

Nine Riverside classmates to receive Blue Mountain Community College degrees

When the **Riverside High School** class of 2018 walks across the stage on June 2 to receive their high school diplomas, a group of nine classmates will be looking forward to another milestone.

Less than two weeks after turning the tassel at the Boardman high school, **Ruby Barrera**, **Abby Hernandez**, **Kevin Madrigal**, **Misael Madrigal**, **Fabian Meza**, **Luis Olvera**, **Daniel Rodriguez**, **Brock Rosen** and **Andrew Sorensen** will receive their Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degrees from **Blue Mountain Community College**.

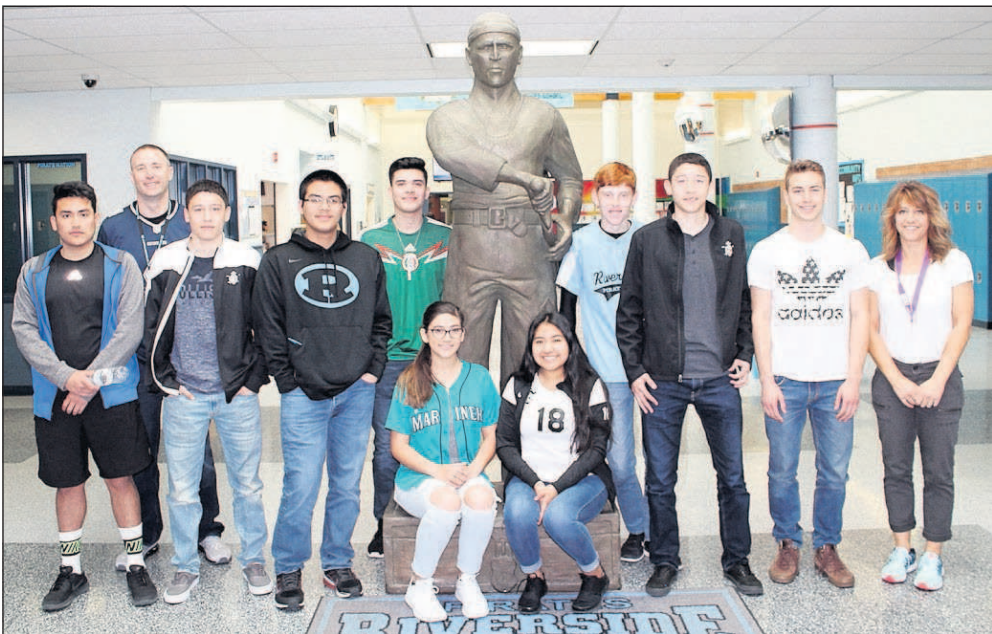
“This is a pretty amazing group of students. They represent the student body president, athletic teams, theater, Key Club — they are involved in all aspects of our school,” said **David Norton**, Riverside principal.

The seven boys and two girls are described as a competitive bunch. They have been pushing each other academically for the past few years. When one of them found out about earning college credit, they all jumped on the idea. When another said he was going to earn his AAOT during high school, the others decided they would, too.

“I had started taking college classes, but starting junior year, all my friends were doing more credits,” Olvera said. “I don’t like when others pass me by.”

At Riverside, there are 15 college courses offered for a possible total of 55 credits. The dual credit classes, **Kevin Madrigal** said, really opened the door.

Through partnerships with **BMCC’s Early College Credit** department, the **BMCC Workforce Train-**



Contributed photo

Less than two weeks after receiving their high school diplomas on June 2, a group of nine Riverside High School classmates, who are pictured with principal David Norton and counselor Elizabeth Rosen, will receive their Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degrees from Blue Mountain Community College.

ing Center in Boardman and support of administrators and teachers, many Riverside students are earning college credits. This year, ninth through 12th graders at Riverside will earn 1,788 college credits, including 341 credits by seniors. Over the last four school years, the senior class of 2018 has earned 1,351 credits, translating into 15 of them who have earned more than one year’s worth of college credit.

Norton and counselor **Elizabeth Rosen** have worked closely with the group of students. They are proud of what they have accomplished and are committed to making it happen for many more Riverside students.

The cooperation between the school and **BMCC**, **Rosen** said, has evolved and improved, making the process more streamlined. She

also said there has been great support from the **Morrow County Education Foundation**, which pays for the majority of college credits for Riverside students, totaling more than \$100,000 for these seniors alone.

