

## Hood River News

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## Safe to Home

Early summer has been a tragic time on local highways. In the past two weeks, four people have died in vehicle crashes, including two in the past week in Hood River County, and others in Skamania and Multnomah counties.

In two other crashes, residents have survived roll-overs and head-ons, including one near Odell in which an Oregon State Trooper said he was "surprised" no one was seriously injured.

It is important to take a moment to consider the preciousness of each life lost, and our sympathies go to those families.

Fatalities and serious crashes mean the most to loved ones because it is individuals we speak of, but what happens also affects everyone: the highways are perhaps our most public of places. We use them to go to work and back, to visit family, to shop, to deal with our everyday needs.

These situations must serve as reminders of three basic prevention measures: be mindful of what other vehicles are doing — "look out for the other guy," as the old PSAs used to say; avoid behavior that influences our ability to operate a motor vehicle; and ... slow down.

None of us can say we don't sometimes get in a great big hurry behind the wheel.

Furthermore, it is summertime, and we have many visitors who are unfamiliar with local roads. Out of town drivers will do things such as turn on red lights when signage clearly tells them not to, or mistake a one-way grid for two-way and drive into oncoming traffic. Locals do that kind of thing, too, but the issue this time of year is volume of traffic and the increasing likelihood of trouble. All it takes is one careless driver. Let's all take our time and think about how much other people want us to arrive safely home.

## Vacation homes boost economy

We've recently returned from our third annual visit to Hood River over Independence Day. We very much appreciate what the area has to offer for activities, amenities and the general "vibe" of the place, which has led to the repeated trips. While there we have stayed at a "vacation rental," so I read with interest your paper's article "a foundation for affordability."

I previously lived in Whistler, Banff and currently live outside of Calgary. Affordable housing is not a new topic to me.

I think what your article and interviewee miss as the greatest pressure on affordable housing is a vibrant economy. A strong economy should not be seen as a curse but must be worked with. The home we stayed in by no means would be deemed "affordable housing."

I do not believe affordable homes were demolished to build it either.

While there we had 10 people through each for an average stay of five or six nights. We employed a local fellow known as "Chef Bob" for some of our meals. We dined at Pourhouse, Romul's, the Trillium Cafe, Full Sail, The Taqueria and my favorite, the Subterranean. Art (and beer) were also purchased in Parkdale, a mountain bike and accessories for \$3,000 plus windsurf

lessons, rentals and other shopping. The home is managed by a company that employs staff and cleaners.

All of this has an impact on the area economy and should be considered carefully. A big part of why we come is the home we stay in. Our group is not interested in staying in a hotel and I am sure many are similar. Looking around Parkdale, Mosier and White Salmon I doubt they have the same "affordable housing" pressures. I also doubt they offer the same job opportunities. Housing and affordability is a large picture and takes more consideration than skewed surveys and statistics or a quick leap to find a culprit. It is usually tied to a vibrant economy which must be considered as part of that bigger picture and managed together.

**Jim Uffelmann**  
Cochrane, Alberta  
Canada

## Parade thanks

Thank you for the respect we received in the 4th of July parade. It was not fun being a G.I. during the Vietnam era. I got goose bumps.

Hood River has a plethora of volunteers, the most per capita of any place I've seen.

That reminds me of a story: a Karate Master had 101 students. There was one student that was very slow and took up a lot of the Masters time.

The rest of the class told the Mas-

ter they would all leave if he continued to accept the slow student.

The Master told them to leave. One student asked why he would lose 100 students because of one student. He calmly said "If I don't teach him, then who will?"

**Dennis Cullington**  
Hood River

### ABOUT LETTERS

*Hood River News reminds letter to the editor writers that shorter is better. Concise letters are not only better-read, they are more likely to be published because limited space is available.*

*Almost any point can be made in 350 words or less, so this is set as an upper level for length. Letters exceeding 350 words will either be edited to 350 or returned to the writer for editing and resubmission.*

*Unsigned letters, letters signed with fictitious signatures and copies of letters sent to public officials are not accepted.*

*We limit letters on a subject when we feel it has been thoroughly aired, to the point of letters becoming repetitive.*

*Also rejected are letters that are libelous, in bad taste or personal attacks on individuals or private businesses. Writers must include addresses and telephone numbers. These are for identification purposes only and will not be published.*

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

# Independence Eve broadcast brought communities together via Radio Tierra

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**  
News editor

A real good time in real time. That was Independence Eve, the July 3 live radio broadcast from Bingen Theater on Radio Tierra (95.1).

For two hours friends and neighbors gathered at Bingen Theater for an unusual evening of entertainment. Nothing quite like it had been done locally, at least not in memory. The room was certainly warm but organizers provided plenty of ice water and the vibe was so good no one really noticed the heat.

