

School Board meets tonight

Hood River County School District Board of Directors meets tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Hood River Valley High School Library. The community is welcome to attend, and a period of public comment is always on the agenda.

Discussion items include English Language Development, an update on the student retention and promotion policy and an update on Common Core State standards and the board will

hear budget committee and human resources reports, as well as a report from Superintendent Dan Goldman.

Under action items, the board will consider adopting an updated policy on weapons in schools.

Serving are Board Chair Jan Veldhuisen Virk, Vice Chair David Russo; and board members: Liz Whitmore, Mark Johnson, Kateri Osborne Lohr, Bob Danko, Julia Garcia Ramirez, and ex-officio member Rob Brostoff.

Elks Lodge honors Acosta, Sanchez as December Students of the Month

AnnElise Acosta and Ibette Sanchez have been selected as December Students of the Month and were presented checks for \$100 at the Elks Lodge weekly meeting. The awards were in recognition of their achievements in the classroom, extracurricular activities and for their volunteer work in the community. They are both seniors at Hood River Valley High School.

AnnElise is a very creative person with an energetic personality. She is an active member of the youth group at Riverside Church and a member of the Hood River Valley Chamber Singers. This group toured Ireland in March 2013 and is highly ranked in State competition. She is a 13-year member of the Columbia Gorge Dance Academy and performed in the Academy's "Scenes from the Nutcracker" until 2012. She also interned at The Next Door, a local social services organization, for four months in 2014. AnnElise has been a member of the varsity tennis team since 2013 and is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Her community service work includes preparing food packages and distribution for the Oregon Food Bank and the FISH Food Bank, and as a Link Crew leader helping freshman with orientation at the high school. She has also been involved with her church group babysitting, helping raise money for various church projects and activities. Through the Riverside Church youth group, she went on a five day trip to the Yakama Nation to learn about various programs on the Indian reservation and learn about the current situation of Native Americans

in our country.

AnnElise is the daughter of Orlando and Melody Acosta. She has two younger sisters, Olivia, 15, and Celia, 12. Next fall, AnnElise will attend Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. She will major in International Studies and Spanish. She would ultimately like to be involved in some type of social services work. Her spare time is spent backpacking, traveling and playing the piano.



AnnElise Acosta

Ibette Sanchez is a very charismatic and outgoing young lady. She is very involved in various projects at school and in the community. With the high school Health Media Club, she helped produce theater ads and radio PSAs, and has given a number of presentations in the community to promote healthy and safe habits among young people. Her junior year, she was treasurer of MECHA Club and this year is club president. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has been a member of the Prom Committee, helping organize the annual dance.

Her community service work includes meetings with Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Coalition, where she will update others on what the high school is doing, along with future plans and activities. She also works with the Drug Free Communities Coalition, giving updates on HRV Health Media Club. Other volunteer work includes serving food at the fall Wy'east Eagle Fest, and talking to stores to remind

them not to sell tobacco products to minors and designing stickers and tagging alcoholic beverages to remind adults not to provide alcohol to minors. Ibette has worked in concessions to raise funds for the prop and purchased, wrapped and delivered Christmas gifts for needy families in the community. She has worked many hours for St. Mary's church at their annual summer camp, organizing meals and camp activities for kids aged 8-12.

In July 2012, Ibette was invited to represent our county in Nashville, Tenn., at the semi-annual Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. She attended workshops with the club advisor and learned of strategic plans for successful prevention in the community. This past year, she did work with the Mid Valley dancers, helping teach three different dance groups and styles. She helped choreograph a song by herself, practiced three times a week for six months and attended performances while working with kids 5-10 years old.

Ibette is the daughter of Esteban and Isabel Sanchez. She has an older sister, Vanesa, a Portland State University graduate, and younger sister Briseida, a Hood River Valley High School freshman. After school, Ibette will continue her studies at either Portland State or Western Oregon University. She would like to study social work for elementary education and become a licensed state social worker working with children and families, or an elementary school teacher. Her outside interests include going for an occasional run or making crafts.



Ibette Sanchez

Local students start reading to prepare for Battle of the Books

The New Year means schools across Oregon are gearing up for the spring season of Oregon Battle of the Books. OBOB, a kind of literary Jeopardy, pits teams of four against each other in three divisions, grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 in answering questions covering a list of a dozen books from multiple

genres. Adult volunteers are needed to assist in officiating tournaments.

