

Cascade Locks School, supporters celebrate Walk/Ride to School Month



Submitted photo

BIKE WINNERS Ever Corbett, left, Bailey Webb, Jacob Bustamante, Alexsia James, Malissa Popenoe, Adalee Bump, Tyler Fox, Marley Meyers.

Twelve students won new bikes, scooters and skateboards during the Walk/Ride to School event in May. Cascade Locks School's PTO challenged businesses and organizations to make donations to purchase the items with the group donating the most money winning two hours of community service from the school.

Nearly \$600 was raised during the contest with the City of Cascade Locks winning the top prize for their donation of \$175. Coming in second with \$164.72 was the Port of Cascade Locks, followed by The Charburger, the Best Western Motel and Lorang Fine Art.

Students were challenged to ride or walk to school each day during the month of May to earn raffle tickets for the prizes.

Ten students were recognized for walking or riding every day during the month. Gracie Smallmon and Ethan Cox won new skateboards during the first week and Alex Grable and Jilly Ann Gobben won scooters during the second week.

On May 27, a boy and girl were drawn from each class for a new bike during the school's monthly awards assembly.

HRV students continue streamside enhancement

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**
News editor

Cleaning out your desk in the final days of school is one thing.

How about cleaning out a riparian zone?

That's what a group of about 20 Hood River Valley High School students did Wednesday morning along the Indian Creek streambed just below Henderson Stadium.

Guided by biology teacher Joe Kelly, the students wielded loppers, adzes and other cutting tools, to cut or pull invasive species — knapweed, canary grass, scotch broom and blackberries — and got the ground ready for "solarization" this summer. The scene is where Indian Creek Trail comes out into an open area known as Emily's Grove, named for AmeriCorps volunteer Emily Plummer, who planted and carried water in 2007-08 to sustain newly planted trees and shrubs.

Solarization involves stripping away vegetation, chopping up the soil, and covering it in plastic for a few months to superheat it and kill the canary grass root system. Then, in the fall, new and welcome plantings will go in the same place along the creek: Ponderosa pine, Pacific nine-bark dogwood, cedars, red osier, or mock orange. These tall shrub and tree species

will develop into a two-tier canopy system that shades the creek to lower the water temperature, as well as increase dissolved oxygen in the water, two key components of water quality and improving salmon habitat.

"We are trying to encourage some species and get rid of others, and provide dense shade over the creek," Kelly explained. The work has a lengthy scope: once the invasive species are quelled on the west side of the trail along the stream, it will take them a few years to mature into the kind of canopy the stream needs. Meanwhile, the pines and other trees planted on the east side of the trail will need 20 years or so to fully mature.

The project is a continuation of streambed enhancement work in recent years by students taught by Kelly and Pete Lawson, done as class projects or in conjunction with other Indian Creek Steward partners. On hand were Honors Ecology students fulfilling their community service component under the ongoing Salmon Watch curriculum program; Horizon Christian students have worked with the Stewards on a similar project farther north next to the community college campus. On Wednesday, the students also removed another invasive element: plenty of human-deposited trash.



Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

ZACH TECKENBURG holds a bundle of the invasive species Canary grass, which he spent time Wednesday vigorously cutting down.



Photo by Kristen Godkin

NEW 'VIEW' ON STATE

MacRae Wylde installs his sculpture, "View," Wednesday at the new City of Hood River public restroom and bike hub plaza at Third and State. The work by Wylde, a Hood River artist, had been planned for installation a year ago at the site, but was postponed due to construction delays. The concrete pedestal was poured last week. "View," one of 16 outdoor sculptures in the "Big Art" tour throughout downtown and the waterfront, will remain in place through August. Vote for the People's Choice Award on the Art of Community website, art-of-community.com. Awards will be given in September. Art of Community coordinator Kristen Godkin said the selections for 2015-16 "Big Art" are almost done, and plans are for 17 to 20 sites downtown, on the waterfront and on The Heights, with installation in late August.



AT LEFT, biology teacher Joe Kelly provides instruction to sophomore Bianca Maciel on removing knapweed from the opposite side of the trail as community members hike past. The whole idea behind riparian enhancement is "cleaner, colder water" for salmon, according to Kelly, who also believes that in doing the projects, students learn the power of taking action. A side project is removal of scotch broom, with the goal of eradication of the species from the entire HRVHS campus.

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Athlete of the Week



Ryan Ward
HRV baseball

Pitcher Ryan Ward capped off an amazing season in the state championship game, leading HRV to a 2-0 victory over Liberty by striking out 10 batters and extending his pitching streak to 64 innings since he last had an earned run.

The Athlete of the Week will receive a large pizza with 2 toppings from Papa Murphy's. Congratulations to our winner 6-13-15.



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