About 50 performers and another 75 or so audience members gathered for the benefit event (see page 8 for photos). Before the evening was over, the spotlight and microphone went to Heidi Venture of the Next Door's outreach to foster youth, Gary Young on behalf of food banks in Washington, and Peter Marbach for relief efforts to Kumari, Nepal.

I'm not sure when the three local mayors have ever gone on the radio together, but on July 3 Betty Barnes of Bingen, David Poucher of White Salmon and Paul Blackburn of Hood River spoke brief welcomes, Blackburn in English and Spanish. The program was a bilingual balance. The bridge from Bingen to Hood River was not the only one present; "Independence Eve" stood as a solid span between cultures.

I was invited to present tongue twisters and give a plug to Start Making A Reader Today, the local literacy program I've been involved with for 13 years. Every February

we do a Tongue Twister Tournament, and the show organizers felt like they would be a good thing to do on the radio, even framing them as "verbal fireworks" — an apt phrase. And they were right. We had great fun with them and I truly appreciate the chance to present them. I am humbled that they were made part of it. The cool thing, as far as went my part of the evening, was this: it took on an improvised quality that really worked. What happened Friday night bore little resemblance to what I had originally envisioned, and it was far better. Also, the Friday night show was greatly different from the Thursday night rehearsal. Hosts Leti Valle and Humberto Calderon, along with Los Temerosos musicians Jesus and Antonio, took the tongue twisting in Spanish and ran with it, after Mayor Poucher, Heidi Venture and Phoebe Wood gamely stepped up to try tongue twisters live. It all had a self-propelled feel to it, and I felt an echo of it in the night's finale, when Jesus and Antonio guided the band through a rollicking set where they looked to be having the best time of anyone, and the audience was having a GREAT time. Los Temerosos just kept playing, reaching what felt like two crescendos only to keep it going a few minutes longer, like they were simultaneously remembering songs or variations they had half-forgotten, and plunged forward for a few minutes more ... and then a few minutes more before winding it up with a big and satisfying finish.

The blending of Los Temerosos and the Columbiains quartet was polished yet spontaneous. They

tried numbers in rehearsal and then worked them up in less than 24 hours for the entertaining live performance. Harmony of the Gorge set the scene for the evening with their flawless, heartfelt set of patriotic songs, Alonzo Garbonzo wove his guitar work into between-acts and announcement segments before tearing it up with his own song "Now," a wake-up call to us all, a tear-inducing "City of New Orleans" (Steve Goodman wrote it, Arlo Guthrie made it famous) and Alonzo's wife, Jana Castanares, did Edith Piaf justice with her sweet version of "La Vie en Rose." On a night with Spanish and English balancing each other, that soupçon of French was like herbal drizzle spicing up a well-mixed salad.

Tom Burns provided a stirring reading of the Declaration of Independence, punctuating the text in ways that forced you to think of it not just as a historical document but as a guide to living today in these United States.

My only real criticism is over the poems by William Stafford: they were too short. Luke McMillan's elegant baritone was just getting going with the short poem he read and then he stopped. Same with William Thayer-Dougherty, who deftly found the mischief Stafford infused in his works, and Debbie Dobbs introduced Stafford's works and in a few short words gave us an understanding of a man who through his work remains a true conscience.

I've spoken on KHR before, as a representative of SMART, but I'd never been involved in a live broad-



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

**LOS TEMEROSOS** mariachi band, based in Hood River, played three sets and shared the stage for other high energy musical pairings at Bingen Theater.

cast like this and it was exhilarating, both in knowing that what we were doing was heard by people in their homes or cars or places of business, and in the simple act of putting something together with people you'd never met.

The show could not have happened without the emcees and the rest of the staff of KZAS, theater owner (and well-known local musician) Rod Krehbiel, Harold McBain, Kathy Williams, Adrian Chaton, Gary Young and probably others I am forgetting.

Watching live radio in a former movie theater was a sort of step back in time, to those days before I was born when radio was the main form of American entertainment, but also a step back to a more recent

time when the single-screen movie theater, like Bingen Theatre had been, was the main type of cinema facility in any town. The interior is greatly changed from those days, but the facade and labyrinthine lobby, concession stand, and balcony (balcony!) retain that feel. It took me back to my youth, and the single-screen palaces of The Danz in Bellevue, The Venetian in Albany, and The Mack in McMinnville. It is affirming to see such a place as the Bingen reborn.

If you ever have a chance to hear live music or other event at Bingen Theater; go to it, and if you have a chance to hear Los Temerosos, take it — especially this summer. It's hot weather music, and air conditioning for the ears.



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