

COMMUNITY

Gorge communities plan Martin Luther King Jr. Day observances

Gorge residents are invited to participate in a celebration of the life, work and dreams of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 20.

The theme of this year's celebration, sponsored by Gorge Ecumenical Ministries (GEM), is "Perseverance in the Struggle for Justice." Events will begin at 4 p.m. with simultaneous work-

shops: "Get Informed About Immigration Laws" in Spanish and "Being an Ally for the Common Good" in English.

The workshops will be followed by a celebration with music and guest speakers at 5:30 p.m. and a community potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The MLK events will take place at Riverside Communi-

ty Church, located at Fourth and State streets in downtown Hood River. They are free of charge and open to the public. Donations will be accepted to support the community justice work of Gorge Ecumenical Ministries.

Childcare and professional Spanish language interpretation will be available.

JAN. 15 AT FISH

GEM hosts brown-bag talk on aging

Gorge Ecumenical Ministries (GEM) and Aging in the Gorge Alliance (AGA) invite the community Jan. 15 to the first of three monthly brown bag lunch presentations exploring the ups and downs of caring for an aging loved one and how to navigate delicate topics while maintaining your own personal balance.

The event is noon to 1 p.m. at Fish Food Bank, 1130 Tucker Road.

Andy Wade, pastor, organizer and caregiver, will share stories that open up dialogue and new perspectives about caregiving, self-care, and managing unexpected family dynamics.

Take-home resources will also be available at all three events including Eldercare specialist, Gail Goeller's book, "Coming of Age with Aging Parents."

In February, Britta Wilson, MA in Gerontology and pro-

gram coordinator for Volunteers in Action at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, will offer a presentation on environmental changes/adaptations that can make life easier and safer for elders. In March, the team will guide participants through AARP's "Prepare to Care," a planning guide for families.

Dates and locations for February and March gatherings will be announced soon.



Submitted photo

FEB. 3 deadline announced for the Wind Challenge in The Dalles.

Team registration open for Google Wind Challenge

Team registration is open for the 2020 Google Wind Challenge, which blows back into The Dalles on Saturday, March 14 at the Fort Dalles Readiness Center.

Middle and high school students are invited to create teams and sign up for the annual all-day event. Registration is due by Feb. 3 at www.windchallenge.org.

The Wind Challenge is a free, hands-on program that fuels student interest in science, technology and wind energy, said a press release. Prizes are given to the top three high school and middle school teams whose wind turbines have the fastest speed for transferring kinetic energy and generate the most electrical

power. Students are welcome to register in teams of three to six students, and schools can register multiple teams.

The event is sponsored by Google in partnership with Columbia Gorge Community College and Gorge Tech Alliance.

Learn more at windchallenge.org.

Public meeting set for Jan. 29

Advancements in irrigation efficiency are on the horizon for farmers and orchardists in East Fork Irrigation District pending the completion of a federal environmental planning process that began in October 2018.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has reviewed the potential impacts of the East Fork Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project and released a Draft Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Draft Plan-EA) on Jan. 8.

East Fork Irrigation District proposes to pipe 56 miles of district-owned canals and laterals to conserve water, reduce energy use, improve operational efficiencies, in-

crease public safety, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat in the Hood River Watershed.

By converting open-ditch irrigation canals into underground, closed-pipe systems, the proposed East Fork Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project would eliminate water losses from end spills, saving an estimated 16.6 cubic feet per second, or 5,287 acre-feet annually, said a press release.

The project is sponsored by the East Fork Irrigation District, with funding and technical support from NRCS, in cooperation with Bonneville Power Administration, Energy Trust of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Hood River Watershed Group and Farmers Conservation Alliance.

NRCS and project partners will host a public meeting Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to discuss the Draft

Plan-EA, answer questions about the project, and collect public comments during a breakout session. The meeting will be hosted at the Pine Grove Grange, 2835 Van Horn Drive, Hood River.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Make a request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities at least 48 hours before the meeting to Kate Hart, 541-716-6085 or kate.hart@fcasolutions.org.

The Draft Plan-EA is available for public review at www.oregonwatershedplans.org. Printed copies of the Draft Plan-EA are also available at the East Fork Irrigation District Office, (3500 Graves Road in Odell), the NRCS Field Office (6780 Highway 35 in Parkdale), and Farmers Conservation Alliance (102 State St. in Hood River).

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Saturday, Jan. 18

HORIZON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Activities & Games

Prizes & Freebies

Campus Tours

Activities for K-6th Graders

2:30-3:30p

Gym Activities for All

3:00-5:00p

Basketball Games

2:00 JV / 3:30 Varsity

FREE Admission — All Activities

Everyone Welcome!

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