



Kaleidoscope

Travelogue: Mongolia

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An interview with School Superintendent Sara Hahn-Huston



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

SUPERINTENDENT Sara Hahn-Huston at the Hood River County School District Office on Eugene Street. Below is part 1 of an interview with Hahn-Huston.

'If we know what we value, we're going to live what we value'

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**

News editor

Dr. Sara Hahn-Huston finished her first six months as Superintendent of

Hood River County School District on Jan. 1.

Hahn-Huston sat down last fall for an interview with Hood River News Editor Kirby Neumann-Rea.

Hahn-Huston started work July 1, succeeding Dan Goldman.

Prior to coming to Hood River, Hahn-Huston had worked for Gresham-Barlow since 2015. She has nearly three decades experience as an educator, including 10 years as a teacher and experience as a principal in

See **SCHOOLS**, page A2



Photo by Gabriel Bravo

FIRST BABY BORN IN 2020

Sabrina and Tyson Turner welcomed their third child, Kenji Hiro Turner, into the world Thursday, Jan. 2 at 8:30 a.m. At 6 pounds 4 ounces, Kenji is the first baby to be born this year in Hood River. Alina Turner, 4, Kenji's sister, said she initially wanted a sister but is content with her new brother. Kalani Turner, 12, Kenji's brother, said he had no preference as to what sibling he would get. Sabrina and Tyson said they're tired but excited to have their new baby, and that they are grateful for the amazing and friendly staff at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital. Tyson said they had much support from his brother's family, Kyle Turner, Elizabeth Turner, their kids Jocelyn, 12, Kathryn, 10, Trinity, 7, Elliana, 3 and his parents, Dave and Carrie Turner. Sabrina's parents, Beatrice Seglias and Hans Seglias, live in Switzerland and couldn't see the child in person; however, the Seglias said in an email to the News that they'd like to congratulate Sabrina and Tyson on their newborn and are proud to be grandparents of the child.

Businesses leaders show support for Community ID project, for 'stronger, more inclusive county'

Local businesses are showing support of the Hood River Community ID program by offering discounts to customers showing their ID, according to a press release.

More than 25 businesses have committed to offering discounts and the program is still working to reach a goal of 50 by the end of January.

"Local discounts are one of the many benefits for people who have a Community ID," said a press release.

"The most important reason to

get an ID, however, is to take part in creating a stronger and more inclusive Hood River County where everyone who lives here can be safe, healthy and knows they belong."

"It was great to see the people who came in this night specifically to get a Community ID card."

Amanda Goeke

owner of Volcanic Bottle Shoppe

The program is encouraging more businesses to offer discounts and incentives.

"It's our goal that local cardholders benefit as well as the businesses offering discounts with the Community ID. I have enjoyed using my card out in the community to support local businesses while on a budget," said Lorena Sprager, project manager.

Another benefit for businesses is the opportunity to host a Pop Up Community ID event at a local business each month. The event

is designed to easily sign people up for their ID in a "rapid sign up" model.

"It was great to see the people who came in this night specifically to get a Community ID card, and it was also really cool to witness people who just happened to be hanging out that night, who learned about the program and decided to enroll for a card right then and there. We feel like the event was a great success," said Amanda Goeke, owner of Volcanic Bottle Shoppe on the Heights.

On Jan. 16, Full Sail Brewing will be hosting a Community ID event from 4-7 p.m.

People are encouraged to stop by to learn more and enroll for their ID.

For a complete list of participating businesses and their discounts, visit nextdoorinc.org/community-id.

For more information, contact hrcid@nextdoorinc.org or 541-436-0334.

Red Cross officials report 'critical need' for blood donors

Blood donors can super-size their unit this month.

The American Red Cross currently has a critical need for blood donors of all blood types — especially type O — and platelet donors to make an appointment now to give and help replenish the blood supply after the holiday weeks.

Right now, the Red Cross has less than a three-day supply of type O blood. To help tackle the critical need, the Red Cross and NFL are working together to offer one winner a trip to Super Bowl LIV in Miami.

