

PENDLETON



EO file photo

Students in a nursing lab confer while identifying wounds in October 2017 at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

BMCC nursing, dental students pass en masse

East Oregonian

The high fives are flowing at Blue Mountain Community College.

Each and every student in BMCC's Class of 2017 Nursing and Dental Assisting programs passed his or her board examinations on the first try, giving BMCC a 100 percent pass rate in both programs.

All 19 nursing students who graduated in June from the program, passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), a standardized exam that every state board of nursing uses to determine whether or not a nursing program graduate is prepared for nursing practice. Graduates must pass the NCLEX to earn a registered nurse license. All 19 graduates passed on the first attempt. Only three of Oregon's 16 community college nursing programs had a 100 percent pass rate for 2017.

In addition, all nine BMCC dental assisting graduates passed their national board exams. In

Oregon, dental assistants are not licensed, but must be certified in order to take x-rays or to perform certain expanded function. BMCC Dental Assisting graduates have the ability to become certified dental assistants through the Dental Assistant National Board (DANB) by taking three national examinations and one Oregon examination. Employers prefer job candidates with a DANB certification, so those who pass have an edge over other potential candidates.

BMCC's Nursing program is a member of the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education, a shared curriculum with Oregon Health Sciences University. BMCC students are co-enrolled with OHSU and offered the same classes at a much lower tuition rate. BMCC graduates can begin working as a nurse immediately, and if desired, may complete one additional year of study online to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from OHSU.

Forest Service OKs fire protection project

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
EO Media Group

Forest officials plan to log nearly 8,000 acres in the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests of northeast Oregon to help protect local resources from wildfire within the Granite Creek watershed.

The Ten Cent Community Wildfire Protection Plan includes the tiny towns of Granite and Greenhorn, as well as the popular Olive Lake Campground, historic Fremont Powerhouse and adjacent recreational cabins.

Both forests signed a record of decision for the project Jan. 3, authorizing 7,859 acres of commercial timber harvest, 1,227 acres of small tree thinning, 3,557 acres of hand-thinning in riparian areas and roadside hazard tree removal.

Andrew Stinchfield, project manager and acting district ranger for the North Fork John Day Ranger District on the Umatilla National Forest, said fire safety was the primary driver for the treatments.

"There is a lot of fuel out there, a lot of dead and down (wood) on the ground, a lot of ingrowth of trees," Stinchfield said. "What we're trying to do is basically create a series of these strategically placed fuel breaks, ultimately along roads and then in selected stands around private property."

The project also includes 9,382 acres of controlled burning, though Stinchfield



EO file photo

A helicopter drops a load of Thermo-Gel on the leading edge of the 970-acre Vinegar Fire on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013 near the small town of Greenhorn. The Ten Cent Community Wildfire Protection Plan will push thinning projects in the area to help reduce fire danger.

"What we're trying to do is basically create a series of these strategically placed fuel breaks."

— **Andrew Stinchfield**, project manager and acting district ranger for the North Fork John Day Ranger District on the Umatilla National Forest

said they will not burn in the North Fork John Day Wilderness Area after objections were raised by Oregon Wild, Wilderness Watch, Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project and the American Forest Resource Council.

The decision does not include 6,743 acres of non-wilderness burning on the Umatilla National Forest,

which Stinchfield said will be determined separately.

Stinchfield said the project was planned over three years in consultation with the Grant County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which ranked the Granite Zone a high-risk, high-priority area.

The last large fire to burn in the area was the Vinegar fire in 2013, which torched 1,351

acres about six miles southwest of Granite on rugged Vinegar Hill.

"We're excited to get the project started," he said.

Commercial logging is expected to start this summer and will be done through several timber sales, Stinchfield said. The overall project should take between seven and 10 years to complete.

Portland lab putting wheat samples to the test

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
EO Media Group

As laboratory supervisor at the nonprofit Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, Bon Lee's job falls somewhere between data technician and pastry chef.

Not only is Lee responsible for tracking wheat quality across the Northwest, but many of the samples he collects are put to the ultimate culinary test in the center's product innovation kitchen, making everything from noodles to tortillas.

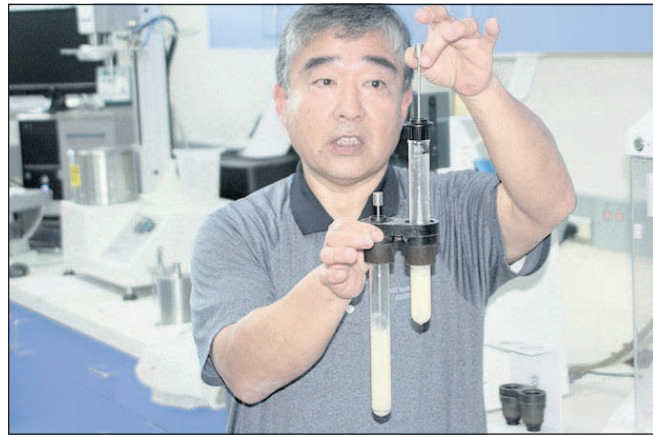
"Product evaluation is probably the most important part of what we do," Lee said.

