

# Umatilla students express 'GRADitude'

A trio of Umatilla High School seniors are featured in "GRADitude" videos as part of "The Promise of Oregon," a statewide public education support campaign.

Joel Escamilla, Leonel Corona and Daisy Garcilazo expressed appreciation to teachers that made an impact on them. Each of the students are on track to graduate this spring.

Escamilla and Corona said Kelly Allen, who previously taught and coached at Umatilla, reached out to provide guidance when they were underclassmen. For the video, the two students visited Allen in his classroom in the Hermiston School District.

"I was on the verge of just giving up on school," Escamilla said. "He motivated me to come up and get my work done and be better in life."

Also, things started adding up when math teacher Nancy Swarat noticed a change with Garcilazo. After being a top student, she started missing classes



Courtesy of Promise of Oregon  
**Daisy Garcilazo, a Umatilla High School senior, expresses appreciation to math teacher Nancy Swarat as part of a Promise of Oregon "GRADitude" video.**



Courtesy of Promise of Oregon  
**Joel Escamilla and Leonel Corona, seniors at Umatilla High School, participate in a Promise of Oregon "GRADitude" video thanking Kelly Allen. Their former coach and teacher, who now teaches in the Hermiston School District, congratulated them for getting back on track to graduate.**

during her junior year. Garcilazo said Swarat, who had a broken leg at the time, chased her down in the hallway to find out why she was slipping up in school.

Coordinated by the Oregon School Boards Association, the Promise's goal

is to shine a spotlight on public education. To view student profiles and videos, visit [www.promiseoregon.org](http://www.promiseoregon.org).

## THANK YOU

### Agape House appreciates donations

On behalf of the clients of the **Agape House**, I want to extend our great thanks to the **Leadership Hermiston** class and the people of western Umatilla County for the "Stuff the Bus" supply drive on Saturday.

Through their effort, we can continue to help those in need with the many food

items collected. Much of the food items will be used in our elementary school weekend food program.

If you would like to see the value of Leadership Hermiston's effort, I invite you to visit the Agape House and see the happy faces of those being served.

**Dave Hughes**  
Hermiston

## ANNIVERSARY

### Ernie and MaryJean McCabe

Faith, love, family and friends have been the anchors in the 70-year marriage of Ernie McCabe and Mary Jean Bristow McCabe. They were married on April 18, 1948, at the Lone Community Church in Ione, Oregon. Two of Mary Jean's brothers, Jerry and Donald (two of the four infamous Bristow boys), were on their way to the wedding when an Ione resident asked if they were on their way to Ernie's wedding. They responded, "No, Ernie's funeral." Over the past 70 years Ernie and Mary Jean and the Bristow boys, along with their spouses, have gathered too many times to count and enjoyed fun and laughter together.

The newlyweds traveled to the Columbia Gorge Hotel on their wedding day and upon registering at the hotel, the clerk, noticing they were so dressed up, asked if this was a special occasion. The new groom replied, "No, we just got married." The clerk gave them the honeymoon suite and family and friends have enjoyed the retelling of this story many times.

The couple raised four children: Pam Doherty, John McCabe, Lisa Gifford, and Laurie Wilson. They have been fortunate to love all their sons- and daughter-in-law Jim Doherty, Sonja McCabe, Joe Gifford, and Dan Wilson. They have adored 12 grandchildren: Jennifer Doherty, Sara Doherty Davis, Marissa McCabe Turner, Michael, Matthew and Mark McCabe, Maisie Gifford Vanderhoof, Lionel Gifford, Emily Harsin Gifford Heryla, Jane Wilson, Andrea Hansen, and Eric Wilson.

John's children provided them with years of enjoyment watching and supporting Heppner Mustang sports. Whenever possible they traveled to watch Pam's daughters who



**Mary Jean and Ernie now**



**Ernie and Mary Jean McCabe in 1948.**

both pitched softball from age 10 through college. They traveled to Hermiston to watch Lisa's children in soccer, and to Newberg to see Laurie's children at swim meets, water polo tournaments, and lacrosse and basketball games. They have loved each grandchild for her or his own special qualities. Now they are being amazed by and loving their 12 great-grandchildren: Grayson and Merris Davis, Logan and Dylan Rose Turner, Morgan McCabe, Branton, Stetson, and Canaan McCabe, Aidan and Dylan Vanderhoof, and George and Oliver Heryla.

Other than a brief two and a half years living at Bay City, Oregon, they have lived their married life in Ione and Heppner surrounded by the family, friends, and communities they love. Mary Jean has been heard saying how many long, hard years she and Ernie have been married, but she is still saying it with a twinkle in her eye and Ernie still grins when she says it.

## BIRTHS

**St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton**

**APRIL 9, 2018**  
**MCCABE** — Shelley K. McCabe and Adam A. McCabe of Ione: a boy, Alonzo Jack McCabe.

**Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston**

**APRIL 4, 2018**  
**RODRIGUEZ** — Savannah A. Diaz and

Jesus J. Rodriguez of Hermiston: a boy, Matthew Uriah Rodriguez.

**APRIL 6, 2018**  
**HESS** — Challis L. Bock and Lawrence E.V. Hess of Heppner: a girl, Victoria Lillie Hess.

**APRIL 7, 2018**  
**MAYBEE** — Whitney Maybee and Bart Maybee of Hermiston: a boy, Felix T. Augustus Maybee.



Photo contributed by Kristi Smalley  
**The Highland Hills Elementary School Oregon Battle of the Books team of Alea Garrett, Avena Garrett, Hailey Magallanes and Reagan Stanek are pictured with fourth grade teachers Deanna Plum and Angie Cooke and (Hermiston School District elementary librarian Kristi Smalley. The girls were celebrating during an April 6 send-off to compete at Chemeketa Community College in Salem.**

## Highland Hills team turns page in book battle

The **Highland Hills Elementary School** team representing Region 6 of the **Oregon Battle of the Books** had its eye on the prize.

