



# Hood River News

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## PUNCH LIST Two Upper Valley Land Use Proposals

### Punchbowl Falls park idea sees a flurry of feedback

By BEN MITCHELL  
News staff writer

A call for public input on a plan to develop a county park around Punchbowl Falls has been warmly received by area residents, hundreds of which have already provided feedback on what the future should hold for the popular waterfall near Dee.

Approximately 60 people turned up to a public forum held in the County Business Administration Building on Tues-

day night that was led by Hood River Valley Residents Committee, a local land use watchdog group, and Western Rivers Conservancy, a Portland conservation group that owns the land around Punchbowl Falls.

In addition to the forum, Heather Staten, executive director of HRVRC, said that within the first week, over 400 people had completed an online

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Heather Staten



Josh Kling

### DeeTour can proceed

Developer says timeline for music venue TBD

By BEN MITCHELL  
News staff writer

A music venue planned for construction in Dee can now move forward after a local land use watchdog group made the decision to not continue pursuing an appeal it had filed against the project.

DeeTour, a concert amphitheater and event space that is to be located at the old mill site in Dee, had been the subject of an appeal by the Hood River Valley Residents Committee, who had raised con-

cerns over "deficiencies" in the project application that the organization felt weren't properly addressed, particularly stormwater and traffic issues.

The appeal was heard by the Hood River County Planning Commission in December, where it stalled after the commission was unable to arrive at enough votes to make a decision. HRVRC could have continued to the next step of the

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## 'Our dreams live on'

Speakers call for continued efforts to fulfill Dr. King's vision of justice

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA  
News editor

In music, in readings, and in a challenge to keep on working for justice, a capacity congregation celebrated the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Monday at Riverside Community Church.

"We celebrate dreams that are sometimes challenged by nightmares," Rev. John Boonstra said, invoking the "I have a dream" speech in 1963 by King in Washington, D.C.

In what is now an annual event, the Community Gospel Choir sang and led songs by the congregation, adults and children read words of Dr. King, and John Lennon's "Imagine" was sung a capella by HRVHS students AnneLise Acosta, Olivia Newcomb, and Caitlyn Fick. It was a reprise of their 2014 performance at the same event, billed as "MLK's Dream Lives on: Building a Community of Justice for All" and organized by Gorge Ecumenical Ministries. Fol-



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

SINGER EVELYN CHARITY leads the Community Gospel Choir in the spiritual "Oh, Freedom," during Monday's Martin Luther King Day event at Riverside Community Church. Readings and music filled the ecumenical service, attended by about 200 people.

lowing a potluck, about 250 people filled the sanctuary of the church.

Mayor Paul Blackburn welcomed the congregation, speaking first in Spanish.

"If he were to look around in 2015, Dr. King would be proud at what we have done and crestfallen at the ongoing challenges," Blackburn said, citing police violence and disproportionate African-American male prison population, marriage inequality, health

insurance inaccessibility, challenges to legal residency, and human impacts on climate.

"We are challenged by our nightmares, but our dreams live on," Boonstra said, adding his hopes that citizens will continue to dream of love between brothers and sisters, peace between the ways of nonviolence and the sources of power, and for a healthy planet.

He cited the nightmares of

families separated, immigrants who must drive illegally to get to work and take their children to school, peaceful communities shattered by too easy access to drugs, neighbors unable to access affordable health care, gun violence, and "a groaning planet."

"I hope you remember anything at all about tonight is that the person sitting next to you is a dreamer just like

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## Benton, Hamada named 2014 'Hearts of Gold'

It's been said that certain individuals have a "heart of gold." These people make a difference and enrich the community through their good works and selfless dedication. They act from the heart and are driven to help others.

Each year, Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital Foundation honors a community member and a health care professional whose golden hearts shine brightly. This year's recipient are Don Benton and Dr. Paul Hamada.

