



Where Life is Sweet

HISPANIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council Chambers, 180 NE 2nd Street

October 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM

AGENDA

Bienvenidos a Todos Presentes – Gracias por Participar y Asistir
Welcome to All Present – Thanks for Attending and Providing Your Input

- 1. LLAMAR LA REUNIÓN A ORDEN – CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. JURAMENTO A LA BANDERA - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. NUEVOS ASUNTOS - NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Introducción a Representantes del los Estudiantes - Introduction of Student Representatives
 - B. Evento de Latinos en la Ciencias de la Computación en la Biblioteca Pública de Hermiston - Latinos in Computer Science Event at the Hermiston Public Library - Zeferino Araiza-Flores
- 4. MOCIÓN PARA APROBAR ACTAS DE LA REUNION - MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES**
 - A. Actas de la Junta del 19 de Mayo. El Comité no se junto entre Junio y Septiembre, para planificar el Celebración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana. Minutes of the May 19th Meeting. The Committee did not meet from June - September in order to plan the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.
- 5. REVISAR ARTÍCULOS DE LOS METAS Y OBJETIVOS DEL COMITÉ DE 2026- REVIEW 2026 COMMITTEE GOAL TASKS**
 - A. Registro de Votantes: Trabajo en Curso - Voter Registration - Work in Progress
 - B. Participación Comunitaria: Planificación del Celebración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana (09/15-10/15) - COMPLETADO - Community Engagement: Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration (09/15-10/15) Planning (Project Lead: Entire Committee) - COMPLETED
 - C. Visibilidad del Eventos: Artículos con la Marca de HAC - COMPLETADO - Event Visibility- HAC branded items - COMPLETED

- D. Fomentar y apoyar al Comité del Cinco de Mayo para que incluya un Certamen en su evento (el Cinco de Mayo no es un evento municipal) - COMPLETADO - Encourage and support the Cinco de Mayo Committee to include a Pageant in their event (Cinco de Mayo is not a City Event) - COMPLETED

6. ÚLTIMOS COMENTARIOS - CLOSING COMMENTS

A. Del Publico | From Public

Cualquier persona que desee hablar porfavor haga lo siguiente:

1. Declarar su nombre completo y
2. Limitar discusion a no mas de TRES minutos

Anyone wishing to speak is asked to please do the following:

1. State your full name and
2. Limit discussion to not more than THREE minutes

B. Del Comite | From Committee

C. Representantes de los Estudiantes | Student Representatives

D. De Representantes de la Ciudad | From City Representatives

7. PRÓXIMA REUNIÓN - NEXT MEETING

- A. Martes, 17 de Noviembre a las 6pm - Tuesday, November 17th at 6pm

8. REUNIÓN TERMINADO - MEETING ADJOURNED

**** AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE****

Please contact Hermiston City Hall, 180 NE 2nd Street, Hermiston, OR 97838 (Phone No. 541-567-5521) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time if you need an accommodation. TTY and TDD users please call Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900 or 711.



Hispanic Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2026

Chair Jessica De La Cruz opened the Meeting at 6:00pm. Committee members Carolina Delgado, Jacobo Gutierrez, Janizee Serrano and Jesse Roa were present. Also present were Council representatives Maria Duron and Jeff Kelso, as well as staff representative Deputy City Recorder Heather La Beau. Youth Advisor Kari Bazan was also in attendance. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Introduction of Newest Member, Janizee Serrano

Janizee introduced herself stating she has been in Hermiston for 17 years, starting a family and being involved in the community, especially helping the Hispanic community and is excited to be involved.

Presentation on Mental Health from Good Shepherd Health Care System

Jennifer Jentzsch is a community health worker at Good Shepherd. Her attached presentation provided myths and truths on suicide, methods, statistics and resources for help. Jennifer's duties include leading the peer wellness connexions group at the hospital on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at 6pm. She also does peer one on one counseling and facilitates mental health groups in schools in Hermiston, Irrigon, and Umatilla. Jesse requested Jennifer return with information regarding drug use/mental health and suicide in Oregon. Statistics in rural areas are more difficult to refine, but can be obtained at the county level. Jennifer will email the information to Jessica to disperse to the committee. In response to a question of the best approach to help someone who does not want the help, Jennifer suggested the peer wellness portion is so important as people will open up to those they are comfortable with knowing they've shared similar experiences.