Out of the hundreds of elementary schools who participated in the Battle of the Books program this school year, only the top 25 teams are allowed to compete, said **Kristi Smalley**, Hermiston elementary librarian

Team members **Reagan Stanek, Avena Garrett, Hailey Magallanes** and **Alea Garrett** were focused on making it to bracketed play during the April 7 event at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. None of the previous teams from the district's elementary schools who had qualified

for the state competition had made it that far, Smalley said.

After two rounds of pool play, the top 16 teams who would move to bracketed play were announced in the auditorium. Starting with the first place team of Alameda, the Highland Hills team anxiously awaited to find out if their point total would allow them to continue the battle. The shouts of joy when "Highland Hills" was announced as the 16th team to qualify very well may have been heard on the east side of the state, Smalley said.

After an extremely close match ending 30 to 35 points, the top-seeded team from Alameda defeated the Highland Hills team by one question.

There was still much to celebrate, Smalley said, since this was the first team from Highland Hills to make it to the state competition.

A send-off celebration on Friday emphasized showing "Husky Pride." The Highland Hills team members, Smalley said, worked very hard and answered some extremely difficult questions.

"I was especially proud of the girls when they went up to the Alameda team members and congratulated them on the win," Smalley said. "I also want to thank their parents and extended family members for making the trip to Salem to support these amazing readers."

## Red Cross blood drive successful, but short-staffed

The monthly **American Red Cross** blood drive in Hermiston was held March 19 at **Good Shepherd Medical Center**.

The goal for the month of March was 34 units. From 49 appointments there were 41 donors, and 35 units were drawn.

It is estimated that 38 percent of the population

is eligible to give blood, but only 8 percent of those eligible actually donate, said **Patti Perkins**, a Red Cross volunteer. There is a need for a constant and steady supply of donors. Each blood donation can save the lives of up to three people.

The canteen was furnished by the **Hermiston Grange**. Service groups

furnishing the canteen are greatly appreciated, Perkins said. Due to a shortage of Red Cross workers there was some extra wait time at the drive.

"The patience and dedication of our donors is greatly appreciated," Perkins said.

The Monday, April 16 blood drive is from noon to 6 p.m. at Good Shepherd (610

N.W. 11th St., Hermiston).

While walk-ins are welcome, Perkins said it is helpful for volunteer staffing if people schedule a donation time.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-448-3543. For more about eligibility requirements, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

## Lions Club funds emergency scholarships

An April 5 donation from the **Pendleton Lions Club** will provide assistance to students in need at **Blue Mountain Community College**.

Club president **John Taylor** presented BMCC president **Cam Preus** with a check for \$2,000, which has been earmarked for Emer-

gency Scholarships. **Casey White-Zollman**, BMCC's vice president of public relations, said the Lions Club has always been a strong supporter of BMCC, contributing annual scholarships.

More than a decade ago, the club decided to provide several scholarships in the amount of

\$100 for student emergencies. The money could be used to purchase a textbook, pay for lab fees or background check fees for students enrolled in medical-related programs.

The Lions Club raises money by selling seat cushions during the Pendleton Round-Up, participating

in Oktoberfest and, of course, selling their famous hamburgers, a press release said. For more information about the Lions Club, contact Taylor at 541-240-0579 or [jxtbone99@gmail.com](mailto:jxtbone99@gmail.com).

## Lewis keeps beat during jazz festival

A **Central Middle School** drummer received an Outstanding Musician Award during the 47th Annual **Clackamas Community College Jazz Festival** in Oregon City. The event, held March 16-17, included middle school and high school bands from across the state.

**Andrew Lewis** was recognized for his performance with the

**Central Middle School Jazz Band**. Under the direction of **Mike Agidius**, the band performed four jazz classics, including "In The Mood," "Sway," "Caravan" and "The Chicken."

For more information about the Milton-Freewater School District band programs, contact Agidius at [mike.agidius@miltfree.k12.or.us](mailto:mike.agidius@miltfree.k12.or.us), 541-938-5591 or 541-938-5504.



**Andrew Lewis**

## Speer graduates from police academy

Deputy sheriff **Julian Speer** of the **Morrow County Sheriff's Office** is one of 38 law enforcement professionals graduating from the **Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST)** in the 376th Basic Police Class.

The 16-week course includes dozens of training

areas including survival skills, firearms, emergency vehicle operations, ethics, cultural diversity, problem solving, community policing, elder abuse, drug recognition, and dozens of other subjects.

The ceremony was held Friday, April 13 at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem. Chief **Geoff Spalding** of the Astoria Police

Department was the guest speaker.

The Oregon DPSST provides training to more than 25,000 students each year. **Eriks Gabliks** serves as director and Sheriff **Jason Myers** of the Marion County Sheriff's Office is the board chairman. For more information, visit [www.oregon.gov/dpsst](http://www.oregon.gov/dpsst).

# Pet of the Week

**Hulk** is a year old Yorkshire terrier mix who loves attention and playing. He would love to be a one person lap-dog, as he tends to bond to a single person to love and protect. Hulk comes neutered, microchipped, up to date on vaccines, and packed with lots of love to give! Come meet him at PAWS!

## Hulk

**196 Pets Adopted in 2018!**

Visit Hulk at the Pioneer Humane Society/Paws  
Tues - Sat • Noon - 4pm  
517 SE 3rd ST, Pendleton  
541-276-0181  
Check out the PAWSABILITY Thrift Store

**Pendleton Book Co.**  
125 S. Main St.,  
Pendleton  
541-276-9292