

Most retailers comply in youth 'tobacco assessment'

Teens attempt to 'buy' tobacco

A team of high school students from Hood River Valley High School Health Media Club in partnership with The Dalles YouthThink recently participated in a tobacco retail assessment, a youth led evaluation around the sale of tobacco products in their community.

The participants visited over 50 tobacco retailers in

Hood River and Wasco County on April 25 to assess if retailers would allow them to purchase tobacco products. The underage youth, with parental and law enforcement permission, entered local retail stores and attempted to purchase tobacco products. Out of the 50 retailers, six did not card and allowed the minors to purchase tobacco products.

Retailers that did not card were given a letter and tobacco product was not

purchased. The letter asked them to remember to ask for identification and support the health of our youth. Retailers that did card and that refused to sell received a thank you letter from the participants.

In this particular project, no citations or fines were delivered if a retailer was not in compliance.

"It is strictly an evaluation of our local retailers' efforts and to remind retailers to keep tobacco out of the hands of our youth,"

said Belinda Ballah of Hood River Prevention Office. "We commend our local retailers that are consistently checking the I.D. of youth prior to selling tobacco products and refusing to sell to those who are under the age of 18."

Students discussed the negative health effects caused by tobacco and that tobacco use remains the number one preventable cause of death and disease in Oregon. They also talked about how Big Tobacco tar-

gets youth, communities of color and low income to initiate tobacco use. At the end of the day when asked about their experience, youth participant Elizabeth Blas Campos said, "I want to be involved in my community to create change."

Tobacco Assessment are used as a project to educate and engage youth in the health and well being of their community around tobacco use and health equity. A community collaboration with Mid Columbia Health

Equity Advocates, The Next Door, YouthThink, North Central Public Health District and HRVHS Health Media Club and Hood River County Prevention Office.

For more information about Tobacco Assessments please contact Belinda Ballah, Prevention Specialist at Hood River County Prevention Office, at 541-387-6890 or Shellie Campbell, Tobacco Prevention Education Program Coordinator at North Central Public Health District, at 541-506-2609.

FAREWELL DUNKING



Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

Above, Gene Bronson fires a near-miss at the target. The event also gave students such as Lauren Decker, left, and Chad Klaas the chance to gather signatures for each others' yearbooks. Many students also sought out staff to write messages.

The final day of school June 12 brings everyone — students and staff alike — outside to the scenic north side of the campus at Hood River Middle School for a dunk tank extravaganza. Students took turns trying to dunk teachers (principal Brent Emmons was among the first).



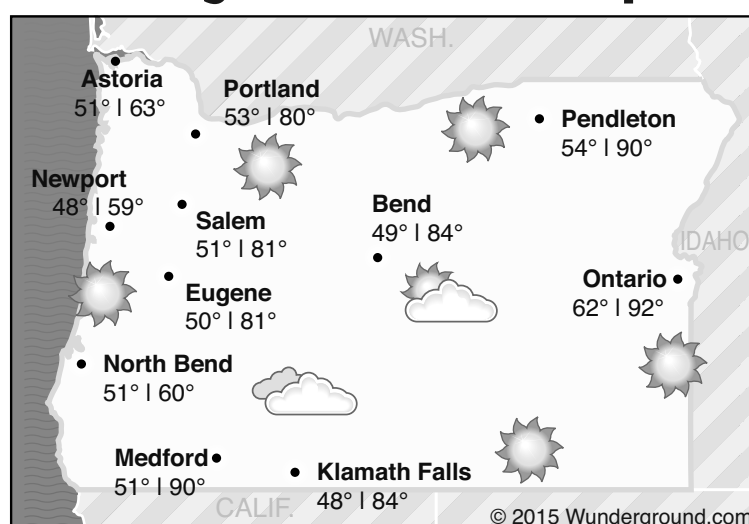
Mary Jensen, right, recruits more ball-throwers as teacher Eric Cohn takes his turn in the "cold seat." Above, teacher Michael Becker exults moments before he heads into the drink.



Hood River Weather Forecast

Date	Forecast	Daytime / Overnight High / Low (°F)
Today June 17	☀ Mostly Sunny	80° / 58°
Thurs. June 18	☀ Sunny	80° / 56°
Fri. June 19	☀ Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°
Sat. June 20	☀ Mostly Sunny	84° / 58°
Sun. June 21	☁ Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
Mon. June 22	☀ Sunny	82° / 57°
Tues. June 23	☁ Partly Cloudy	82° / 58°

Oregon Weather Map



This week's Forecast
Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. West wind 13 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Humidity 65%
Wind Speed SSE 1 G 4 MPH
Barometer NA
Dewpoint 40°F (4°C)
Visibility NA
Last update 15 Jun 6:00 am PDT

Actual High / Low

AGRIMET HOOD RIVER OR
Lat: 45.6842 Long: -121.5181 Elev: 510
<http://uspest.org>

June 8 - 95/59
June 9 - 91/66
June 10 - 80/60
June 11 - 80/58
June 12 - 73/53
June 13 - 77/46
June 14 - 86/46

Updated Monday, June 15
at 9:00 a.m. PST
Data from www.weather.com



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