

# SPECIAL SECTIONS

Who's Who,  
Home and  
Garden



Who's  
Who  
2015  
Featuring  
businesses of  
Hood River County  
A Special Publication of the Hood River News

## What's Going On?

HRMS Play, and more — A9, A3

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# Hood River News

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## CL Port looks to acquire land near fire hall

Port also considering  
BOTG toll increases

By BEN MITCHELL  
News staff writer

The Port of Cascade Locks is looking to acquire a county-owned property in the city that the port

hopes to use as a site for economic development.

General Manager Paul Koch said that last week the Cascade Locks Port Commission directed staff to move forward in conversations with Hood River County for purchase of a 2.3-acre parcel that is located directly east of the fire station at 25 WaNaPa Street for the

purposes of economic development.

Koch said the parcel had been initially purchased by the county as the intended site for a public health clinic. The county received a \$600,000 federal grant several years ago to build the facility when it was anticipated that an off-reservation casino would prompt a population

boom for Cascade Locks and surrounding areas. The casino never materialized and as a result, the county ultimately elected to create smaller health centers located inside the Cascade Locks School as well as Mid Valley Elementary in Odell.

The port is interested in purchasing the land and then selling it

to a new business or to a business that is looking to relocate, Koch said. He explained that the port is "looking for other assets" as it continues to develop the Business Park and looks to sell property there.

No purchase price of the property was mentioned; according to

See PORT, Page A5



## KEY TALENTS

Submitted photo

**BRYNN SEARCY, SOPHOMORE** at Hood River Valley High School, had two of her photographs entered recently in both the Oregon College of Art and Craft (OCAC) Juried High School Art Show, and the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards (SAWA). She took a Gold Key award at SAWA.

## HRVHS sophomore gives inside look at art competitions

By TRISHA WALKER  
News staff writer

Hood River Valley High School sophomore Brynn Searcy is an artist. And a state and nationally recognized artist at that.

Searcy, along with some of her HRVHS peers, recently took part in two art competitions: Oregon College of Art and Craft (OCAC) Juried High School Art Show, and the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards (SAWA).

The competitions have a couple of key differences. OCAC is "a local thing," Searcy explained, open to students in

Page A8  
Samples of  
Brynn  
Searcy's  
work, and a  
related  
story.

western Oregon. A college representative came to HRVHS and selected pieces for entry into the contest and subsequent art show. Initially, he wanted to take two of her photographs for the competition, but "due to lack of space plus all of the amazing talent in our school,"

was only able to choose one, she said. On Feb. 19, Searcy and fellow HRVHS contestants Andrew McCarthy, Fenn Paider, Rianna Piatt, America Flores,

Wendy Garcia, Amy Griffin, Jamarah Wilson, Savannah Boersma and Summer Bogard traveled to OCAC, located in Portland, to learn contest results and see their pieces displayed in the school's Hoffman Gallery.

While she didn't win one of the cash awards, "it was still an amazing experience to be featured in a gallery show at my age," she said.

Her piece, titled "Abstract Body," and those of her classmates, will be on display in the Hoffman Gallery at OCAC through March 4.

See ART, Page A2

## 'Feast of Words'

Benefit for library park features  
food, auction and music

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA  
News editor

The party inside helps the grounds outside. The Hood River County Library Foundation hosts the annual Feast of Words inside the downtown Hood River Library on March 7 from 6-9 p.m.

The Library Foundation's goal is to raise \$25,000 to update the park surrounding the library, the Georgiana Smith Memorial Gardens, which turns 10 years old this year. The Gardens are managed by the library district, and they were affected dramatically by the library's closure in 2011, according to director Buzzy Nielsen. Funds raised at the Feast of Words will be used to replant some areas, hire a professional service to care for the plant beds, replace the irrigation system, and replace some of the worn furniture.

There will be many fun events for the whole family at the Feast of Words. Children are welcome, too! Library staff will be on hand with activities for kids downstairs in the Children's Library. The desserts and snacks are being coordinated by Polly Wood.

The event will include music by Amber and the Pale Ales, exquisite desserts and savory appetizers, local wine and beer, in the downtown Hood River Library. If you have never partied inside a library, this is your chance.

Many live and silent auction items will be up for bid, including a Solstice Pizza Dinner for 25 at your home, one week's lodging in a charming apartment in Oaxaca, Mexico, and fun items from many merchants around the county. Or perhaps you'd like to

See LIBRARY, Page A2

## Spotlight

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

### Kristi Thomsen finds 'new job' this year

By TRISHA WALKER  
News staff writer



Photo by Trisha Walker, submitted

**KRISTI THOMSEN**, wife of State Senator Chuck Thomsen, puts in many hours at the Adult Center, among other volunteer responsibilities. At right, Thomsen is pictured with daughters Mallory (center) and Meagan, who were both married last summer.

Life hasn't slowed down much for Kristi Thomsen the past couple of years.

Last summer, she planned both of her daughters' weddings, one of which was held at her Pine Grove home on her own wedding anniversary — July 19.

"They're happy now, but I don't know if I've recovered," she joked.

And as if that wasn't enough, her husband, State Sen. Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River), was on the campaign trail. "If it wasn't weddings, it was campaign stuff," Thomsen said.

But this year, the majority of her time is spent at the Hood River Valley Adult Center, off Brookside Drive on the Heights. She's serving as vice president on the newly-elected board, along with president Suzanne VanOrman, secretary Debra Laraway and treasurer Paul Zastrow; Connie Peters and Helen Elmer serving in at-large positions.

"That's my new job now," Thomsen said. "The senior center and Chuck."

See KRISTI, Page A5

## Four To Go

### Small Business Showcase returns March 12

Hood River's premier small business networking and showcasing event is just two weeks away. On Thursday, March 12, dozens of Hood River small businesses will showcase their trade at the Butler Bank Building, 301 Oak St. The 5 to 7:30 p.m. event is free for the public to attend. (A previous article gave the incorrect date.)

### Climate change forum March 5

Members of Gorge-area faith communities are invited to join together for a brown bag lunch event on March 5 to explore and discuss the challenges of the climate crisis.

Leaders from the Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network (CGCAN) will facilitate a discussion about how communities can act to address the political, economic and educational challenges of climate change.

The brown bag lunch event, sponsored by Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hood River Valley Christian Church, 975 Indian Creek Rd.

### Grad party seek support

June 5 marks the day that the Senior Class of Hood River Valley High School will celebrate with an all-night party. Project Graduation 2015 is a community effort organized by volunteer parents, to honor our graduates for a job well done and provide a safe place to celebrate. Elks Club donates the use of their facilities each year and this year marks the 50th year that Elks has done so. HRVHS is looking for more community members willing to donate their time to help support Project Graduation 2015. Contact Melissa DelCarpine at delcarpineautomotive@gmail.com or call 541-399-3729 if you are interested in getting involved.

### Clink! celebration happens Feb. 28 at museum

Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine exhibit, opens this weekend, Feb. 28, from 6-8 p.m. at The History Museum, 300 Port Marina Drive. The exhibit traces the history of Oregon wines and the stories of some of the individuals and institutions that propelled Oregon wine onto the national and international stage. Hood Crest Winery, Cathedral Ridge Winery, Viento and Garnier Vineyards will offer tastings; appetizers and live music also included. Tickets are \$35 at Waucoma Bookstore and at the museum.

