

# Elks announce May 'Students of the Month'

Madison Graham and Jessie Karr, both students at Hood River Valley High School, were chosen as Students of the Month for May by the Hood River Elks Lodge No. 1507 and were each presented with a check for \$100. They joined 16 other winning students in the running for the annual Student of the Year Awards, held May 31.

Madison Graham maintains a 3.8 GPA at Hood River Valley High School and is a member of several organizations: She the number one singles player in tennis; she runs Cross Country; she is a member of the National Honor Society, which helps with local non-profits; she is a cheerleader; she is Vice President of the French Club and was a 4-H counselor in Tri-County Leadership Camp; she was State Ambassador planning state-wide 4-H events, participating in monthly conference calls, and volunteering at the Oregon State Fair; she was a delegate to National 4-H Congress; she founded the Change Club, where she helped design T-shirts, gave club mission to Booster Club,



MADISON GRAHAM

designated leadership positions, founded a club mentor, chose organizations to benefit from clubs profits and led weekly meetings; and she has participated in ballet, modern, jazz and hula at the Columbia Gorge Dance Academy, in which she danced the Nutcracker ballet to benefit FISH food bank. Madison is a lifeguard at the HR Aquatic Center and is currently working as a Windsurf Instructor for Big Winds.

Madison's community service includes: FISH Food Bank collecting cans, sorting food into bags, and distributing to the needy; she volunteered with Heart of Hospice, visiting retirement centers, sang songs for the elderly, served cookies to patients and helped recruit members at club fair; she volunteered at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital in the Family Birth Center and the Emergency Room, filing papers, greeting patients, and organizing care folders; she helped The Next Door, Inc. set up for events at Harvest Fest; she is the Nursery Service Leader at the Hood River Alliance Church; she organized monthly community service projects for children to participate in and was on the planning committee for 4-H Camp; and spent numerous hours on Remember Nhu, volunteering as an intern at children's home in

Thailand, recruiting a team of volunteers to serve at the banquet to benefit a new children's home.

Madison is the daughter of Pat and Amy Graham and she plans to attend University of Arizona School of Engineering majoring in Bio-Medical Engineering.

Jessie Karr is the daughter of Francie Karr and maintains a 4.0 GPA also at Hood River Valley High School. She is a three sport athlete, playing basketball, volleyball and softball since 2011. She was basketball co-captain in 2012, Basketball Eagle Award winner in 2012 and named MVP in 2013; she was co-captain of the volleyball team in 2014; and softball co-captain in 2012; Softball Eagle Award winner in 2012 and All District/All-State Softball DP in 2014; and Captains Council Representative in 2015. Jessie is a member of Challenge Day, challenging everyone to accept diversity, and the National Honor Society.

Jessie's community service includes the following: acted as a mentor and counselor for new camp counselors and taught lessons to the sixth grade students about environmental science for Wy'East Outdoor School; instructed recreational games and oversaw

4-6 graders at Softball Kids Night; was a referee for Community Ed instructing elementary and middle school students in the fundamentals of basketball and volleyball; did fundraisers for the Hood River Valley Softball program; created toy bags for families in need for Holiday Toy Baskets; helped pass out boxes of food and bags of gifts to families in need for Community Food and Gift Baskets Program, and packaged food boxes for those in need over the winter holidays; participated in the Hood River County Fair by giving out contestant numbers and keeping books for next year's entries; painted walls for the pediatric side of the building for Mid-Columbia Medical Center Family Medicine; and scanned written insurance records to digital ones for Columbia Gorge Family Medical and Columbia

Gorge Family Sports Physical Clinic.

Jessie plans to attend the University of Portland in the fall majoring in Biology.



JESSIE KARR

## FINALS

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hits and Cockburn just four. Both teams were able to advance as far as third base midway through the game, but that was about it.

In the seventh inning, both teams were hoping to put the game in the books, but once again, neither team could put up a run. Ward shut down Pendleton's offense, fanning one batter for the second out of the inning, and then fielding a hard ground ball that was heading down the third base line, turning around and throwing the ball off-balance to Montana Kurahara at first for the third out.

"Ryan Ward, that play he made over here (at the third base line), falling away, making that throw — that's just stuff you can't teach. He's such a good athlete," Harjo said.

In the bottom of the seventh, HRV was able to get catcher Adam Cameron on first and left fielder Riley Van Hoose on second due to a walk and hit pitch, respectively, but again, Pendleton's defense went to work, and caught a line drive from designated hitter Chase Lariza and put short stop Skyler Hunter out at first to send the game into extra innings.

The Eagles survived a scare in the top of the eighth, when, with no outs and a runner on first, Pendleton's Wyatt Morris crushed one to center field as runner Jack Peterson rounded second, then third and began sprinting for him. In the outfield,

centerfielder Dallas Buckley fielded the line drive, tossed it to Walker at second, who then hurled it to a frantic Cameron at home, who was calling for the ball. With about a second to spare, Cameron caught the ball and wheeled around in time to fill Peterson's face with glove, putting him out before he could reach the plate, which drew raucous whoops and applause from the HRV bleachers.

With HRV's defense finishing up the inning with two quick putouts and neither team able to score, Harjo said he was hoping for "a little bit of a wrinkle, for a little bit of luck" to put the team over the top. And they got it. After hitting Walker with a pitch to put him on first, Cockburn tried to field a bunt hit by Ward, and then overthrew to Pendleton's first baseman by a large margin, allowing Walker to advance to third. The next play, Cockburn intentionally walked HRV third baseman Kellan Duffy, who nearly hit one out of the park earlier in the game.

