



empty bowls



Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

SOUP bowl made by Leia Paul (left) and Morgan Totten, above, progresses from raw clay at top to the ochre-colored finished product, complete with 'sgraffito' lines. Below, Paulina Li's sketch went into her ceramic design.



Student art serves the needy

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**
News editor

"Want more?"
A soup bowl asks the fitting question, via inch-tall ceramic letters.

The bowl is just one of 100 that diners may chose from Thursday at the first "Empty Bowls" dinner, an event that is part student art project, part fundraiser, at Gorge Grown Food Network. (Details below.)

Empty Bowls is a benefit for the FISH food bank capital campaign. FISH hopes to break ground in 2013 on a new facility on the grounds of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on Tucker Road, and needs to raise about \$700,000 toward the \$970,000 goal.

Artist Shelley Toon Hight is working with Hood River Middle School students and their teachers in three different classes, and the AP ceramics students at Hood River Valley High School to create 100 bowls for people to

eat soup from on Nov. 15. The \$30 dinner admission goes to the FISH building campaign and attendees get to keep the bowl.

FISH has raised \$163,000 through donations from Our Redeemer Lutheran and Asbury Churches, individuals in the community, and via donations or grants given to FISH directly. This includes a \$30,000 pledge from the Hood River Lions Club.

FISH's goal is to begin construction in 2013 and open the doors in 2014.

FISH's primary site is housed in a portion of Concordia Lutheran Church in Hood River. Paul Lindberg, capital

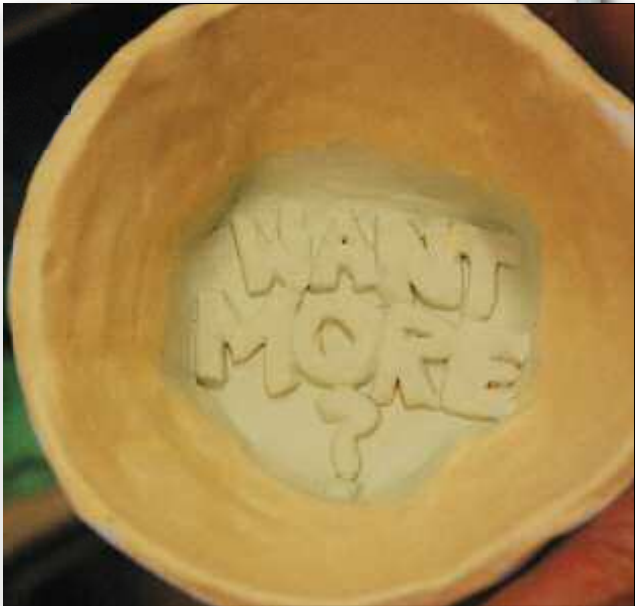
HELPING FISH

Empty Bowl tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at Waucoma Bookstore or at the Nov. 15 Gorge Grown Farmers Market.

Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., at Hood River Middle School cafeteria; it rounds out the final Gorge Grown market of the season, 4-7 p.m.

"It's going to be fun to see all 100 bowls grouped together for people to choose from," said artist Shelly Toon Hight.

Please see **BOWLS**, Page B2



STUDENTS chose either double-glazed or sgraffito (etched) methods, as shown at left, and added whimsical touches to their works.



Give thanks by giving blood in November

The American Red Cross asks that you give special thanks and help save lives by donating blood during the month of November; a time when blood donations typically decline and need remains constant.

■

All eligible donors are asked to schedule an appointment to donate blood at Hood River Community Elks Lodge, Third and Cascade, on Friday, Nov. 23, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. by calling Margo Parker, 541-387-3669 or schedule online at www.redcrossblood.org (code: hoodriver).

■

Many Americans will celebrate the Thanksgiving season by feasting on home-

cooked meals and watching football games on TV. Some will even get an early start on holiday shopping before the month is over. With all that happening during the holiday season, it's easy to forget there is a constant need for blood.

Blood products are routinely transfused to those with cancer and other diseases, premature babies, organ transplant recipients, and accident and trauma victims. There is no substitute for blood, it must come from healthy volunteer donors. And, since it takes about 48 hours to test and process collected blood, it must be on the shelves before it is needed in order to save lives.

