

## KALEIDOSCOPE

International visitors lend a hand to FISH

B1



## BASEBALL EYES STATE

See [hoodrivernews.com](http://hoodrivernews.com) for results of Tuesday's game v. Pendleton

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# Hood River News

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## Suzanne VanOrman takes the helm at Adult Center



Photo by Trisha Walker

**SUZANNE VANORMAN** has been hired as the new executive director at the Hood River Valley Adult Center. Her first official day was June 1, although she's been serving as interim executive director since January.

BY TRISHA WALKER  
News staff writer

"We've changed direction."

That's what Suzanne VanOrman, Hood River Valley Adult Center board president and interim executive director since the beginning of the year, had to say about becoming the center's executive director as of June 1.

Her resume includes 20 years of experience as a past executive director of the Mid-Columbia Children's Council — now Head Start — from 1984 to 2006, a representative of House District 52 in the Oregon State Legislature from 2009-2011, and numerous positions on community boards, including an elected seat on the Hood River County Library District, where she's currently serving as president.

Her experience is helping her "clean up," both literally and figuratively, the building, the center's finances, and its policies and procedures. The center lost its 501c3 non-profit status in 2010, regain-

ing it in 2014. The board has since terminated former executive director Collice Martens-Sinclair, with VanOrman stepping into the role until a new director could be hired.

VanOrman was one of a number of qualified candidates to apply for the position, said board

vice president (now president) Kristi Thomsen, and she underwent a rigorous interview process.

"The board ... needed someone with a strong financial background, because that's where all of our troubles have been," said Thomsen.

"We couldn't lose on the candidates we had apply, so that was heartening," she added. "We had a couple other good applications that we really liked also, and it was nice to see that there was a pool of experienced people to draw from. We had redone the job description and tightened it up. We set the standards pretty high."

The position was a natural fit for VanOrman, Thomsen said, who was hired by the full board. "Suzanne had been doing the

The Hood River Valley Adult Center is open daily for lunch, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., for everyone — not just senior citizens, said board president Kristi Thomsen, for a \$5 suggested donation.

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## So long and 'See You Again'

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA  
News editor

The time is nearly here: commencement events for the Class of 2015.

Hood River Valley High School passes out diplomas in a service starting at 7 p.m. Friday at Henderson Community Stadium — rain or shine, though prime weather is in the forecast. Bleacher space is based on availability after students' families are seated.

On Saturday at 2 p.m. Horizon Christian School holds its ceremony in Mark Boyden Gymnasium in the campus at 8th and Pacific on the Heights.

For HRVHS, Diana Lachino (Spanish) and Megumi Hosaka (English) will give the welcome. Keynote speakers are Janelle Pedroza (Spanish) and Cayla Sacre (English). This year, about 313 diplomas will be given out.

The new HRV Alma Mater, written by Mark Steighner will be sung by the Chamber Singers; this will be Steighner's last time directing the singers at graduation, as he retires this month after 36 years.

The class song, title to be announced, was written by the senior Chamber singers. Program cover art is original by senior Eva Kahn.

The Eagles' class motto is "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." The recessional song will be "See You Again" by Wiz Khalifa.

At 18 graduates, the Horizon Class of 2015 is one the school's largest. Student speakers were chosen for best exemplifying the private school's goals of academics, Biblical integration, and character development. They are Hannah Lingel and Shaun Wang, a student from China completing his third year at Horizon.

Adult speakers will be Pastor Jack Andersen, grandfather of graduate Nick Andersen, and Christopher Layton, English teacher at the school.



Photo by Patrick Mulvihill

**HRVHS SENIOR** Cristian Betancourt soaks up the sun at his last luau at the high school. Come Friday, he'll be swapping the beach ball for a diploma, and the sunhat for a graduation cap. (See A11 for more on the school's luau.)

## Odell celebration honors school, community leaders

By PATRICK MULVIHILL  
News staff writer

A diverse cast of leaders was honored at Mid Valley Elementary School in Odell Thursday night.

The school teamed up with the Hood River County Prevention Department and the Odell Hispanic Coalition to recognize educators and community members who make a positive impact in the local Hispanic community.