One recent project had Lee and his staff bake nearly 60 Japanese sponge cakes using soft white and soft red wheat samples sent in from Pullman, Wash., and Wooster, Ohio, which they compared to a control flour from a Japanese mill.

"Our findings help determine if a variety is good to release commercially," Lee explained.

Up to 90 percent of soft white wheat from the Pacific Northwest is exported, which is where Lee and the Wheat Marketing Center come in with the latest data to keep overseas customers informed.

Housed in the old Albers Mill overlooking the Willamette River, the Wheat Marketing Center opened



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Wheat Marketing Center laboratory supervisor Bon Lee demonstrates the falling number test for starch damage. "The trade is interested in all these numbers to see which area produces the quality they want," he said.

in 1989 with \$6 million in federal money secured by former Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield. The center gets most of its funding today from wheat commissions in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Colorado and Nebraska.

Lee, who was born in Japan to Korean parents, joined the center in 1998 after starting his career in the processing side of agriculture, including stints at Hoody's snacks in Beaverton and the Pendleton Flour Mills in Pendleton.

At the center, Lee is known for two things — wearing two different colored shoes (which he says he does for fun), and putting together weekly quality reports during wheat harvest, measuring protein levels, test weight, kernel moisture and gluten content.

"The trade is interested in all these numbers to see which area produces the quality they want," Lee said.

To get those numbers, Lee runs hundreds of flour samples through a battery of tests using high-tech equipment such as

the Glutomatic, which looks like an espresso machine but actually uses a 2-percent saltwater solution to separate gluten from starch. Then there is the Extensograph, which stretches dough to test its strength and elasticity.

Each machine cost between \$50,000 and \$70,000. Most are sponsored by the partner wheat commissions.

Blake Rowe, CEO of the Oregon Wheat Commission, said the data they get in return is worth the investment.

"It's probably the best data, what (Lee) reports every week," Rowe said. "He puts those out so we can keep a running track of what harvest looks like, and what quality looks like."

Steve Mercer, spokesman for U.S. Wheat Associates in Arlington, Va., said the data Lee generates is "absolutely essential" for marketing wheat overseas.

"Bon does a wonderful job on this analysis," Mercer said. "You can just tell he enjoys his work."

Lee said it is a great feeling to help wheat farmers, traders and breeders.

"People are very nice in the grain industry," he said.

PENDLETON

Round-Up celebrates rodeo award

East Oregonian

A celebration is planned in recognition of the Pendleton Round-Up being named the 2017 Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year, and a special donation will be made to Farmers Ending Hunger.

Former and current Round-Up directors, staff, volunteers and other community members will celebrate the latest award, which was announced Dec. 6 by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association in Las Vegas. The celebration is Saturday from 5-8 p.m. in the Let 'er Buck Room on the Round-Up Grounds, 1205 S.W. Court Ave. Food, drinks and cake will be available. The public is invited to attend.

The prestigious award is voted on by members of the PRCA, which is made up of cowboy contestants and fellow rodeo committees. It's

the third year in a row and fifth time overall the Round-Up Association has been recognized with the award.

The award comes with a \$1,250 prize, which the Round-Up will pass along to Farmers Ending Hunger. The charity also raised \$15,000 during this year's rodeo and Happy Canyon Night Show.

Through the efforts of Farmers Ending Hunger and its partners, more than five million pounds of food — nearly 80 percent of which was raised in Umatilla and Morrow Counties — have been donated to feed hungry Oregonians this year.

"We are pleased to make this contribution on behalf of the Pendleton community to such a worthy local charity," said Round-Up President Dave O'Neill.

For more information on the event, call 541-276-2553 or search Facebook.

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EASTERN OREGON FORUM *Presents*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16TH, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.

BLUE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BMCC), 2411 NW CARDEN, PENDLETON, OR.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BUILDING, ROOM ST-200

LEGAL MARIJUANA IN PENDLETON: ONE YEAR LATER

FEATURING: BRANDON KRENZLER, STEVE HARDIN AND DAVID CONANT-NORVILLE

Brandon Krenzler,
Partner/Owner, Kind Leaf
Pendleton recreational
cannabis dispensary

Steve Hardin,
Manager of Emergency
Services, CHI/St. Anthony
Hospital

David Conant-Norville, M.D.
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry,
Mind Matters Clinics,
Pendleton & Hillsboro

THE COST FOR THIS SERIES OF 4 FORUMS IS \$15 PER PERSON. \$25 PER COUPLE OR \$5 PER FORUM AT THE DOOR – STUDENTS ARE FREE

For more information about the EO Forum, please contact: Karen Parker at 541-966-3177.

The EO Forum is a collaborative effort among leaders from Blue Mountain Community College, InterMountain Education Service District, the East Oregonian, American Association of University Women, and Harriet Isom, a former United States ambassador who also serves on the committee. This EO Forum program is offered as part of Blue Mountain Community College's annual Arts and Culture Festival. For more information on the festival go to www.bluecc.edu.