



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

L to R: BMCC graduates process to their seats, BMCC President Camille Preus speaks and class speaker June Kilgore talks about her improbable road to graduation.

GRADUATION: College mourns two faculty, alums who died

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Kilgore entered treatment, got clean and enrolled at BMCC in 2014. She said it took a while to start believing in herself.

“I felt like my life had already been so tainted that I could never be the woman that I have always wanted to be,” Kilgore said. “BMCC has given us all a place to learn and more importantly grow into the people we have and are becoming. Today I am graduating with a degree I never in a million years thought was possible to obtain. I am also graduating with a sense of who I really am.”

Kilgore, of Sheridan, earned her Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree with an emphasis on psychology and communications.

Student speaker Jaycee Baron brought some levity with her words.

“Perhaps the biggest myth surrounding college is that your professors are like the most unreasonable teacher you ever had in high school, but on steroids,” she said. “I can’t count how many people warned me about them. In reality, it couldn’t be further from the truth.”

Instead, Baron said, she encountered caring instructors.

“During my first year

here at BMCC I was going through a particularly rough patch and was honestly wondering whether or not I belonged in college,” she said. “One of my professors at the time, Linc DeBunce, pulled me to the side after class one day just to check in and make sure I was doing okay. What was probably such a small thing for him made all the difference in the world to me.”

The Hermiston native served as president of Associated Student Government this year. She will transfer to Oregon State University in the fall to pursue a degree in microbiology.

BMCC President Camille

Preus, who has spent recent years shepherding bond projects to completion, talked about people instead of buildings.

“While these new buildings are beautiful and the structures provide a wonderful foundation for learning, it’s the people who walk through the doors — our students, faculty and staff — that really make them shine.”

Preus said the past academic year was bittersweet. Students racked up accomplishments and awards, but the college also lost two employees — diesel mechanic instructor Scott Waggoner and academic

secretary Heather Gastin.

“Scott was and will always be more than just an instructor. He was a mentor, a friend, a father figure, and an inspiration to us all,” Preus said. “Heather is sorely missed as well; she was often called the ‘glue’ — the glue that held several academic departments together, managing an astonishing number of projects and requests.”

Two prominent faculty alums died this year as well. Rep. Bob Jenson, who served nine terms in the Oregon House of Representatives, died at age 86. Jenson taught sociology and history at BMCC for 26 years

and continued to champion the college all his life. Gene Ann McLean, former Dean of Women, died in February at age 80. As advisor to the rodeo team, she is said to have mothered more rodeo champions than anyone in the world.

All are woven into the college’s identity, she said, like pieces of an ever-changing quilt.

“Our faculty, staff and students all serve as pieces and threads of that quilt. As we say goodbye to students each year and to faculty and staff who retire — like eight of them will do this month — the quilt changes, but it’s still special.”

LUNCHES: Averaged 50 per day last summer

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summer.

“We have a high number of children who qualify for free and reduced lunch,” she said. “Parents have to figure out how to make their limited income stretch over meals the kids would normally get at school. These programs help supplement their budget, help them cover other bills, make food stamps last through the month.”

Eddy said participation has varied, but they averaged about 50 meals per day last year. They are able to serve 100 per day. Meals that aren’t served are kept for a day, and then donated to Desert Rose Ministries.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Head Start volunteer cook Fayrine McGregor hands out cartons of milk to participants in the Umatilla-Morrow Head Start summer meals program Wednesday in Hermiston.

dents at several different sites. Parents can also purchase a meal for \$2.

Rikkilynn Larsen, the child nutrition director, said she hopes to expand the program to include dinner later in the summer, as they did last year.

Larsen said based on last year’s numbers, they’re planning to serve about 500 per day. She said each meal will feature a hot and cold option, as well as local fruits and vegetables when possible.

They will also have daily activities including basketball and hula hoops, as well as art projects, small gardening projects and scavenger hunts.

Larsen said she posts the menus daily on the district website, as well as on Facebook.

Where to eat

Almost every school district or city has some sort of free lunch program for students. Below is a list of the

summer meal options for kids and families around Umatilla County:

*Families can look up meal locations statewide by calling 2-1-1, texting “Food” or “Comida” to 877-877, or visiting summerfoodoregon.org/map.

Athens: June 11-Aug. 24 (excluding July 4), 12 to 12:30 p.m. Athens City Park. For kids ages 1-18.

Echo: July 9 to August 2, Monday - Thursday from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Echo School, 600 E. Gerone St.

Hermiston: June 11 to June 22 at Armand Larive, 1497 S.W. Ninth St., and Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St.

June 12 to 29 at Sunset Elementary School, 300 E. Catherine Ave. Breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

June 11 - Aug. 10 at Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, 110 N.E. Fourth Street, . 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pendleton: June 11 to August 17 at Pendleton Early Learning Center, 455 SW 13th St., breakfast 9 to 9:30 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

June 11 to July 5 at Washington Elementary School, 1205 S.E. Byers Ave., breakfast 8:30 to 9 a.m., lunch 12 to 12:30 p.m.

Stanfield: June 11 to July 19, 12 to 12:15 p.m., Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave.

