



## Moving 4th-ward: Four facts for a safe, fun, litter-free celebration



Hood River County hosts two parades that are definitely kid-friendly.

The Hood River parade is first, at 10 a.m., with the theme of "Beautiful Bounty." Families can register in advance at [gorgelions.org](http://gorgelions.org). The parade fee is \$10 and there will be monetary prizes for the best entries.

A parade through downtown Odell begins at 4 p.m., with those participating lining up at Mid Valley Elemen-



tary at 3:30. There is no charge to enter the parade.

Here are some more things to remember about having a fun, yet safe, time during the July 4 Hood River events:

- For safety to children and adults, along with keeping the parade route litter free, the Hood River Lions ask that no candy be passed out or thrown from the entries.

- The Hood River Rotary Club and Heights Ice Cream are again teaming up to offer ice cream at a discounted price in Jackson Park for the children after the parade.

- Onlookers will be treated to about 50 local entries,

but also a Portland band called "The Beat Goes On," with its musicians and baton twirlers. They will also perform in Jackson Park for 40 minutes starting at noon with the raising of the American Flag.

- At 11 a.m. the Hood River Fire Dept. will begin serving its annual barbecue lunch. Also in the park will be ice cream, two bounce houses, face painting and some games for the children.

## Enter parenting pix contest by June 30

There is still time to share your photos of summer fun with the community, in a photo contest sponsored by The Next Door Inc.

Once again this year, in celebrating "Oregon Parenting Education Week," the Columbia Gorge Parenting Education Program of The Next Door seeks photos of children from birth to eight years interacting with an adult in a healthy activity. Activities can include a family outing, playing, eating, story time, making a craft, playing at a park, or any other healthy adult and child interaction.

Photos can include a parent, grandparent, child care

provider, preschool teacher, or other adult. Submissions can include up to five photos. Eight photos will be chosen for a community photo display, and each of those eight photographers will receive a \$50 gift certificate from G. Willikers Toy Store. Only one winner will be allowed per family.

Photos must show an adult and a child interacting together, and must include a child age birth to eight years. All photos must be in JPG format, with a minimum of 300 dpi. Download an entry at [www.nextdoorinc.org/photo](http://www.nextdoorinc.org/photo). Each photographer can submit up to 5 photos.



Photo by Ben Mitchell

## BASKETBALL SKILLS

Horizon Christian School's annual Triple Threat concluded last week, with about 70 campers in grades 4-9 attending to improve their basketball fundamentals (triple threat stands for pass, dribble, shoot). On the last day of the camp, kids and parents both attended and participated in a number of events, including shooting drills, as seen in the above photo. Al Egg, long-time chaplain for the Portland Trail Blazers NBA team, also talked with campers at the end of Friday's morning session and has served as the keynote speaker for the camp before. He asked kids who their favorite Trail Blazer player is. The top answer? LaMarcus Aldridge (maybe this will convince him to stay in Portland?).

## Choose a Vacation Bible School to experience

- **Tucker Road Baptist Church** — July 13-17: The theme of this year's VBS is "Journey off the Map," for children ages 4-5, 6-8, and 9-11, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Pre-register at [trbaptistchurch.org](http://trbaptistchurch.org). For more information, call the church phone at 541-386-1049.

- **Parkdale churches** — Aug. 3-7: Parkdale Community Church, Parkdale Nazarene, Parkdale Baptist and Pillar Bible Fellowship of Odell combine efforts for "Outrigger Island." Families are invited to gather at the church at 5:00 p.m. and enjoy a light meal, then children ages pre-K through incoming fifth graders are invited to attend VBS classes starting

at 5:30 p.m.

For more information or if you would like to help, contact Pastor Mark at Parkdale Community Church at 541-352-7747 or at 541-490-4511.

- **Riverside Community Church** — July 13-17: Riverside Earth Camp is an environmentally focused 5-day experience that inspires kids to make a difference with their own unique approach and gifts to the world.

Registration is \$50 for the week and includes healthy snacks. Grades K-5 (ages 5-11) welcome. To register, visit [www.riversideuucc.com](http://www.riversideuucc.com) — see "Nurture Your Children" link — and mail to RCC, PO Box 656, Hood River, OR 97031.



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

VBS PARTICIPANTS play a lively outdoor game at last week's program at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hood River.

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