

# GREATER GORGE



Photo Kirby Neumann-Rea

## MEMALOOSE REFLECTIONS

Bright late-winter day highlights the Washington banks of the Columbia River and Memaloose Island, burial site sacred to indigenous Chinook people, and gravesite of pioneer Victor Trevitt, whose stone marks his burial place.

## COVID-19 IMPACTS

### Confluence Project postpones Sense of Place, other events

The Confluence Story gathering event on March 18, in collaboration with the Sense of Place Lecture Series, has been postponed to a date to be announced, due to coronavirus concerns, according to an emailed statement from Confluence Project Executive Director Colin Fogarty. Purchased tickets are valid for the rescheduled event.

Also postponed are the April 11 Confluence gathering at Whitman College and the April

25 Design Week hike at Sandy River delta in Troutdale.

In a press release, Fogarty issued this statement: "Like many of you, we at Confluence have been closely monitoring the rapidly changing situation across the globe and in our communities in response to the COVID-19 coronavirus.

"We had hoped that our relatively small cultural gatherings could be spared from the tidal wave of cancellations and postponements we are

all seeing. But circumstances have changed so rapidly and we have heard concern from some of our event participants. The last thing we want is to put anyone at risk."

Fogarty added, "We remain hopeful that our Earth Day Work Party at the Confluence Land Bridge in Vancouver will still go on as planned on Saturday, April 18. But in collaboration with our partners, we will make that call as the date nears."

## Mt. Hood National Forest receives federal funds for Rock Creek Reservoir work in Wasco County

The Mt. Hood National Forest is one of 16 forests selected to receive funding for a Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration project. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded the forest over \$560,000 for work in 2020 on public and private lands in Wasco County near Rock Creek Reservoir, west of U.S. Highway 197.

The completed work will improve forest resiliency to insects and disease, restore pine and oak habitat and riparian areas, improve conditions for wildlife, and reduce the risk of fires spreading from public lands to neighboring non-federal lands, said a press release. The local project is a partnership between the forest, Wasco County Forest Collaborative, Oregon Department of Forest-

ry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Wasco County Soil and Water District.

The project area encompasses approximately 27,573 acres of Forest Service-managed lands, 7,603 acres of State of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife land (White River Wildlife Area), and 12,564 acres of private lands. The project was developed by the

All-Lands Committee, an inter-agency subgroup of the Wasco County Forest Collaborative interested in advancing landscape-scale restoration.

The USDA and NRCS will invest more than \$41 million this fiscal year through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership for projects that mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality and restore healthy forest ecosystems.

Projects focus on areas where public forests and grasslands intersect with privately-owned lands.

"This partnership has a strong history of accomplishing critical management work across boundaries," said Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen. "The collaborative approach exemplifies USDA's shared stewardship model of working with our federal, state

and local partners to spring-board high-priority restoration work."

The funded project builds on work started last year within the Rocky Restoration Project area.

Learn more about current Mt. Hood National Forest projects at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mthood/projects](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mthood/projects).

## Got News?

Do you have a news tip or announcement you would like to share?

Let the Hood River News know at 541-386-1234, or [hnews@hoodrivernews.com](mailto:hnews@hoodrivernews.com).

Send sports items to [clundquist@hoodrivernews.com](mailto:clundquist@hoodrivernews.com).

Wedding, anniversary and engagement announcements

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Happenings (individual events) and Gatherings (recurring ones) may be submitted to [twalker@hoodrivernews.com](mailto:twalker@hoodrivernews.com).

Items may be edited for brevity.

## Serious Theater holds auditions for 'The King'

Serious Theater kicks off its 2020 season with auditions for a new play: "The King, The Final Hours," by Mark Macias.

A perusal script may be obtained, and alternate auditions times will be considered, by emailing [serious-theaterdalles@gmail.com](mailto:serious-theaterdalles@gmail.com). Auditions are March 20 and March 23 at 7 p.m. in the basement of Zion Lutheran Church in

The Dalles corner of 10th and Union.

"The King, The Final Hours" presents an interpretation of what was going through Elvis Presley's mind during his final hours. Audience members will follow The King as he recalls historical and pivotal moments that shaped his personal life as the most famous man in the world, said a press release.

"Most stories on Elvis water down the personal struggles he faced throughout his life," said Macias. "But at the root, Elvis was a man with personal flaws, just like all of us."

The play calls for both a young and an old Elvis, Ann Margret, Priscilla Presley, Gladys Presley (Elvis' mother), and Colonel Tom Parker (Elvis' manager), as well as a number

of small parts for men and women (many of which can be combined). The Elvis and Ann Margret roles require singing. Performances will be at Serious Theater's venue in the newly renovated Sawyer Hall. There will be two performances each on Saturday May 9 and 16 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and one performance each Sunday May 10 and 17 at 2 p.m.



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HURRY! — NEW Earlier Order date, March 20, 2020.

They will be delivered on April 16, 2020.

Orders need to be paid for prior to delivery. Make checks payable to Hood River Rotary. Questions? Call Chelsea Marr, 541-490-6113 or email [cmarr@hoodrivernews.com](mailto:cmarr@hoodrivernews.com) [www.hoodriverrotary.com](http://www.hoodriverrotary.com)