Umatilla: June 18 to August 17 (excluding July 4)

Breakfast 8 to 9 a.m. at Umatilla High School, 1400 Seventh Street. Lunch at Umatilla High School and at Marina Park, 1710 Quincy Ave., from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Kiwanis Park, 129 Walla Walla St., from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Weston: June 11-Aug. 24 (excluding July 4), 12 to 12:30 p.m. Weston City Park. For kids ages 1-18.

DRONES: Oregon law doesn’t allow for ban

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The seven-member city council planned to vote June 6 to pass regulations on drone use. City recorder Pam Rosenbalm said the council discussed changes to the ordinance and delayed the vote to the July 11 meeting.

Terland said he advised the council on its regulations and called people across the nation to find how local governments dealt with drones. The thrust, he said, is enforcing what happens on the ground — the launching and landing.

Arlington aims to let drone operators take off, fly and land on their own property but ban flying drones below 400 feet over private property or over schools, public parks or sporting events without permission of the property owner. Operating drones “in a manner that harasses, annoys or assaults a person” would be against the local law, according to the proposal, which includes following someone more than 100 feet.

The first violation carries a \$100 fine and subsequent violations \$500. Using a drone to harass and annoy someone packs a penalty of \$2,000.

“It’s basically just a tool for use to try to quell some of that stuff,” Terland said.

Police and commercial use of drone would be OK. Insitu Inc., a subsidiary of the Boeing Co., makes unmanned aerial systems and operates in Arlington. And enforcement “will be completely complaint driven,” Terland said. The small department of six officers is not going to patrol for drones but instead respond to and investigate complaints.

The local law, however, faces a steep climb over state law. Oregon Revised Statute 837.385 specifies the state Legislature has the authority to regulate the ownership or operation of unmanned aircraft systems and local governments “may not enact an ordinance or resolution that regulates the ownership or operation of unmanned aircraft systems or otherwise engage in the regulation of the ownership or operation of unmanned aircraft systems.”

Ruben Cleaveland of Hood River is the attorney for Arlington and drafted the ordinance for the city council. Thursday morning he said he was not familiar with the state law and needed to dig into it. That afternoon he said it looked like the state law would void anything Arlington passed.

“At this point I think we were just going to pull it,” Cleaveland said.

Still, drones are following people in Arlington, he said, and Mayor Jeffery Bufton has public safety concerns about the problem. The attorney also said the use of drones is moving faster than the law.

The League of Oregon Cities operates an inquiry service for cities. League spokesman Kevin Toon said the service has not received a lot of calls about drones, but Arlington could be on the front edge of the issue. He also said state and federal law are evolving on drones.

Even if Arlington can find a way to regulate drones, that won’t make it easier to catch the operators. Terland said the camera technology allows controllers to fly drones well beyond line of sight and spot cops coming from far off.

TARIFFS: Wall Street worries trade tensions could hurt economic growth so far

Continued from 1A

If the president presses forward as expected, it could set the stage for a series of trade actions against China and lead to retaliation from Beijing. Trump has already slapped tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and European allies, and his proposed tariffs against China risk starting a trade war involving the world’s two biggest economies.

The decision on the Chinese tariffs comes in the aftermath of Trump’s summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The president

has coordinated closely with China on efforts to get Pyongyang to eliminate its nuclear arsenal. But he signaled that whatever the implications, “I have to do what I have to do” to address the trade imbalance.

Trump, in his press conference in Singapore on Tuesday, said the U.S. has a “tremendous deficit in trade with China and we have to do something about it. We can’t continue to let that happen.” The U.S. trade deficit with China was \$336 billion in 2017.

Administration officials have signaled support for

imposing the tariffs in a dispute over allegations that Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology, according to officials briefed on the plans. China has targeted \$50 billion in U.S. products for potential retaliation.

Wall Street has viewed the escalating trade tensions with wariness, fearful that they could strangle the economic growth achieved during Trump’s watch and undermine the benefits of the tax cuts he signed into law last year.

“If you end up with a tariff battle, you will end up with

price inflation, and you could end up with consumer debt. Those are all historic ingredients for an economic slowdown,” Gary Cohn, Trump’s former top economic adviser, said at an event sponsored by *The Washington Post*.

But Steve Bannon, Trump’s former White House and campaign adviser, said the crackdown on China’s trade practices was “the central part of Trump’s economic nationalist message. His fundamental commitment to the ‘deplorables’ on the campaign trail was that he was going to bring manufacturing jobs back, particularly from Asia.”

In the trade fight, Bannon said, Trump has converted three major tools that “the American elites considered off the table” — namely, the use of tariffs, the technology investigation of China and penalties on Chinese telecom giant ZTE.

“That’s what has gotten us to the situation today where the Chinese are actually at the table,” Bannon said. “It’s really not just tariffs, it’s tariffs on a scale never before considered.”

The Chinese have threatened to counterpunch if the president goes ahead with the plan. Chinese officials have

said they would drop agreements reached last month to buy more U.S. soybeans, natural gas and other products.

“We made clear that if the U.S. rolls out trade sanctions, including the imposition of tariffs, all outcomes reached by the two sides in terms of trade and economy will not come into effect,” foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Thursday.

Beijing has also drawn up a list of \$50 billion in U.S. products that would face retaliatory tariffs, including beef and soybeans — a shot at Trump’s supporters in rural America.