

## Yes, I did it!



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Dane Alveraz looks at his diploma with a mix of amazement and pride Thursday, June 7 at the IVHS football field for the 2018 graduation ceremony. Alverez was one of 57 students who graduated.

## RCC gives girls the tools to succeed in STEM

**Samantha Watson**  
IVN Contributing Writer

Only 12 percent of engineers and 22 percent of computer professionals are women and the percentage of women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers has not improved since 2001. Rogue Community College (RCC) believes that they can help improve these percentages in the future and that every girl deserves to have the right tools to pursue all the opportunities available in STEM fields. That's why they've teamed up with the Rogue Valley Boys & Girls Club to bring the Verizon Foundation's Verizon Innovative Learning program to girls in Southern Oregon.

The program is a dynamic, three-week summer camp for middle school girls in Josephine County, where they'll learn design thinking principles, 3D printing, augmented and virtual reality, coding, and social entrepreneurship. Following the summer, the students will participate in monthly Saturday sessions throughout the academic year where they will develop a technology solution for a community

problem that aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Focus areas of the SDGs include poverty reduction, quality education, good health and well-being, climate action, peace and justice or gender equality.

The camp is tuition-free, and classes are held Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 13 – 30 as well as one Saturday a month throughout the school year. Thanks to Boys & Girls Club, all participants will be provided free breakfast, lunch and dinner and have access to free transportation to the college if they need it. Participating students will also receive a tablet for the duration of the program to complete program-related work.

To sign your middle school girl up for this intensive learning experience or to learn more about the program hosted at RCC, contact the Rogue Valley Boys & Girls Club at 541-479-5258.

For more information about the STEM program on a national level, visit [www.nacce.com/STEM4Girls](http://www.nacce.com/STEM4Girls). To learn more about Verizon Innovative Learning, visit [VerizonInnovativeLearning.com](http://VerizonInnovativeLearning.com).

## Wine, warmth and wonderful music at Deer Creek Vineyards

**Tristan Stocker**  
IVN Contributing Writer

As things heat up in the Illinois Valley this summer, Deer Creek Vineyards in Selma is poised to present the public with another annual round of riveting summer concerts spanning from July to September featuring food trucks, local vendors, beer, wine and jams.

The first concert will bring Frankie Hernandez of Ashland, Oregon and Awake Now Records back to Selma, which is set to take place Sunday, July 1. Hernandez and his band, The Frankie Hernandez Band, have been serenading Southern Oregon with their signature blend of rock, soul, funk and reggae for many years and have become somewhat of

a household name in the Valley.

Then two weeks down the road, Dusty Jones & Company - a local band - is slated to take the stage Sunday, July 15.

Next is Buckle Rash, another band from Ashland, OR that describes their sound as "Outlaw Country and Southern Rock with an unexpected Punk twist." Buckle Rash has toured up and down the west coast while also maintaining a heavy presence in southern Oregon, playing venues such as the Oregon Country Fair, Jefferson State Hemp Expo, and the Oregon Brewers Festival. Buckle Rash will be performing at Deer Creek Vineyards Friday, July 29.

The fourth band booked to play at the vineyard is Fortune's Folly, an alternative rock band based in Eugene, Oregon. Voted "Best Band

in Eugene" by the Eugene Weekly's readers' poll 2017, Fortune's Folly's sound has been likened to "The love-child of red-hot Chili Peppers and No Doubt," according to Dutch Guy Indie Music. Fortune's Folly's concert date is set at Sunday, Aug. 12.

Longtime local favorite Bob Luna and the Lunatics will be playing Sunday, Aug. 26 followed by The Reverberays - a surf rock band out of Rogue River - who will wrap up the series of shows Sunday, Sept. 9.

Deer Creek Vineyards has been established in the Illinois Valley since 1988. John and Katherine Bryan, its current owners, acquired the business in 2010 and have been bringing quality, handcrafted wines to the public ever since.

SEE DEER ON A-9

## Bees, bats and butterflies get ready for annual Pollinator Parade

**Iris Chinook**  
URI Contributing Writer

The importance of pollinators such as honey, mason and bumble bees in addition to wasps, flies, bats and butterflies, has been in the news a lot these days. That's because they're so vital to our agriculture and the health of our ecosystems. The need to protect them now and into the future is critical and that means getting children involved. The sponsors of the event - Alpaca/Hemp Company, River Stars and the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, think a parade is just the thing.

The third annual Cave Junction Kids' Pollinator Parade, being held Wednesday, June 20, kicks-off from the Illinois Valley Library, located at 209 West Palmer Street in Cave Junction. The event opens with a "pollinator costume party" at 5 p.m. "We're celebrating National Pollinator Week here in the Illinois Valley to remind ourselves that the I.V. is a special place. There are still pollinators here that have died out elsewhere," said Christine Gardiner, one of the original organizers of the parade, along with Jill Talise of Coyote Rising Puppets.

The fact that there are so many different pollinators means that there are scads of possible costumes for you and your family to dress up in. All are invited to join in the fun by bringing their own costume pieces and ideas. Stumped for a costume idea? Dive into the donated box of costume pieces provided by parade organizers for inspiration. Once you and the little ones are dressed as your favorite bee, bug or butterfly it's time to join the parade at 5:30 p.m.

SEE BEES ON A-9

## VA has services for mental health

**CJ Schatza**  
URI Contributing Writer

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently published a "Guide to Mental Health Services For Veterans and Families" that provides information on a variety of resources available to improve mental health or treat psychological disorders. The following article conglomerates these resources and provides information and contact info as originally found in the VA's comprehensive guide. If you are a veteran suffering from a mental illness of any kind or severity, exploring the following options could exponentially improve your quality of life.

•**Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI)- 541-830-7555:**

For behavioral treatment of mild depression, anxiety, insomnia, coping with medical illness, coping with chronic pain and tobacco cessation. The PCHMI team works with Primary Care Providers for follow-up of Behavioral Health Medications prescriptions.

•**Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)- 541-830-7440:**

For Veterans with moderate to severe mental illness including depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and co-occurring mental health and substance-use disorders. Each Veteran is assigned to an interdisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, care managers and peer supports. Services include medication management, individual and group therapy, and case management.

•**Substance Use Disorders Treatment- 541-830-7555:**

The Substance Use Disorders Treatment Program uses a Harm Reduction approach to meet Veterans "where they are" in the Recovery process. Treatment is individualized and focuses on the Veteran's individual goals. The program offers individual and group therapies. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) with Buprenorphine or Naltrexone for Opioid Use Disorders is encouraged. Naloxone kits for overdose prevention are available for Veterans and families.

•**Homeless Programs and Social Work Services- 541-826-2111 ext. 3435:**

Social Work Services offers therapeutic case management and a variety of resources for Veterans. Homeless Programs include Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV), outreach and engagement; Grants Per Diem, transitional housing services; and HUD-VASH, permanent supportive housing services. Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) is available for Veterans reintegrating from the criminal justice system. Other outpatient SW services are available through Transition Case Management (TCM) for OEF/OIF post-9/11 era Veterans and Primary Care social work for pre-9/11 Veterans.

•**Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program- 541-830-7555:**

SEE HELP ON A-9