A training has been scheduled to aid adults learn the rules and procedures within OBOB, events to which the community is cordially invited. Feb. 17, from 5:30-7 p.m. a session will be held at the Westside Elementary School

in Hood River at 3685 Belmont. This is in preparation for the regional tournament, which will be held at TDMS on March 14 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

More details on OBOB may be found online at oboblibstapbworks.com/w/page/5653620/FrontPage.

CLASS NOTES

Gray, Gallagher, Norton earn honors

Lauren Gray, of Hood River, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2014-2015 academic year at Illinois Wesleyan University.

The Dean's List, which was announced by Provost and Dean of Faculty Jonathan Green, includes students from 26 states and 17 countries. To be on the Dean's List, a student must have a grade-point average of 3.50 or better during the semester, based on 4.0 for

straight A's.

Trenton Gallagher, 2014 Hood River Valley High School graduate and freshman at Oregon State University, has earned Dean's List recognition for fall 2014. He currently has a 3.9 grade point average. Gallagher is majoring in Chemical Engineering.

Terry Norton was named to the fall 2015 honor roll at Spokane Community

College. To receive honor roll status, students must earn a 3.0 grade point average or higher.

Community Colleges of Spokane is a dynamic, 12,300-square-mile state community college district that includes Spokane Community College, Spokane Falls Community College and six rural education sites, serving residents in Pend Oreille, Stevens, Whitman, Ferry and parts of Lincoln counties.



Submitted photo

THE DALLES YOUTH of Heart of Hospice members Martin Corker, and Andy Felderman, centenarian Viola Wilson, Ben Feil and Santa (Robin Pereyda) at Oregon Veterans Home.

Heart of Hospice youth spread cheer

Each year The Dalles and the Hood River Youth of Heart of Hospice (YoHOH) clubs end their year with a Christmas celebration, singing and giving out decorated gifts and cards.

Santa joined the group of 14 Youth on their outing, surprised that this was their first day of school vacation. The group visited most every Hospice patients both in Hood River and The

Dalles facilities.

"It was meaningful to watch the patients to watching Santa patients with child-like eyes pulling on his beard, to see if it was indeed a real beard," volunteer coordinator Jayne Mederios said. "Many of the residents and staff joined in the singing."

No matter what the weather the Youth of Heart of Hospice and Santa

(Robin Pereyda) carpool from Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles, Hawks Ridge Assisted Living in Hood River, Hood River Care Center and every facility they could visit, singing, shaking hands and bringing gifts and joy.

"Thanks you YoHOHs and Santa Robin for donating your time and efforts it was wonderful to be a part of," Mederios said.

Gorge First Tech Challenge comes to The Dalles Jan. 31

Families and robot lovers of all ages are invited to watch the fun at the Columbia Gorge First Tech Challenge (FTC) Tournament on Jan. 31 at The Dalles Middle School (1100 E. 12th St.). This free all-day event is the local qualifier for the international FTC robotics competition for students in 7th to 12th grades. Best public viewing is from noon to 3 p.m.

In this sports-style competition, teams of up to 10 students have been working since September to design, build and program their robots to compete on a 12-by-12-foot field against other teams. Robots are about 18-inches square and are built using a Tetrix platform that is reusable from year-to-year using a variety of programming languages.

The match starts with a 30-second autonomous period where robots are operated via pre-programmed instructions only. A two-minute driver-controlled



GORGE TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

period follows where teams compete to score the most points.

This year's challenge, called the Cascade Effect, has the robots trying to score with 160 large and small white plastic balls into two center goals or six rolling goals with clear tubes of various heights.

This event is being hosted by the students of The Dalles High School FTC Teams, coached by Bev Froemming. Support is provided by the Gorge Tech Alliance and sponsorship

from Boeing. FTC teams from middle schools and high schools all around the Gorge will be competing at this event. The competition should be especially fun for families with students interested in getting into robotics themselves.

Organizers need many volunteers to help on the day of the event. There is no robotics experience required, just a desire to have fun.

Contact Bev Froemming at froemmingb@nwas-co.k12.or.us or 541-506-3400 Ext 2217 to help.

Gorge youth artists invited to submit works

The Dalles Art Center will be accepting entries for the annual Middle/High School Student Art Show Jan. 27 to Jan. 31. All submitted work must be ready to hang, mounted, matted, or framed.

Registration forms are available at the website,

www.thedallesart.org under calendar, or at the gallery. The show will run Feb. 3-28th with closing reception and awards on Feb. 28 from 3-4 p.m.

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