



Submitted photo

LYLE SECONDARY School student, Qwum-Slu Spino will participate in native dancing Saturday at the library KOOBDOOGA event.

WS 'Community Reads' shares cultures Feb. 7

Friends of the Library invite the public to attend a cultural sharing experience followed by a film, Saturday at the White Salmon Valley Community Library.

The afternoon events will start at 2 p.m. with a presentation by Lyle Secondary School students opening with the traditional Native American Butterfly Dance, followed by a talk on Native American regalia, fishing and hunting practices, and use of roots and berries. The student finale will be a traditional Round Dance. At 3:15 p.m., the award-winning PBS American Masters feature film "Coming to Light: Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian" will be shown.

This program is the second in a series of five Saturday events in connection with the White Salmon Valley Community Library's first annual "KOOBDOOGA: Community Reads 2015" project (KOOBDOOGA is "A Good Book" spelled backwards). The weekly events are inspired by this year's featured book "Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis" by award winning Seattle author Timothy Egan.

A stunning exhibit of art by local and regional artists and inspired by the book is on view through Feb. 28. The display is featured through the end of February in White Salmon downtown windows.

Decoding Dyslexia group hosts workshops

The Columbia Gorge chapter of Decoding Dyslexia kicks off its 2015 Parent and Educator Workshop Series on Tuesday, Feb. 17 with a presentation on "The Dyslexia Friendly Classroom" by expert teacher Emily O'Connor. The presentation is free and will be held at the Hood River Hotel, 102 Oak St., from 6 to 8 p.m. For teachers, two professional development credits can be earned

for a cost of \$20, payable at the event. O'Connor is a Portland reading specialist and certified Barton tutor and Dyslexia Screener with PDX Reading Specialist, LLC.

The Parent and Educator Workshop series continues on March 10 with "What Parents and Teachers need to Know About Learning to Read," presented by Cheryl Anthony of Success-

ful Learning Educational Services, LLC. The presentation is from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Hood River Hotel. Dyslexia Support Meetings will also be held the first Tuesday of March, April and May at 6:30 p.m. at Ground Coffee, 12 Oak St., Hood River.

For more info, contact Megan Filiault at 503-209-9638 or columbiagorge@decodingdyslexia.org.

GEM gives service honor to FISH, Our Redeemer

Food bank site is on track for April move-in

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News editor

Gorge Ecumenical Ministries has awarded the FISH program with its 2015 Inspired Service and Action Award.

Kathy Terry of Our Redeemer and Chuck Bugge of FISH accepted the honor at the Jan. 25 annual meeting, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on Tucker Road.

The annual award by the group of churches is in "gratitude for inspired work to build a new food distribution center," according to GEM's Rod Parrott. The church donated the land and the new structure is connected by a breezeway to the church.

"The award is reflective on the whole community and what it has done to help this happen," said Bugge, chair of the construction committee.

Planning began in 2011, and in its two-year capital campaign, the organization raised \$1 million, with the help of grants from inside as well as outside the county. In-county gifts came from more than 560 sources, according to Bugge.

"This is something the community has been working hard for; during the last four years, so it's an award we can all claim," Bugge said.

Our Redeemer Lutheran pastor David King welcomed the GEM assembly of about 60 people, and Oregon Food Bank's Suzanna Morgan spoke of the value of nutrition education and gardening programs in responding to food insecurity, and updated the group on pending legislation to deal with the issue.

Education and integration with local food production are two precepts of the Hood River FISH program, which works with Gorge Grown Food Network. FISH will offer classes and outreach from the new headquarters,

which will be equipped with a meeting room and destination kitchen. "We're tied into some proactive things," Bugge said.

The church grounds are the location for the new food bank headquarters, due for completion by the end of March. (The Odell, Cascade Locks and Parkdale food bank locations will continue to operate; the new headquarters will allow for more efficient distribution of food stocks among the four sites.)

Contractor Doug Simurdak told the building committee last week that the headquarters project should be done by the end of March.

"Getting that date was important to us because there are things we need to do to as the project comes close to completion," Bugge said. He cited scheduling a crew to deliver and install shelving donated from the old Hood River Supply store.

"Once we have an idea of these type of things, we can schedule people to come into

the warehouse to do interior construction," Bugge said. These projects include students painting a reception area mural in recognition of the people who contributed to the building.

"Down the road we hope that either the last part of March or the first part of April we can schedule an open house," Bugge said.

"But our biggest concern will be the food; we want to have the center able to operate before open house," he said. "It will take some manpower, but I know we can pull together the help we need. We've never done this before, moved into an entirely new building, and one thing we are looking at is figuring out is a whole new way of operating—a new system of actually distributing the food to our clients."

Meanwhile, volunteers are picking out cabinets and choosing laminate colors. "They are excited," Bugge said.

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