



Hood River News

Official Newspaper, City of Hood River and Hood River County

HOOD RIVER, OREGON ■ SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015

www.hoodrivernews.com

'They got out with their lives'



Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

FIRE MARSHAL JIM TRAMMELL talks to Charmaine McCafferty and her daughter, Gracie, as firefighters battle the blaze. Below, firefighters keep hoses trained on the burning house on Westcliff Drive. No one was injured in the fire.

Fire destroys Westcliff home

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**
News editor

The loss appears total in Friday morning's house fire at 3578 Westcliff Dr., owned by Michael and Suzanne Maurer. They shared the home with their daughter and granddaughter, and all are safe.

Westside and Hood River fire departments and Wy'east Fire District responded to the blaze starting at around 5 a.m., about a half-mile east of exit 62. The home and garage, including vehicles, were destroyed.

"They got out with their lives. There was no time to get anything out of the house, but they got out separately and found each other," said family member Reka Sieverkropp.

At about 6 a.m. the Maurers' Please see **FIRE**, Page A2



Beer to home and outdoor education

As the Legislature convenes Monday, a look at what bills local lawmakers are sponsoring

By **BEN MITCHELL**
News staff writer

Sponsor:

The Regular Session of the Oregon State Legislature opens Feb. 2 — Groundhog's Day! — and Hood River legislators Rep. Mark Johnson and Sen. Chuck Thomsen have sponsored a total of over a dozen bills for the upcoming session.

The bills cover a wide variety of topics, from beer delivery to a literal cottage industry involving baked goods and confections, to curbing discriminatory profiling by law enforcement, to creating outdoor education programs for tweens.

Here's a rundown of the 14 bills our legislators have sponsored for the 2015 session:

REP. MARK JOHNSON

Chief Sponsor:

HB 2186: Provides that core teaching standards that apply to public schools also apply to public charter schools. Would go into effect by July 1, 2016.

HB 2728: Establishes the Oregon Talent Council, which is tasked with advising "on issues of talent development to promote the growth and competitiveness of Oregon's traded sector and high growth industries."

The legislation is also designed to make sure institutions of higher education are providing students with skills and the required education that will meet the needs of the aforementioned employers.

The legislation declares an emergency and would go into effect immediately upon its passage.



SEN. CHUCK THOMSEN



REP. MARK JOHNSON

HB 2608: Increases the number of members on the Oregon Education Investment Board — a body that oversees education outcomes in the state and drives policy by making recommendations to the legislature on "investments to be made in agencies and institutions across the education continuum that will have the most impact for students."

Specifically, HB 2608 provides the addition of two members on the soon-to-be 14-member board: one must be a member of a school district board and one must be a parent of a child in any grade from K-12 that is enrolled in either public school or a public charter school.

The legislation declares an emergency and would go into effect immediately upon its passage.

SB 408: See SB 408 under Sen. Chuck Thomsen, who is the chief sponsor of the bill.

HB 2731: Amends current law to allow holders of off-premises sales licenses or direct shipper permits to deliver or ship "malt beverages," commonly known by regular folks as "beer," straight to the consumer. The beer has to be contained in "factory-sealed" or "securely covered" containers of beer that aren't larger than two and quarter gallons (288 ounces), which is essentially the size of a case of beer. The law previously only allowed for wine and cider.

As with the shipping of any alcohol, a signature of someone 21 and older is required before the pack-

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Spotlight

A weekly series about a day in the life ...

Justine Ziegler enjoys challenges of mentoring

By **TRISHA WALKER**
News staff writer



Photo by Trisha Walker/Submitted photo

JUSTINE ZIEGLER has worked as Match Coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters since June 2012. Her favorite part of the job: She enjoys introducing pairs for the first time, such as Big Sister Rachel McKay and Little Sister Espie, pictured above. See related story on page A6.

Justine Ziegler has been Match Coordinator with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) — part of The Next Door, Inc. — since June 2012. As her title suggests, she pairs "Bigs" with "Littles" in mentoring relationships.

Here's how the process works: When a Little request comes in, Ziegler interviews the child and family at home to get a sense of the child's needs, interests and personality, turning that information into a profile for prospective mentors to read. Most Littles come from single parent or grandparent, multi-sibling homes and "just need one-on-one time with an adult who will care about them," Ziegler said.

She has a similar process for interviewing mentors, or Bigs. Common interests are important, as are compatible personalities.

"If a kid is high energy, they need a high energy mentor," she explained.

From these interviews, she usually gets a "gut feeling" about which Little would work best with which Big. She likes to give prospective mentors at least two profiles to

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LOOK INSIDE

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Tsuruta Sister City exchange host families sought

The Hood River-Tsuruta Sister City Committee is seeking host families for its annual spring student visit to Hood River. The group of junior high school boys and girls will be in town from March 15-23 and will stay with host families, attend classes with host students and participate in a variety of cultural activities around the valley. Anyone interested in hosting students can contact Niko Yasui or Scott Murahashi at the following:
niko.yasui@hoodriver.k12.or.us or g03q6b@yahoo.com.

Three To Go

Montessori School hosts presentation

Little Oak Montessori School, located at 1054 Oak Street in White Salmon, will hold a presentation entitled "What is Montessori Education and What Does it Offer Children?" at the Hood River Library meeting room on Feb. 7 from 4-5:30 p.m.

Presenter Allison Lide will explore how the structure and function of the Montessori educational approach effectively prepares children for today's world. Lide is a former traditional math and physics teacher and is currently an elementary Montessori educator at Little Oak Montessori School.

A similar presentation will be held Feb. 12 at the White Salmon Library from 7-8:30 p.m.

For more information, call 509-281-1721 or email admin@littleoakmontessori.com.

HRVHS benefit show set for Jan. 31

The student-presented benefit variety show "On the Beat," is on for 7 p.m., Jan. 31 at Hood River Valley High school's Bowe Theatre. HRVHS junior Miguel Vasquez (last seen as The Wolf in the fall musical "Into the Woods") is organizing the show for his Extended Application project, a graduation requirement. He will be among the performers, which include current students and alumni in music, dance, and more. Admission is \$5; proceeds will benefit HRVHS theater program, which is now working on the spring production "The Madwoman of Chaillot," directed by Rachel Harry.