Oregon Rural Action

Zaira Sanches and Brenda Flores shared an update and materials (attached) on some of the recent programs offered by Oregon Rural Action, including We Are United. This is a campaign to help immigrants feel welcomed and visually see the support of the community by the placards placed in business windows. It was started because of lower than expected attendance at Emergency Preparedness, rapid response, and family training events. Zaira shared a testimony of someone almost being brought to tears when seeing the sign in a local business. The organization continues to help support and connect with immigrants to provide resources as they work on strengthening partnerships in the community. Zaira encouraged committee members to share information of their resources to those who may be interested in the support services.

Councilor Duron shared how refreshing it is to see Zaira, Brenda, Kari, Jessica, and others step into their advocacy roles for the Hispanic community following in their family's footsteps and thanked them for their tremendous work.

Immigrants' Impact on Oregon Agriculture Presentation from Kari Bazan

Youth Advisor Kari Bazan presented the attached speech for a public speaking requirement of the FFA program. The speech highlighted several statistics in support of the importance of immigrants on the state's food supply.

Meeting Minutes

Jesse moved and Jacobo seconded to approve the March 17th meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously with Members Carolina, Jessica, Jacobo, and Jesse voting in favor. Jessica mentioned that Janizee could not vote as they were not in attendance at the March meeting.



Hispanic Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2026

2026 Committee Goal Tasks

There was a brief discussion regarding the upcoming Hispanic Heritage event tentatively scheduled for October 3. Some members preferred a brainstorming meeting prior to the finalization of the date to begin planning, while others preferred scheduling a meeting after the date is finalized.

Closing Comments

City Representatives

Maria & Jeff spoke regarding:

- Community Involvement in Airport Road rename hearing
- Public Safety Center renovations completed and staff back in building
- Encouraged people to share thoughts on the indoor pool discussion
- Budget Committee approved the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27
- Upcoming Geer/Harper Road closure
- Ride-alongs with Hermiston Police Department and dispatch
- Successful Cinco de Mayo event

Committee Comments

Jessica shared IMESD will have the Mexican Consulate available by appointment on May 30 and 31.

Jesse invited everyone to the Juneteenth celebration being held on Saturday, June 20, at McKenzie Park from 4pm to 8pm.

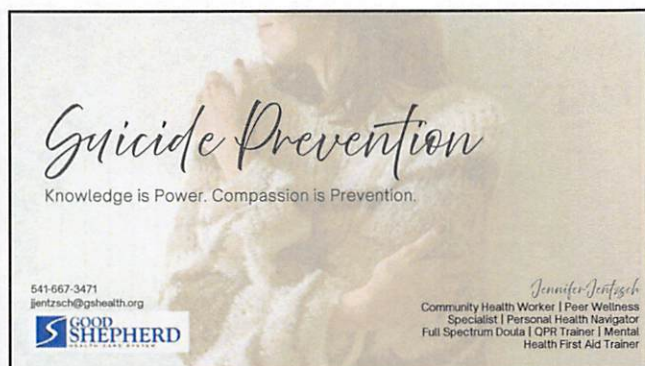
Youth Representatives

Kari Bazan spoke regarding: choir concert tonight, spring sports ending with many athletes advancing to districts, I Love My City event, FFA Donkey Basketball game on May 22 at 7pm, and HHS Graduation on June 4.

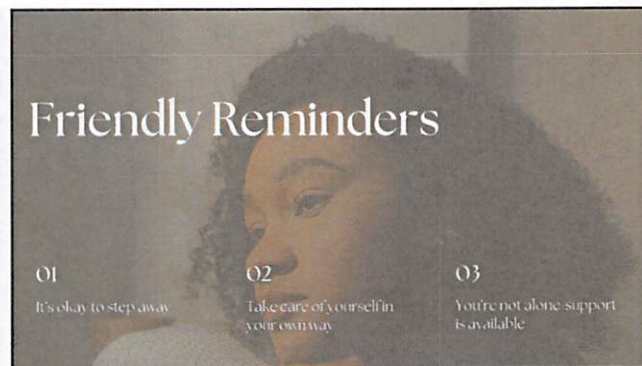
Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 22nd at 6pm at City Hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00pm.



