time. Make some old people happy. Send "thank yous."

Linda Frizzell
Mt. Hood



HOW TO HELP

■ **Helping Hands Against Violence** — Helping Hands operates two facilities that offer shelter and safety to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Contact the office at 541-386-4808 prior to dropping off shelter items or to arrange a pick up. You also may donate online at: www.helpinghandsoregon.com.

Needed goods include, for the shelter: toilet paper, sponges, paper towels, garbage bags, laundry detergent, dish soap, laundry soap, towels and washcloths, sheets and blankets (single double, queen), pots and pans silverware, and toys for the kids' playroom; for the office, copy paper, envelopes, letter size file folders, stamps, post-its, bottled water, tissues, and disinfectant wipes.

For those in need of Helping Hands services, here is the hotline number: 541-386-6603.

■ **HR Care Center** — The Family Council at the Hood River Care Center is seeking donations for wild

birdseed, to be used in filing the residents' birdfeeders. This is an activity which is enjoyed all year round. Donations may be dropped off at the Hood River Care Center, 729 Henderson Road. For delivery or pick-up, call Debbie Medina, 541-490-1575 or Carol Daniel, chairman, 541-490-6136 or hrccfc551@gmail.com.

■ **Warming Shelter** — Hood River Warming Shelter is open at Riverside Community Church, Third and State, this week until Jan. 18, and then for a week at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Visit hoodrivercares.org for details on how to assist. On Jan. 25 it moves to the former Expo Center at the waterfront, through the end of the season in March.

From 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. nightly, homeless people can find a warm place to sleep, bedding, meals, and connection to community resources, all at no charge. The service is offered nightly at rotating locations.

■ **Veterans Office** — Volunteer

WANT IN?
If your non-profit is looking for volunteers or has other needs, send brief information to hrnews@hoodrivernews.com.

drivers from the Mid-Columbia area are needed to take veterans to the Portland VA Medical Center. Oregon drivers must have a valid driver's license and a good driving record. CDL is not needed. For more information, contact the DAV Coordinator at 1-800-949-1004, ext. 57804 or ext. 56957.

■ **FISH** — The food bank program in Hood River County can always use monetary donations to help stock shelves at sites in Hood River, Parkdale, Odell and Cascade Locks. Donations may be sent to 1767 12th St., ox 147, Hood River, OR 97031



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Founded in 1905

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