“Now that I am more educated about the program, we are doing more individualized counseling targeted to students’ future plans, and this is a great benefit for all students,” **Rosen** said.

With their high school diploma in one hand and their AAOT in the other, the students are already looking forward to future plans.

Barrera wants to study business management — likely at the University of Portland. Also making plans to attend the Portland school are **Misael Madrigal**, who will focus on civil engineering, and **Rodriguez** to study operations

and technical management.

Hernandez is heading to the University of Oregon to pursue a degree in business administration and sports marketing, with the goal of landing a job at Nike. **Kevin Madrigal** plans to study crop and soil science or electrical engineering at Oregon State University. **Meza** is looking to obtain a software engineering technology degree at Oregon Institute of Technology, and **Olvera** will study computer science at Western Oregon University.

Rosen has his sights on studying cyber security at Columbia Basin College and **Sorensen** plans to complete a church mission and then earn a bachelor’s degree in computer science at OSU or Brigham Young University.

For more information, contact **Norton** at 541-481-2525 or david.norton@morrow.k12.or.us

Students participate in Echo’s mayor contest

Echo recently announced winners of its “**If I were Mayor Contest.**”

The top students entries included illustrations by **Logan Kellan Smith**, posters by **Emma Pol-**

lick and **Jacee James**, and an essay by **Lillian Wallis**.

Winners received cash prizes, which was donated for the contest and promotional items from the city of Echo.

THANK YOU

Caring businesses deserve thanks for treatment of homeless

I am proud to say that **Starbucks** in Hermiston deserves a big applause for how they treat our homeless. I met some people for a short meeting at Starbucks, and got there early. There was one of our homeless gentlemen with his little doggie sitting in one of the chairs. He was pretty much at home sitting there holding his little companion. I noticed the staff had placed a small container of water by his chair for his little buddy.

I sat there and smiled and felt such a warm feeling in my soul that no matter how bad things look on the outside there really are good people who run good caring businesses, who aren’t out there just for that mighty dollar. I have given plenty of food and whatever I can to help out my people on the streets, because I’ve been there myself. But I

don’t usually see a business do that.

And Starbucks isn’t the only one I’ve experienced that help their people in need. I was at **The Dollar Store** and one of our down-and-outs was sitting outside. I asked him if he would like something to eat. He said yes please. He waited while I went in and bought a couple of sandwiches for him. I had to remember to get him something he could chew with very few teeth. The manager allowed me to heat up the sandwiches and with a bottle of water I took it outside and gave it to our homeless gentleman, along with an easy-to-open can of dog food for his companion.

I want to thank both of those managers for caring and treating everyone with respect and dignity. Thank you!

Bernie Sanderson
Hermiston

Student appreciates help with school project

Dear people of the great state of **Oregon**,

A couple of weeks ago, I had a letter to the editor published in this newspaper. It said that I was doing a state report on Oregon and asked you to send me some information.

Your response was overwhelming! I have tried my best to send a personal thank you to everyone, but if you sent something and have not a received a personal letter, please know how much I appreciate

the time, thought, effort and money that you took to help me with my project. I learned so much, and I will never forget this experience.

On May 18, we are going to have a big “State Fair” where we get to display the information and items we received. The people of the great state of Oregon will be well represented. Thank you again.

Ivy Young
Charlotte Latin School
Charlotte, North Carolina



Photo contributed by Maria Duron

The Hermiston Education Foundation disbursed grants to help enhance student educational opportunities. Recipients are pictured with Hermiston School Board members, education foundation members and administrators. Front: Mark Gomolski (school board), Josh Goller (school board vice-chair and HEF chair), Beth Anderson, Kathryn Shoop, Rebecca Brainerd, George Clough (HEF member), Bonnie Luisi (school board), Jordan Bemrose-Rust. Back: Rocky Heights Elementary School principal Jerad Farley (HEF board), Karen Sherman (school board chair and HEF member), interim superintendent Tricia Mooney, Chelsea Geer and Sean McClanahan.

Education foundation chalks up grant awards

The **Hermiston Education Foundation** awarded nearly \$40,000 in grants this year, during two grant cycles.

District employees can apply for funding that is used to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students in the **Hermiston School District**. The following staff members applied and received grant funds:

Fall Grants:
HERMISTON HIGH SCHOOL: Beth Anderson for “Seussical the Musical” materials and set; **Kasia Hoover** for students to attend a performing arts cultural experience.