The annual Hearts of Gold Celebration benefits an expansion of cancer services offered at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital. Hearts of Gold happens 6 p.m., Saturday, Mar. 7, at Best Western Hood River Inn, 1108 E. Marina Way, Hood River

Benton is well known in the Columbia Gorge for volunteering his time. After 26 years in the Navy and 10 years working as a civilian, he decided to continue working - just not for money. He joined his first non-profit board in 2001 and now is a member of more than a dozen non-profit boards and advisory committees for such organizations as The Next Door, Inc., Opportunity Connections, Helping Hands Against Violence and United Way. He truly gives his time, talent and treasure to improve the quality of life for individ-

uals in our community.

Dr. Hamada changed the lives of people in our community through more than 40 years of service as a physician in Hood River. In 1970, he was one of just

eight physicians practicing in our area. There are now more than 100. He helped establish an emergency room, intensive care unit and other services and was the only internist in the

Columbia Gorge, serving patients as far away as Yakima and Bend. For many years, he took calls 365 days per year. His patients had a unique care experience, as Dr. Hamada and his wife and office manager, Cathy, served them like family.

The Hearts of Gold Celebration is open to the public and is known as one of Hood River's finest events. In addition to honoring Hearts of Gold award winners, guests will be treated to a lovely evening

featuring a cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres, a classic dinner, live music and a short program from the foundation. A limited number of tickets (\$75 per person) are available and can be purchased by calling 541-387-6242. All proceeds benefit the expansion of cancer services at Providence Hood River for patients and their families. Phil Hukari and Dr. Stephan Coffman were the 2013 recipients.



Dr. Paul Hamada



Don Benton

### WALDEN TOWN HALL

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden listens as high school students urge him to put a high priority on climate change, during Saturday's town hall at Hood River Adult Center, attended by about 75 people. HRVHS junior Charley Boonstra, in purple shirt, spoke, and a group of about 20 adults from the Columbia Gorge Climate Change Network stood in silence holding symbols of nature. Immigration and health care were other hot topics at the town hall, Walden's first in Oregon this year, and second in Hood River in the past two months. Hood River News will carry a report on the town hall in the Jan. 24 edition.

Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea



#### LOOK INSIDE

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#### Mid Valley community meeting Jan. 22

Mid Valley Elementary staff, parents and community members are invited to the school library on Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the qualities and attributes they would like to see in the school's next principal.

Principal Dennis McCauley will retire at the end of June. He came to the Hood River County School District, and to Mid Valley Elementary, in August 2004.

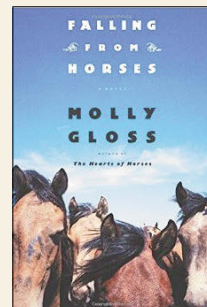
Superintendent Dan Goldman will lead the evening forum.

#### Three To Go

##### Author Molly Gloss reads Jan. 25

Waucoma Bookstore and the Friends of the Library are hosting Molly Gloss for an author reading at the Hood River Library on Sunday at 2 p.m. Gloss will discuss her new book, "Falling From Horses." Books will be available to purchase at the event.

In a new novel from the best-selling author of "The Hearts of Horses" and "The Jump-Off Creek," a young ranch hand escapes a family tragedy and travels to 1938 Hollywood to become a stunt rider. The presentation is free and open to the public.



##### United Way packets available now

The 2015 United Way of the Columbia Gorge (UWCG) Allocations Application Packets will be available through Feb. 12 from the United Way of the Columbia Gorge office. Any non-profit 501(c)(3) human service program addressing basic human needs in Hood River, Klickitat, Sherman, Skamania and Wasco Counties is welcome to apply. All applications must be completed and mailed to the UWCG office by Feb. 13, to be considered for funding.

For more information or to request an electronic copy of the application please contact: Alison Church, Campaign/Allocations Manager, United Way of the Columbia Gorge, 541-386-6100, or alijchurch@gmail.com.

