

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### JANUARY 2016

- 1—New Year's Day, Klickitat PUD offices closed
- 1—Polar Bear Plunge in the Gorge, 10 a.m., Maryhill State Park; [www.goldendalepool.com](http://www.goldendalepool.com)
- 5-6—Eastern WA Ag Expo, TRAC Center, Pasco
- 6—What in Sam Hill—Sense of Place, lecture at 7 p.m., Columbia Center for the Arts, Hood River
- 9-10—Rose City Gun and Knife Show, Expo Center, Portland
- 10—Flea market, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Civic Auditorium, The Dalles
- 12—KPUD Board of Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 12—Janet Jackson: Unbreakable World Tour, Moda Center, Portland
- 13-17—Portland Boat Show, Expo Center, Portland
- 15—Disney Live! Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic, Rose Quarter, Portland
- 16-17—The Great (Model) Train Expo, Expo Center, Portland
- 18—Disney Live! Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic, Yakima Valley SunDome
- 20-24—2016 Rose City Classic Dog Show, Expo Center, Portland
- 22-24—Stitches in Bloom Quilt Show, Silverton, Oregon; [www.oregongarden.org/events/quiltshow](http://www.oregongarden.org/events/quiltshow)
- 23—PBR: Professional Bull Riders, 7 p.m., Yakima Valley SunDome
- 26—KPUD Board of Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 26-28—Northwest Agriculture Show, Expo Center, Portland
- 27-31—2016 Midwestern/Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating sectional championships, Rose Quarter, Portland
- 28-30—Clark College Jazz Festival, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver
- 28-31—Portland International Auto Show, Oregon Convention Center, Portland



**Building of the reservoir for Bickleton's new water system progresses in this photo taken Spring 2015.**

Photo by KPUD staff

## Town Welcomes New Water System

By Lou Marzeles

"It used to be if we held a public meeting at the Grange Hall," recalled Rinna McHugh of Bickleton, "we'd have to bring in five big jugs of water for coffee and drinks."

That was because Bickleton's water was undrinkable, made dangerous by nitrates and other pollutants.

Seemingly left a century behind, the tiny town had to make do for years without the fundamental necessity of readily available drinking water. But in a ceremony filled with high emotion and a sense of history, Bickleton observed a dedication of its new water system.

The project's up-and-down history was outlined by Klickitat PUD Chief Operating Officer Ron Ihrig, who recounted the challenges of completing the \$1.3 million undertaking. Some funding came from the county, which on two occasions put in six figures to move the project along. And \$850,000 came through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Throughout the years of the project, the Bickleton community pressed on with determination, exemplified in the attitude of the late Community Council Director Mike Copenhefer.

"We aren't going away," he repeatedly reminded funding sources, government officials and his community.

Ihrig praised Bickleton's community for its resolute approach.

"The community needed to step up and demonstrate that a majority wanted this system," he said. "You made this happen."

As of Thursday, October 22, 52 sites were signed up to connect to the water system, with 14 already tapped in.

Other speakers at the ceremony included Reps. Norm Johnson and Gina McCabe, County Commissioner Jim Sizemore, KPUD Commissioner Ray Mosbrucker, Bickleton Community Council members McHugh and Jennifer Wilson, and USDA Community Programs Specialist for Rural Development Marti Canatsey.

There were moments of deep emotion and appreciation for the enormity of the project.

Sizemore stated, "Water brings life, and life brings the opportunity to make something."

The simple, yet profound, observation resonated throughout the room. So, too, did McHugh's recollection of the years of the process and Copenhefer's unrelenting push for it.

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