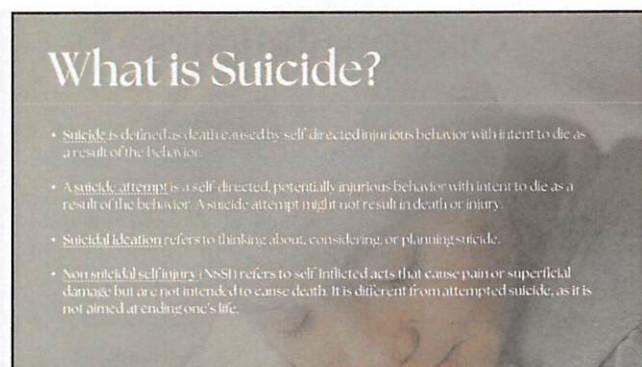
1



2



3



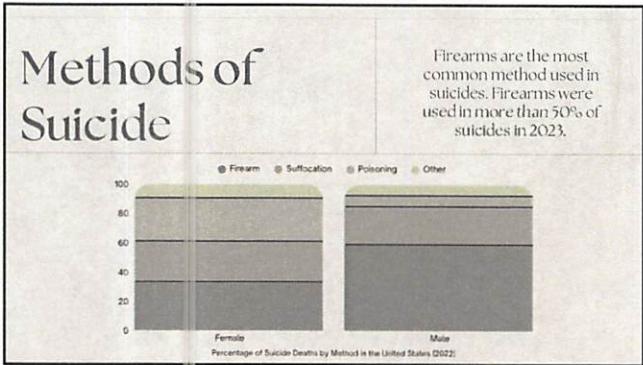
4



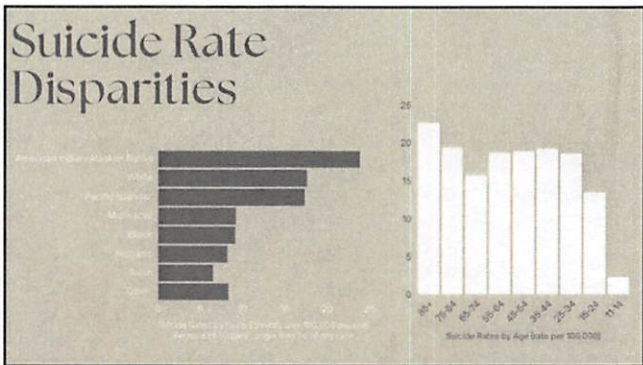
5



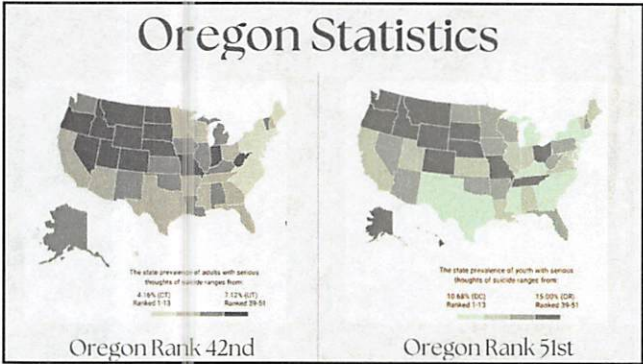
6



7



8



9

What Can I Do?

Practical tips and advice

- Take All Clues and Signs Seriously**
- Listen Nonjudgmentally**
Listening without prejudice or judgment, separating our own feelings from the speaker's words. Actively understanding the other person's perspective and relating the urge to offer advice.
- Connect to Resources**

10

Ask!

If you cannot ask the question, find someone who can.

Less Direct Approach

- "Have you been feeling down or not quite yourself recently?"
- "Have those low feelings been pretty intense or hard to shake?"
- "Have things felt so overwhelming that you've had thoughts of not wanting to go on?"
- "Do you ever find yourself wishing you could just escape it all or not have to wake up?"

