

Mail carriers teaming up with public to 'Stamp out Hunger' on May 9



Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

MURAL IN FISH food bank on Tucker Road (left and atop page A1) greets visitors. Hood River Middle School students created the image celebrating community production, gathering and sharing of food. The mural's fish symbols represent financial donations. Inset: volunteers Dave Radley and Clark Terry load food and supplies at the new location.

Food donations: FISH opens at new site at Our Redeemer Church, Tucker Rd.

The largest one-day food drive in the nation is coming to Hood River Valley next week.

Local city and rural mail carriers will join the annual National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) "Stamp Out Hunger" event on Saturday May 9.

To donate, place a box or can of non-perishable food next to your mailbox before your letter carrier delivers mail next Saturday.

Mail carriers and Cub Scouts from Pack 282 will do the rest. The teams will pick up the donations and deliver them to three food banks in the Hood River Valley. Rural postal carriers are also donating time to collect food.

"The local food banks really rely on this food drive as stock seems to run low this time of year," said food drive organizer Barbara Williams, a USPS retiree who is coordinating the local drive.

FISH volunteers were busy over the past two weeks moving food as well as most coolers, freezers and other appliances and equipment from the June Street site to the new location, in time for opening on Monday on Tucker Road, next to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Food was kept at June Street for Saturday's final distribution day at the Concordia Lutheran Church.

According to an April written release by the United States Postal Service, 49 million people face hunger every day in America, including nearly 16 million children.

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