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Repeat winners: Eagle athletes shine at State 5A track



Photos by Brett Requa

SEBASTIAN BARAJAS throws the shot put, and Jestina Mattson focuses on the high jump in weekend competition at Hayward Field in Eugene. The two HRVHS competitors won state for the second year in a row in other events – the discus for Barajas and the 100- and 200-meter races for Mattson. See page A7 for details on a successful weekend for the girls' and boys' track teams at the meet in Eugene.



DENNY LEONARD of Hood River American Legion Post 22 looks on as boy scouts prepare to raise the US flag to half-staff Monday morning at Idlewild Cemetery. The annual Memorial Day ceremony honors fallen veterans of Hood River County.

Photo by Patrick Mulvihill

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

About 400 people assembled at Idlewild Cemetery Monday morning to remember the men and women who gave their lives for their country.

The annual Memorial Day ceremony saw an impressive turnout — a boost of about 100 people from last year, said Denny Leonard, event organizer and Hood River

American Legion Post 22 representative. Leonard attributed the increase in attendance, in part, to weather. He said last Memorial Day was “drizzly” and unpleasant, unlike the clear (if breezy) conditions Monday.

This year’s theme was “Honoring Those Who Have Served,” and its centerpiece was a 6-foot illuminated floral wreath dedicated to all veterans buried in Hood River County. The wreath, designed by

Peggy Ross of Hood River, was adorned with flowers, tiny flags and striped ribbons.

“We dedicate this wreath to your service and your sacrifice. And we thank each one of you for our freedom,” said Idlewild sexton Bob Huskey, who lead the day’s presentations.

The ceremony featured speeches by the American Legion, twenty-two veterans’ names added to the Walk of Honor, a flyover by

WAAAM pilots, a regal score provided by the Hood River Valley High School band, a musical tribute by local singer Andy Streich and a three cannon salute following “Taps.”

This year marked the final Memorial Day concert for HRVHS Music Director Mark Steighner, who will be retiring in June. The American Legion presented Steighner with a certificate of appreciation and a small flag to

honor his partnership with the event, which he has been involved with for decades.

“Every time we make a call, you guys just go 100 percent beyond the call of duty,” said Huskey, addressing Steighner and the band.

Steighner has taught in Hood River since 1979, and has taught choral and instrumental music at HRVHS since 1984. In January, he

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Odd incidents, arrests highlight a busy Memorial Day weekend

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

Two strange incidents involving vehicles stood out in a busy but otherwise ordinary Memorial Day Weekend for local law enforcement.

On Saturday morning, a driver smashed an SUV into a Cascade Locks family’s home, narrowly missing somebody sitting inside. There were five people inside the house when the vehicle burst through the front side of the structure — but none were harmed, said the Hood River County Sheriff’s Office.

The driver, Zachary Jon Struthers, 26, of Cascade Locks, crashed the SUV Land Rover through two nearby fences, causing “significant property damage” at three other homes on Forest Lane before the vehicle ground to a halt inside the home on nearby Clark Street, Sheriff’s deputies said.



Photo courtesy of the Hood River County Sheriff’s Office. An SUV Land Rover smashed into a family’s home at Clark St., near Forest Lane in Cascade Locks Saturday morning. The driver was arrested and charged with DUII.

Struthers was transported to Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility and lodged on charges of DUII controlled substance, reckless driving, five counts of recklessly endangering and an outstanding Lane County warrant. He was also charged with unlawful possession of meth.

A contractor was called to the crash scene to ensure the house was structurally stable before the vehicle was pulled free at about 6 p.m.

On Sunday, a Hood River man fell

from a moving vehicle and suffered severe injuries. The driver was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and reckless driving.

Steven Ray Ram, 40, is in critical condition at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland.

The driver, Audrey Josephine Muehlhausen, 25, also of Hood River, was arrested at Providence Hood River Hospital on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and reckless dri-



Zachary Jon Struthers



Audrey Josephine Muehlhausen

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Four To Go

Little Shredders holds open house

Little Shredders Dental, on the Heights, opened its door this spring, and Christopher A. Swisher, DDS and staff invite the community to an open house on May 28, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The clinic is open Wednesday-Friday, and the first and third Monday of each month. Little Shredders is located at 1615 Woods Court, just off Pacific Avenue.

‘Cover Oregon’ application fair on Friday

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living hosts a Cover Oregon application fair, Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the State of Oregon’s Department of Human Services office in Hood River.

Robert Crooks of the Center for Independent Living said representatives will be on hand to help people with special needs in the insurance application process.

DHS is located at 1610 9th St., just off Pacific Avenue on the Heights.

HRCSD board meets tonight in Cascade Locks

Hood River County School District Board of Directors meets at 6:30 p.m. tonight at Cascade Locks Elementary School, 300 WaNaPa St.

Agenda items include a review of proposed start times for the 2015-16 school year, and approval of start times for secondary schools for next year.

The board’s next meeting will be June 9 at the District Office in Hood River.

Markets provide local produce

Gorge Grown Farmer’s Market continues Thursday, 5-8 p.m. at Hood River Middle School, on West May Street. Produce, flowers, vegetable starts, as well as meat, breads and prepared foods are available. Coming June 6, Hood River Saturday Market starts its new season in a new location, Third and Oak in the parking lot of Oak Street Pub (formerly British Pub).