Direct Approach

- "Sometimes when people are feeling really overwhelmed, they start to have thoughts about not wanting to be here anymore. I'm wondering if that's something you've been feeling?"
- "I'm concerned about you, and I want to ask—have you been having thoughts about ending your life?"
- "Are you having thoughts of hurting yourself or ending your life?"

11

Words Matter

☒ Committed Suicide
☒ Died by Suicide
☒ Successful/Unsuccessful Suicide
☒ Lost Their Life to Suicide

12



13



14



WE ARE UNITED
ESTAMOS UNIDOS







**Raíces
y Alas**

OREGONrural ACTION

SOWING SEEDS OF **CHANGE**

Si usted o alguien que conoce necesita ayuda para encontrar recursos o información sobre inmigración, escanee el código QR de arriba para solicitar la asistencia de un miembro de nuestro equipo.

If you or somebody you know needs assistance with navigating immigration resources or information, scan the QR code above to request support from one of our team members.

¿Cómo podemos ayudar?/How can we help?

Conexión con servicios legales o abogados <i>Connecting with legal services or attorneys</i>	Acompañamiento para citas de inmigracion <i>Accompaniment for immigration appointments</i>	Transporte al tribunal o ISAP <i>Transportation to court or check ins</i>
Entrenamiento de Conoce tus Derechos <i>Know Your Rights Training</i>	Hacer un Plan de Preparación Familiar <i>Filling out a Family Preparedness Plan</i>	Recibir una carpeta de emergencia <i>Receive an emergency binder</i>

Conozca más sobre nuestro trabajo visitando nuestro sitio web en www.oregonrural.org/immigration-es

Learn more about our work by visiting our website at www.oregonrural.org/immigration



**Raíces
y Alas**



**We are here to support and connect
you with services such as:**

- Connecting services, *Section 4, Item A.*
- Accompaniment to immigration court or ISAP check in
- Transportation to immigration court
- Know Your Rights training
- Filling out a Family Preparedness Plan

10

**Scan the QR code to request a service
or visit oregonrural.org**

**If you see ICE or suspicious activity, please
report it**

Section 4, Item A.

CALL THE PIRC HOTLINE:

1-888-622-1510

What does PIRC do?

- Verify if it is/was ICE, a rumor, or other law enforcement activity
- If it is ICE, activate lawyers and other rapid response
- Shares verified information

Immigrants Impact on Oregon Agriculture

Kari Bazan

Hermiston FFA

Oregon

2026

My name is Kari Bazan. Do you ever wonder where your meals come from every day? This issue is crucial not just for farmers and workers but for all of us who rely on the food we consume every day. Our food system is a complex web of labor, culture, and economic stability. Understanding the role of immigrants within this system is vital for appreciating the larger picture of our society.

To start off, let me share some statistics that really highlight the role of immigrants in this sector. Did you know that undocumented immigrants make up approximately 4.3 percent of Oregon's workforce? That's a significant portion! These are individuals who take incredible risks, often leaving behind their homes and families, to come to a new land, contribute to a system that feeds us all, and strive for that elusive "American dream." Each statistic represents people—real individuals who make sacrifices for themselves and their families, often working under tough conditions and with little recognition.

Fortunately for some people, there are some programs that can help with finding jobs in the U.S., and I do know that much of my family takes advantage of this program to make a living. Let's dive a bit deeper into their journeys. A large segment of these workers come to the U.S. through the H-2A worker visa program. This program allows employers to hire foreign workers for temporary agricultural work, addressing labor shortages and ensuring that crops can be planted and harvested on time. For many workers, the opportunity to come to the U.S. allows them to earn wages that can dramatically improve their quality of life and provide for families back in their countries of origin. For instance, a worker might come to the U.S. hoping to save enough money to support children through school or to build a home.