During the weeks of Christmas and New Year's, about 500 fewer blood drives were hosted by volunteer sponsor groups than required to meet patient needs.

Many groups postpone blood drives during the winter holidays when travel and holiday activities may make it challenging for many donors to give. In fact, AAA estimated that a record 115.6 million Americans traveled during the holiday period of Dec. 21 through Jan. 1.

"Lifesaving medical treatments and emergencies never take a holiday," said Paul Sullivan, senior vice president, Red Cross Biomedical Services. "Declines in donations can affect patient care.

That's why the Red Cross is encouraging eligible donors to make an appointment to give now and help those sidelined by illness and trauma."

Donors are urged to make an appointment to give now using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Those who come to give blood or platelets Jan. 1-19, will automatically be entered for a chance to experience the Super Bowl live. The Red Cross and NFL have teamed up to offer one winner two tickets to Super Bowl LIV, entry to the official NFL Tailgate, tickets to Super Bowl Experience at the Miami Beach Convention Center, round-trip airfare to Miami, three-night hotel accommodations Jan. 31 to Feb. 3, and a \$500 gift card for expenses. Additional details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Who blood donations help

This fall, 13-year-old Josh Roy and his family learned the importance of blood donations firsthand. In October, Josh contracted a severe case of influenza B and necrotizing staph pneumonia. He was transported to the hospital, was

put on an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machine that circulates blood through an artificial lung and eventually needed a tracheostomy tube. Josh has received multiple blood transfusions during his treatment.

"You never know when someone you love might end up needing a blood transfusion," said Jaqueline Bakehorn, Josh's aunt. "We are so thankful for those who have given blood and would love to see more people donate."

Josh is still hospitalized but is making slow, gradual progress. He faces a long road to recovery and may need additional blood transfusions along the way.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

- Cascade Locks — Jan. 9, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Bonneville Lock and Dam
- Hood River — Jan. 28, 1-6 p.m., Oregon National Guard Armory, 12th and Belmont

Assault, attempted murder case delayed

By **EMILY FITZGERALD**
News staff writer



Leif Sorensen

The assault and attempted murder case surrounding a Nov. 1 incident in Parkdale, where a man allegedly stabbed his brother, has been delayed, pending the victim's medical records.

Leif Sorensen, 38, Parkdale, is scheduled to enter a plea in Hood River County Circuit Court on Feb. 24. He appeared in Hood River County Circuit Court alongside his attorney, Bernice Melamund. Melamund told Judge John Olson that she was still missing medical records and requested time to obtain and review those before Sorensen enters a plea.

Sorensen was arrested on charges of Assault in the First Degree and Attempt to Commit a Crime - Murder on Nov. 1 after allegedly stabbing his brother in the chest. The victim, Hans Severinsen, 35, called 911.

Sorensen was located less than a mile away from the scene after

a brief search of a nearby wooded area, and he was taken into custody without incident. Sorensen was initially lodged at NORCOR, but he was released on a Conditional Release Agreement on Nov. 20.

Severinsen, was given immediate care by EMS at the scene and transported to the Odell area, where he was then taken to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center via Life Flight.

On Nov. 10, he posted a status on Facebook that said (sic), "I'm still livin' Didn't give but have huge wounds."

Sorensen received a plea offer from the state prosecutor, Deputy District Attorney Carrie Rasmussen, on Dec. 31; but, Rasmussen said, "If there's a change in circumstances, the plea offer will be immediately revoked."

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"Opening the mail is decidedly more interesting during the holidays..." — Peggy Dills Kelter, B2

BRIEFS

CL play group Wed.

Cascade Locks Play Group meets Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Cascade Locks Elementary. For babies and children ages 0-5. More at 509-637-5717. Newcomers welcome.

Lunch and Learn Thurs.

Lunch and Learn returns to the Hood River Library Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. Topic: White Allyship in Close-knit Communities. Open and welcoming to all. Lunch provided. Free.

CERT training begins

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training begins Jan. 10-11 at Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue, 1400 W. Eighth, The Dalles. Registration and info at 503-806-7132.

