

HAPPENINGS

Happenings is a free service of the Hood River News and may be edited for length. Listings may also be found online at hoodrivernews.com; click the Events tab. Send items to twalker@hoodrivernews.com.

ON STAGE

- **March 6-7 & March 13-14 — Radium Girls**, 7 p.m. at the Hood River Valley High School Bowe Theater. **Matinee March 8** at 2 p.m. Tickets \$12 adults, \$9 students at Waucoma, HRVHS.booktix.com or at the door.
- **March 6-7 — The Little Mermaid**, 7 p.m. March 6 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. March 7 at Hood River Middle School. Tickets \$7 adults, \$5 students at the door.
- **March 6-7 — Suessical**, 6:30 p.m. March 6 and 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. March 7 at Horizon Christian. Tickets \$10 adults, \$7.50 students.
- **March 6-7, March 13-14 & March 20-21 — West Side Story**, 7 p.m. at the Wy'east Performing Arts Center. **Matinee performances March 8, March 15 & March 22** at 2 p.m. Tickets \$20 general, \$15 CGOA members, \$5 ages 10-17 and free under 10. More at www.gorgeorchestra.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **March 4 — Wellness Wednesday** at Rite Aid. For seniors; free BMI and blood pressure checks, free samples, walk-in vaccinations, more.
- **March 4 — Tobacco Education and Support Group**, 4-5:30 p.m. at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital. More at 541-387-1353 or 541-993-2210.
- **March 5 — Hood River Art Club**, 10-1 p.m. at the FISH Food Bank meeting room, Tucker Road. *See Gatherings, B4, for more information.*
- **March 5 — Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District Board Meeting**, 4-6 p.m. at OSU Extension. All welcome. More at hoodriverswcd.org/meetings.
- **March 5 — Harmony of the Gorge Women's Chorus**, 6:30-9 p.m. at Valley Christian. *See Gatherings, B4, for more information.*

PICK OF THE WEEK



Submitted photo

NEVAEH with mentor Katie Woodruff during an outing together.

GYM: Making a difference

"I always had adults in my life who believed in me. I wanted to be that person for someone else." This sense of commitment is what inspired Katie Woodruff of The Dalles to become a mentor. Nearly eight years ago, Woodruff submitted her application and began feeling excited, though admittedly nervous, about the step she was about to take.

Meanwhile, 9-year-old Nevaeh had been on the wait list to be matched with a mentor for quite some time. Nevaeh's mom worked a lot, so she and her sister spent a lot of time at home with nothing to do. Seeing that the girls could benefit from other adult role models and more activities, their grandmother referred them to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Columbia Gorge, now called Gorge Youth Mentoring (GYM), at The Next Door.

The connection they felt was no accident. Through the application and interview

process both Woodruff and Nevaeh went through with The Next Door's staff, they talked about their likes, their dislikes, their hopes, dreams, and fears. Their family and friends were asked to describe Woodruff and Nevaeh's personalities and the kinds of people they enjoy spending time with. By the time the pair was introduced, staff had a good feeling they would have things in common and would get along well.

"I never thought the match would be so spot-on," Woodruff said.

From those early days, deep conversations were a regular occurrence. Nevaeh recalls a time in middle school when she really appreciated Katie's listening ear and supportive words. "I was having trouble with someone during a group project. I felt like I was doing all the work and not getting any credit," Nevaeh said. "There was lots of bullying and drama."

Now entering their eighth year as a GYM match, 16-year-old Nevaeh has high hopes for her future and wants to be a detective. As a victim's advocate, Woodruff has been instrumental in cultivating Nevaeh's interest in the criminal justice field, including arranging a visit to the local precinct for a tour and to meet with detectives.

Currently, GYM has 30 children and teens like Nevaeh on the wait list, some have been waiting longer than a year. All of these youth look forward to the day when they will have a mentor of their own. What can you do?

• **Apply to be a mentor.** If you're age 21 or older, submit your application to become

a friend and role model to a local youth who needs you.

• **Come bowl with us.** GYM's largest annual fundraiser, Buddy Bowl, is Saturday, March 7 at Orchard Lanes. Register yourself or a team of five bowlers, ask friends and family to sponsor you, and join GYM for bowling, wacky team photos, food, prizes, and more.

• **Make a gift.** GYM is offered at no cost to the mentors, mentees, and families who participate. The program relies on grants and donations to support local youth toward brighter futures.

For more information, visit nextdoorinc.org, email gym@nextdoorinc.org, or call 541-296-8118.

Buddy Bowl

Gorge Youth Mentoring's largest fundraiser of the year, Buddy Bowl, happens Saturday, March 7 at Orchard Lanes in Hood River. For more information, email gym@nextdoorinc.org, or call 541-296-8118.

• **March 5 — Wind-Masters Men's Chorus**, 6:30-9 p.m. at Valley Christian, 975 Indian Creek Road. *See Gatherings, B4, for more information.*

• **March 6 — Downsize or Rightsize: Is It Time to Start Planning?**, 2 p.m. at Hawks Ridge Senior Living, 1795 Eighth St. Free; how to break down the job of dealing with a lifetime of stuff, more.

• **March 6 — AACC's Anniversary Silent Auction Fundraiser**, 6:30-8 p.m. at Marcessi Vineyards & Winery, 3955 Belmont Drive. All Animal Care Clinic's fifth anniversary; benefits the Angel Fund. \$35 at the door; includes wine and hors d'oeuvres.

• **March 6-7 — Amateur Radio Technician Exam Review Class**, 5:30-9 p.m. Friday and 9-4 p.m. Saturday at the Hood River Fire Department Training Room, 1785 Meyer Parkway. RSVP required to kevin.widener@gmail.com or 509-528-9565.

• **March 7 — Lyle Lions Pancake Breakfast**, 7-10 a.m. at the Lyle Lions Community Center on the corner of Fifth and Hwy 14. Adults \$7, children 6-12 \$3, 5 and under free.

• **March 7 — Vertebrate Pest Management**, 9-noon at Valley Christian Church. Sponsored by Central Gorge Master Gardeners. Presented by OSU Associate Professor Chip Bubl. \$10 drop-in fee, cash or check only. More at 541-386-3343 ext. 38257.

• **March 7 — Hood River Indoor Farmers' Market**, 10-1 p.m. at May Street Elementary cafeteria/commons.

• **March 7 — Hood River County Reads Kickoff**, 2-3:30 p.m. at the Hood River Library. Free distribution of "The Highest Tide," more. More at hoodriverlibrary.org.

• **March 7 — Seventh Annual Seed Share**, 2-5 p.m. at the Rockford Grange, 4262 Barrett Drive. \$5 suggested donation; bring seeds to share.

• **March 7 — Cohousing Info Open House**, 3-4 p.m. at 1419 Sherman Ave. Kids welcome, snacks provided. RSVP to Friends@AdamsCreekCohousing.com; more at adamscreekcohousing.com.

Green Home Design + Build now offers gutter services!

- ✓ Fabrication & installation of new seamless gutters
- ✓ Removal of old gutters
- ✓ Leafguard products
- ✓ Gutter Cleaning



Green Home

DESIGN + BUILD

- + Build Services
- + Gutter Installation and Services
- + Weatherization & Home Performance

541.490.1951 | greenhome-designbuild.com