However, the process of obtaining a visa is not as simple as it sounds and keeping the visa is also a lot of work. Obtaining and keeping a work visa involves navigating a complicated

bureaucracy, and workers often face challenges such as high fees, uncertain job placements, excessive documentation that they have to complete at the start of their employment and for each paystub, and the risk of exploitation. The H-2A program also relies heavily on employers adhering to fair labor practices, which, unfortunately, is not always the case. As stated in the article “‘Go Back to Mexico’: Structural Vulnerability and the Realization of Human Rights for H-2A Farmworkers in Washington State” The author states “In late summer 2017, a farmworker named Honesto Ibarra died after health complications that led him to collapse while working at Sarbanand Farms in northwest Washington State (WA).” This shows how workers may find themselves in unsafe working conditions, with limited rights, and feeling vulnerable to abuse. Thus, while the program offers a pathway for many, it also highlights systemic issues that need addressing to ensure fair treatment for all.

So, why is this H-2A program significant? Well, let’s consider what would happen if we removed these workers from our agricultural system. Imagine a scenario where these essential laborers do not show up for work. What is so staggering is the fact that about 73% of Oregon’s agricultural workforce is composed of undocumented immigrants. Without programs like the H-2A visa or without immigrants at all, Oregon would face severe economic disruptions. The agricultural sector is already grappling with a labor shortage. If we were to remove these workers, we would significantly worsen the problems already facing our farmers.

We also need to think about crop production and the implications for our food supply. Immigrants are essential not only for harvesting but also for planting, cultivating, and managing crops effectively. Without them, vast amounts of fruits and vegetables would be left unharvested, leading to significant losses for farmers and, subsequently, impacting consumers. Imagine walking into a supermarket and seeing empty shelves or facing dramatically higher prices

because there aren't enough workers to transport food from the farms to the stores and even harvest . It's not merely a scary thought; it's a ticking clock for many families, particularly those with limited financial resources.

The impact of losing immigrant labor would go beyond empty shelves. Many farms might have to shut down entirely if they cannot find enough employees. This isn't just about the farmers; it would resonate throughout the community, affecting everyone from the workers who rely on these farms for their jobs to consumers who need affordable food options. It's a ripple effect that can destabilize entire communities. Local economies, particularly in rural areas, would suffer tremendously, leading to increased unemployment and reduced access to fresh produce. The interconnectedness of the agricultural sector and immigrant labor showcases the complexity of our food system, demonstrating that the livelihoods of many depend on the contributions of these hardworking individuals.

Furthermore, it's essential to highlight how immigrants contribute beyond just labor. They bring rich cultural diversity that enhances our communities. The various backgrounds of immigrant workers introduce a variety of farming practices, culinary traditions, and approaches to sustainability. They often share their knowledge of unique crops and methods, potentially offering solutions that improve agricultural practices. Celebrating food from diverse cultures can also enhance community engagement and foster a greater appreciation of our local food systems.

In conclusion, immigrants play a pivotal role in Oregon's agriculture and beyond. They are hardworking individuals who contribute significantly to our agricultural output and who help maintain stability in food prices. Their presence enriches our culture and strengthens our community bonds. We must recognize their work, their sacrifices, and the risks they take in

pursuit of better opportunities. Without them, Oregon's agricultural sector would not only face a crisis but would also lose a crucial aspect of its diverse identity.

As we reflect on this topic, I urge everyone to appreciate the challenges and contributions of immigrants in our communities. Let us support policies and initiatives that protect their rights, dignity, and contributions. We must advocate for comprehensive immigration reform that recognizes their importance and ensures fair labor practices. Together, we can foster an inclusive environment that champions the values of hard work, community support, and shared prosperity.

Thank you for listening, and let's continue to champion the rights and recognition of those who play such an essential role in our lives. By valuing the contributions of immigrants, we acknowledge their role in sustaining our agricultural sector and the economy at large, leading us toward a brighter future for all.

Bibliography

- López-Cevallos, D. (2014, May). Are Latino immigrants a burden to safety net services in nontraditional immigrant states? lessons from Oregon. American journal of public health. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3987599/>
- William K Jaeger (2008 June) Potential Economic Impacts in Oregon of Implementing Proposed Department of Homeland Security “No Match” Immigration Rules
- Nelson, B. (2024, May 29). A guide to H-2A audit preparedness part 2 of 2. Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development. <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/2024/05/30/a-guide-to-h-2a-audit-preparedness-part-2-of-2/>
- Bauer, J. (n.d.). December 15, 2021 deportation undermines Oregon’s ... <https://www.ocpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/report20211215-deporation-u-rep-final.pdf>