ARMAND LARIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL: Ben DeCarlow for computers to be used for robotics.
SANDSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL: Chelsea Geer for materials to support the school’s spring musical “Adventures of a Comic Book Artist.”

Spring Grants:
HERMISTON HIGH SCHOOL: Beth Anderson for theater students to attend a professional theatrical production; **Nicole Cim-**

miyotti to purchase mirrors for self-portrait drawing and painting; **Sean McClanahan** to purchase percussion and bass instruments for the high school instrumental music program; **Jordan Bemrose-Rust** to go toward a purchase of choir robes and stoles for the school’s vocal music program.

ROCKY HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Rebecca Brainerd to purchase alternative seating for increased student engagement within a specialized classroom.

HERMISTON DISTRICT OFFICE: Kathryn Shoop to create a lending library system to provide speech and language students with games students can take home.

The Hermiston Education Foundation is a non-profit public benefit corporation. Its purpose is to assist in enriching student experiences in the Hermiston School District. For more information, contact hermistoneducationfoundation@gmail.com or visit www.hermistoneducationfoundation.org.

Umatilla administrator receives Doug Flatt award

Bob Lorence, principal of **Umatilla High School**, was honored as the **2018 Doug Flatt Memorial Leadership Award** winner by the **Inter-Mountain Education Service District and Mid-Columbia Bus Company**.

Lorence received the award May 14 during the 19th annual **Crystal Apple “Excellence in Education” Awards** at the Pendleton Red Lion Hotel. The leadership award is named for the late **Doug Flatt**, who was the chief executive officer of Mid-Columbia Bus Company. Flatt died in an October 2003 plane crash while on business.

In guiding the growth and operation of MidCo, Flatt exemplified the finest qualities of leadership, attention to detail, service to his community, interpersonal relationships and customer service. The purpose of the award is to recognize a school administrator from a Mid-Co school district who exemplifies the same qualities for which Flatt was legendary. The award is sponsored by InterMountain ESD and Mid-Columbia Bus Company.

Each year, one administrator is chosen from Umatilla, Morrow or Union counties to receive the award. Mid-Columbia representative **Cindy Nicholson**, regional director of operations, presented the award along with **Mark Mulvihill**, IMESD superintendent.

Mulvihill said Lorence is noted for his calm, steady demeanor and a reserved leadership style. When Lorence assumed leadership of Umatilla High School in 2016, the school was known as student-centered, but also had poor academic performance, in particular a graduation rate consistently below the state average.

By using data effectively to monitor students, meeting with them individually and embracing wraparound and outside resources to provide

a “whole child” support system, Lorence improved the graduation rate to 82 percent, five points above the state average, said a press release from IMESD. This is the first time the district has exceeded the state average in every single student group.

“Bob Lorence deserves to be recognized for his dedication and hard work in Umatilla. He is passionate about student success and courageous and relentless in his decision making,” Mulvihill said.

Lorence has worked in the Umatilla district for 27 years, first as an elementary teacher, then as an elementary vice principal and principal before his current job as high school principal.

For more information, contact Michele Madril, IMESD director of communication & print solutions, at michele.madril@imesd.k12.or.us or 541-966-3115.



Bob Lorence

BIRTHS

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton
MAY 14, 2018

MCLEOD — Kaylee D. Mackey of Pendleton: a girl, Zaira Naomi McLeod.
MAY 17, 2018

PARKS — Taylor A. Parks and Ethan L. Parks of Hermiston: a boy, Pierce Lee Parks.
MAY 20, 2018

RIZZO — Celeste Rizzo and Marc Rizzo of Pendleton: a boy, Simeon Baldwin Rizzo.

MAY 21, 2018
ELLIS — Yesenia Ellis and Ethan Ellis of Boardman: a boy, Declan Ellis.

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston
MAY 15, 2018

HERNANDEZ — Yaitza A. Chavez and Luis O. Hernandez of Hermiston: a girl, Analunah Yulaha Hernandez.

MAY 17, 2018
COOK — Justine Cook and Clayton A. Cook of Hermiston: a girl, Acadia Cook.



The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.

www.eomediagroup.com



Pet of the Week

Chewy is a sweet 3 year old Dachshund mix. Chewy loves to cuddle and play with other dogs. He would be a great companion dog. He comes neutered, up to date on vaccines, micro-chipped, and full of personality.

271 Pets Adopted in 2018!

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



Chewy

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