Windermere renews 'Share the Warmth'

In keeping with their annual tradition, four Windermere Real Estate offices in the Gorge are hosting Windermere's "Share the Warmth" coat and blanket drive; community members are invited to take part and help their neighbors in need this winter by donating coats and blankets.

Now through Dec. 19, community members can bring blankets and new or gently used, laundered coats (for adults and children) to any of the following Windermere/Glenn Taylor Real Estate offices. Donation drop-off hours are listed below. Local non-profit organizations will distribute donated items to those in need.

■ Hood River, 504 Cascade Avenue, 541-386-3444, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ The Dalles, OR – 207 West 3rd St., 541-298-4451, weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ Bingen, 900 West Steuben, 509-493-4666, Mon-

day through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ Stevenson, 220 SW Second St., 509-427-2777, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hats and gloves are also accepted.

More than 30 Windermere offices in Oregon and Southwest Washington are collecting coats and blankets for their neighbors in need this winter. For a complete list of participating offices, community members should call 503-220-1145.

Windermere Real Estate has a long-standing tradition of giving back to the community. In addition to hosting the annual "Share the Warmth" donation drive, the company's agents participate in annual community service projects and donate a portion of their commission to the Windermere Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps homeless and low-income families in the communities served by Windermere.

CGCC helps students 'achieve the dream'

With the importance of college success on the minds of many young people and their families, help toward completing those educational paths to employment will certainly be welcomed news. This initiative will help not only young students but also those returning later in life.

Columbia Gorge Community College was recently selected as one of 25 institutions in the country to be included into the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network — a non-governmental coalition working for improved student success.

As an Achieving the Dream (ATD) Institution, CGCC will analyze its own institutional strengths, problem areas and achievement gaps and lay out strategies to better ensure Gorge students succeed in their educational goals.

"Being an Achieving the Dream Institution takes courage, discipline, and a tenacious institution-wide commitment to student success and equity," said Beverly Fletcher, senior director of ATD. "Columbia Gorge should be applauded for helping tackle one of society's most daunting challenges: success for more college students."

Using a five-step process and the help of ATD coaches, the college will implement programs and policies that are data-informed and that build on our commitment to student success," said Dr. Frank K. Toda, CGCC president.

According to Toda, the college's number-one priority is a commitment to improving student success.

"The success of each student means improved skills, better employability and economic growth for our communities and our nation as a whole," he said.

In an effort to reach that goal, the college is undertaking four additional steps toward that success.

The second step for CGCC as an ATD institution is to more effectively collect and use student data in prioritizing decision-making and program planning. That includes identifying existing barriers to student success, and adopting strategies to overcome those barriers.

Using a recent college-wide survey process, Toda notes that students are providing a road map to improved success. That type of personal engagement is an integral part of the third step in the ATD process — engaging stakeholders in the institutions' efforts to improve.

In addition to students, CGCC is engaging regional stakeholders to provide important feedback on the college's efforts to improve students' success and connections beyond the classroom.

To achieve the fourth step in this process, a core ATD team including students and staff is taking shape at CGCC and will begin to implement new strategies, evaluate their success and make improvements along the way.

"The first four ATD steps are designed to create a culture of continuous improvement in the forefront of our efforts as an institution," said Toda. That ever-improving culture is the fifth step in ensuring increased student successes. This ties the process the college is currently undergoing as they move forward on the path toward independent accreditation.

In addition to the internal work of the college, one of the benefits of becoming an Achieving the Dream institution is the opportunity to learn from other successful educational institutions. CGCC will be receiving assistance from experienced practitioners in using data to identify problems, set priorities, and measure progress toward student success.

"The work of closing achievement gaps and improving student success is extremely difficult and critically important," Fletcher said.

■

Achieving the Dream is a national nonprofit organization leading a national, comprehensive non-governmental reform network for student success.

The ATD network, including nearly 200 institutions, helps 3.75 million community college students have a better chance of realizing greater economic opportunity and achieving their dreams.

BOWLS

Continued from Page B1

campaign manager, called it "a wonderful partnership," but said that FISH needs to have a more stable, and user-friendly facility.

Currently, food is stored in the basement and distributed on the ground level, which requires many trips up and down stairs; the building is not handicapped-accessible; there is no loading dock; the parking lot is often flooded; there is no area for clients to wait inside; and there is no area for privacy for interviewing clients.