"We asked the community to come up with names of people who they wanted to honor and we came up with a list," said Luz Oropeza of the Hood River County Prevention

Department, who led the event. "What you see here are people who the whole community wanted to recognize."

The 43 honorees represented a wide array of sectors including education, law enforcement, health and business.

About 30 of the recipients were present at the celebration, including Hood River County Sheriff Matt English, Mayor Paul Blackburn and numerous leaders in education and health throughout the county. Each received a certificate

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## No need for election 'rolling of the dice'

Results in a local water district election bubbled up clear enough to avoid the decision by dice.

Larry Brown, 331 votes, edged Bill Munk, 328, in late vote tabulation in the Crystal Springs (near Parkdale) Water District election, from the May 19 county-wide Special Districts election.

Four men ran for three spots, with Mike McCafferty (539) and Mick Swyers (460) the clear leaders on May 19. Brown and Munk were locked in a tie, which meant

the matter would be decided once the late-arriving ballots from other counties arrived by June 2 and could be counted, along with remaining "question" ballots.

Had the deadlock remained after the late votes came in, the question would have been decided by Munk and Brown rolling the dice at county Elections Office.

See the Elections website on June 3 for official results on all of the May 19 races: [www.co.hoodriver.or.us/elections](http://www.co.hoodriver.or.us/elections).

## HRV Engineering Fair highlights long list of First Friday events

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA  
News editor

A unique "pizza" party is planned for downtown Hood River on Friday.

High school graduation will not be the only big event in Hood River on June 5, and the entire weekend promises plenty of activity around the community. First Friday brings a number of

anchor events, including the 4:30 p.m. ribbon cutting on State Street to celebrate the official conclusion of the 18-month Urban Renewal Project that transformed State Street from Sixth to Front Street, and Oak from Front to First. Just up State, Riverside Church gets into the First Friday act with drumming on the newly-widened sidewalk.

Part of Oak Street will be closed from 5-8 p.m. for the second annual Hood River Engineering Fair (details below). Oak from First to Second will be the only sections of any street closed for this First Friday.

Quadcopters, a T-shirt shooter, mini wind turbine kits from Columbia Gorge Community Col-

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Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

**ROBOTICS STUDENT** Victoria Kohner-Flanahan displays laser-etched items created by Engineering students; at right is a student-built robot.

### Four To Go

#### Boda's Kitchen to celebrate third year

Boda's will celebrate its three year anniversary with a party on June 7 from 4-8 p.m. in the parking lot west of the store.

Entertainment includes music by SmudgePot Manja Warner of Shining Faces Face Painting, wine by AniChe Cellars, hard apple cider from Rack & Cloth, and Boda's barbecue. All are invited.

#### 'Community Mental Health' roundtable June 4

Gorge Ecumenical Ministries (GEM) is sponsoring a roundtable meeting at Rockford Grange, 4262 Barret Drive, on Community Mental Health as part of its ministries roundtable series.

Guests from the National Alliance for Mental Health, and Hood River, Wasco, and Klickitat county community mental health agencies will lead the presentation and discussion. The meeting is open to the public; for more information, call 503-241-6671.

#### 'A Local Hero' June 7

Sarah Segal and her Hood River Middle School students will share their story of learning about local unsung hero Minoru Yasui and developing ways to share his life and accomplishments with the Hood River community and beyond.

The presentation will take place June 7 at 10 a.m. at the worship service of the Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, held at the Rockford Grange, 4262 Barret Drive. For more information, contact Judy Zimmerman at 541-402-1860.

#### Anson's Bike Buddies Bike Drive June 6

Eight-year-old Anson's goal is that every child have a bike of their own, and to that end, Anson's Bike Buddies will hold a bike drive on June 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Crates Building, 3591 Klindt Drive, The Dalles. Anson and his crew will collect used bikes or bike parts for area children ages 6-18.

Anson's Bike Buddies is a non-profit and partners with local bike shops, who donate repair work. Anson was the top prize winner in February's Gorge Soup for Kids event, which awarded him \$1,400 to start his project. Bikes are given to local agencies for distribution.