With bases loaded and no outs, Harvey stepped up to the plate. After a 3-1 count, Harvey hit a beautiful line drive to an empty section of right field, allowing Walker to come home, who slid into the plate, not out of necessity, but out of pure jubilation as HRV's bench emptied to greet him.

"You don't want to lose, you don't want to lose to the team on the other side of the field," Harjo said of how HRV came away with a win against a team that had seen them so many times this sea-

son. "It's like a chess match, really, that's what it comes down to. If you don't execute the small game, and if you don't do any part of the game, you're not going to score runs, because everybody knows everybody... We just happen to be the team that executed at the right time and we came up big."

HRV now turns its attention to the Liberty Falcons, one of the best teams in the state, who earned their berth at the finals after grinding out a 2-1 victory over No. 4 Summit that went to an incredible 14 innings. Liberty is ranked No. 1 overall in 5A and is also ranked No. 1 on defense, with just 51 runs allowed this season (1.82 runs per game). The Falcons are also hot at the plate, scoring the fifth-most runs in 5A (213, or 7.6 runs per game).

However, as readers undoubtedly know, HRV is also great at defense, ranked fourth in fewest runs allowed (98 total runs, 3.38 runs per game). On offense, HRV is ranked 11th in runs scored (173 total, 5.97 runs per game). The two teams have not played each other at all this season; the last time they played, three years ago, the Eagles defeated the Falcons, 9-0, in a play-in game, said Harjo.

Despite Liberty's scoring prowess and the team's No. 1 ranking, Harjo said the Falcons will "have to put together a pretty good game plan to beat Ryan Ward," and relishes the chance at unseating the higher-seeded opponent.

"In my opinion, I'd rather be an underdog than the favorite," he said.



File photos by Ben McCarty; 2015 photos by Ben Mitchell

## THEN AND NOW

Many of the players on HRV's varsity have played together for years... and against the same opponents for just as long. Ryan Ward's father, Doug Ward, offered us some interesting history:

*The current 2015 Hood River varsity roster has eight players who were also on the 2009 Little League All Star team that won the State title as 11 year olds (Montana Kurahara, Kam Walker, Skyler Hunter, Kellan Duffy, Andrew Roberts, Dallas Buckley, Chase Lariza, Ryan Ward).*

*The same group of kids (plus Adam Cameron) also went on to place second in the 2010 State tournament the following year as 12 year olds. Seven of the starters on this year's varsity team also started on the 2010 team (Kurahara, Walker, Hunter, Duffy, Buckley, Lariza, Ward, Cameron).*

*The match-up in the 2010 Little League semi-final was Hood River and Pendleton. The starting pitchers: Ryan Ward and Quinn Cockburn. Ward gave up a first inning home run to Cockburn, but Hood River prevailed by scoring four runs in the top of the sixth inning to win 4-3.*

*The starting pitcher in the 2010 Championship game against Murryhill: Kam Walker.*

We looked through the archives and were able to find photos of Dallas Buckley and Skyler Hunter (above) playing in the 2009 Little League title game, which saw Maritime defeat the Elks, 2-0. Buckley was on Maritime, and Hunter was on the Elks, but are teammates today, of course.

## LAX

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of their cage."

Luchsinger said the defense started to put more pressure on Canby's players, forcing turnovers. HRV's attack took control of the game, with two quick goals from Levi Glass and two more Bruce Ostler to give HRV a 14-10 lead. The Cougars continued to get some shots, but HRV netminder Mikey Hall wouldn't let any go through, making 12 saves on 30 shots.

"It went back and forth there for a while," Luchsinger said. "In reality, that game could've gone either way. I think guys did a great job not letting it get to their heads."

Additionally, the boys had some added motivation playing at their practice site at Westside Elementary, which was transformed into a well-groomed lacrosse field since the high school facilities were unavailable due to graduation preparations.

"Once the game started I didn't even notice the difference. I think guys went out and played hard," Luchsinger said. "I think guys were excited to play at Westside. That's where we practice, that's where the

blood sweat tears are and I think guys were like, 'There's no way they're going to beat us on that field.'"

The game ball once again went to Brown, who racked up six goals. Luchsinger said

Glass also had a huge impact on the game, leading the team with an impressive six assists, as well as three goals. Other scorers for HRV included Cramer (4), Ostler (4), Lebsack (1), and defenseman Alex Buschaver (1).

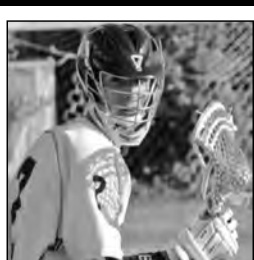
Heading into the Cascade Cup finals, HRV will play a team that Luchsinger said the Eagles have never faced in his four years on the team's coaching staff. He said Thursday morning there wasn't much he could

do to prepare specifically for LaSalle, so the HRV quad will just have to be ready for whatever its opponents bring.

"We're playing the best ball of the season now. We're going to just do what we need

to do. We're going to go out and have some fun practices and go out and play HRV ball," he said.


### Athlete of the Week



**Torsenn Brown**  
HRV boys lacrosse

Attack Torsenn Brown had a team-high six goals, helping HRV beat the Canby Cougars, 19-10, and advance to the Cascade Cup final.

The Athlete of the Week will receive a large pizza with 2 toppings from Papa Murphy's. Congratulations to our winner 6-06-15.



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