Furthermore, FISH has strategically located freezers and refrigerators around the perimeter of the room because of concerns about the floor collapsing. In fact, FISH needed to install a beam in the floor to provide additional support.

In short, the facility itself has begun to limit FISH's ability to meet the increasing community need.

Right now, FISH provides food at locations in Hood River, Odell, Parkdale and Cascade Locks.

The project will also improve overall operations by:

- building a repackaging area for large quantities of food;
- utilizing larger, more efficient freezers and cold storage facilities;
- creating a more efficient delivery system through a single-level loading dock; and
- providing a more organized shelving, stocking, and display system making the process easier for volunteers and clients.

FISH Food Bank's primary purpose is to provide food for the hungry in Hood River. However, the food bank also has a secondary, but important function: The food bank provides the opportunity for community members to get involved and do something constructive in their community.

Last year, more than 750 community members of all ages got involved in the community through FISH.

Locally, FISH has seen the demand increase 65 percent since 2007. This increase translates into a monthly average of 400 individuals/families seeking help from the food bank. Last year, 2011, FISH distributed more than 100,000 pounds of food to local families.

In addition to dedicated space for storage and shopping, the new FISH facility will also serve the greater community by providing a demonstration kitchen with attached classroom. This multi-purpose space will be available for food-related workshops, cooking classes, educational trainings and other community events.

FISH's overall vision is to create a focal point for hunger issues in Hood River where community members can access more food when



ARTIST Shelley Toon Hight, top left, and teacher Carol Birdsell, below, work with eighth-graders on their creations.



they need it, volunteer to help when they can, learn more about hunger and healthy food choices and help eliminate hunger in our local community, according to Lindberg.

For Empty Bowls, Gorge Grown, Providence Hood River, and the students are teaming with Chef Mark Whitehead of Cornerstone

and help those who are in need," Dierker said, "especially at this time of thanksgiving, with the bounty of the season, and try to remember everyone in the community."

"It's empowering," art teacher Shelley Toon Hight said. "I think the kids get it; they really understand that they are making something that is actually going to be used to help people who are hungry," she said, adding that "the teachers have been super supportive."

Carol

food bank is.' A lot of them have been hungry."

Toon Hight said the Empty Bowls dinner will be a true communal effort.

"Instead of going out and buying table decorations, each organization is responsible for setting several tables ready, with the tablecloths, glasses, spoons, and everything. It will have a real eclectic feel, and we're not having to spend a lot of money to raise money."

Next up: plates

Ceramic bowls have the focus this week, but starting Nov. 23, the spotlight will be on artists' plates, in another project curated by Shelley Toon Hight.

Twelve plates that had been made by local artists for the canceled 2012 Bite of the Gorge will be displayed and sold in silent auction at 301 Gallery Nov. 23 to Dec. 7.

Proceeds go to Columbia Gorge Arts in Education.



Submitted photo

EMPTY BOWLS will go toward the food bank capital campaign, but plenty of opportunities to help the daily food needs of the food bank can be found in the community. All this month, Hood River Care Center is holding a food drive.

Back to school blues?

Check out our

Fall Junior Programs

Swimming | Tennis | Gymnastics

Private & Group Classes Available
www.hrsportsclub.com

For kids ages 2-16 Members & Non-members welcome!

 Call Today 541-386-3230
1330 Brookside Drive

Soroptimist International of Mt. Adams

PRESENTS THE Eighth Annual Pre-Holiday

Artisan Shopping extravaganza!

SATURDAY, NOV. 24
10 A.M. – 4 P.M.
GORGE ROOM
BEST WESTERN PLUS
HOOD RIVER INN
1108 E. MARINA WAY
HOOD RIVER, OR



10% of all sales go to benefit Soroptimist International of Mt. Adams



Now Taking Applications

Age 62 and older, or disabled.

Dethman Manor

1205 Montello • Hood River

 **PROVIDENCE** 541-387-8279 
Supportive Housing

 **MATTRESS**
DISCOUNT STORE

Specializing in Mattresses and Mattress Accessories

Queen Sets from \$299 Everyday

Hood River Square
2920 Cascade Avenue, Suite 101 541.308.0100
OPEN: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Mon-Fri; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat-Sun