

# Nursing scholarship established in Mary Wallan's memory

Applications must be turned in on June 15

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Umatilla and Morrow county residents who are studying nursing are eligible to apply for a scholarship in the memory of Mary Boley Wallan, a longtime nurse who practiced most of her career in Pendleton.

The family of Dr. Keith Harcourt, who built a successful surgery career in Pendleton from 1969 until his retirement in 1995, recently

established the Mary Wallan Nursing Scholarship. The endowment fund will provide scholarships for current or enrolled students in an associate's degree in nursing or a bachelor's of science in nursing program.

Matt Harcourt, one of the late doctor's sons, along with his siblings, Brian and Joyce, and mother, Pat, discussed the possibility of creating a scholarship fund. Matt said his mother, who had been married to Harcourt for 62 years at the time of his death in June 2019, suggested honoring Wallan, who died Dec. 21, 2020.

"My mother said that from her perspective that as a nurse Mary was very import-

ant to my father. And being a nurse was very important to Mary," Matt Harcourt said. "They would both be pleased to know that a scholarship in Mary's memory would help someone who wants to be a nurse."

Wallan was working as a nurse for Dr. Edward Morgan at the Pendleton Surgery Center when Harcourt joined the practice. Over time, Matt Harcourt said, Wallan became more than just a colleague of his father's.

"She was just very important to his practice," he said. "Mary was the proverbial 'right-hand man.' After she

retired, they stayed in touch and they maintained a friendship."

According to a Dec. 14, 1984, East Oregonian article, Wallan, who practiced as a nurse for 45 years, graduated in 1942 from St. Anthony Hospital's School of Nursing. She volunteered for the Army Nurse Corps, serving in England and France until her discharge in 1946. She then worked at the Walla Walla VA hospital until 1947 when she returned to Pendleton.

While in training to be a nurse, Betty Byer first met Wallan in 1950 at St. Anthony

Hospital. The two, Byer said, then worked together over the years.

Byer described Wallan as a "fantastic nurse" who enjoyed taking care of people. In addition, Byer said her former colleague was easy to work with and was dependable.

"Mary was compassionate with everyone," Byer said. "She liked everyone and everyone liked her."

Matt Harcourt said she hopes others will make donations to the endowment fund to help students who are pursuing a career in nursing. He said while there's a personal connection with the scholarship fund, there's a bigger purpose. The global pandemic, Harcourt said, has

highlighted the importance of having qualified nurses.

"It's a nice thing to remember Mary but there's also a shortage of caregivers," he said about the scholarship endowment fund. "We also encourage people to consider giving to the cause."

The scholarship application is available via the St. Anthony Hospital Foundation at [www.sahpendleton.org/en/about-us/community-benefit/scholarships.html](http://www.sahpendleton.org/en/about-us/community-benefit/scholarships.html). The deadline to apply is Tuesday, June 15.

For questions about the scholarship or to make a donation to the endowment fund, contact Emily Smith at 541-278-2627 or [emilysmith@chiwest.com](mailto:emilysmith@chiwest.com).

## COMMUNITY BRIEFING

### RHS plans Decision Day assembly

BOARDMAN — Riverside Jr./Sr. High School will hold a Decision Day assembly for its 65 graduating seniors.

The event, Principal David Norton said, celebrates the choices the students have made for plans after graduating from Riverside High School. They began the special recognition three years ago — the 2020 event was held virtually — as a way to celebrate each student, rather than just highlighting those that are continuing to pursue athletics. Norton said they will celebrate student plans in regards to colleges or trade schools they plan to attend as well as those who are immediately entering the workforce.

"It's nice to recognize their choices for after high school and celebrate them," Norton said.

The parents of senior students can attend Decision Day, which is Tuesday, May 25, at noon. Each student will be called up to the stage and sign a letter of intent to the college, technical school or career they have selected. Some representatives from the industry and colleges will be on hand to make presentations to the students as well, Norton said.

For more information, contact Norton at [david.norton@morrow.k12.or.us](mailto:david.norton@morrow.k12.or.us) or 541-481-2525, extension 2111.

### American Legion Auxiliary to distribute poppies

UMATILLA COUNTY — Members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Hermiston Unit 37, are distributing poppies leading up to Memorial Day.

The bright red paper flowers will be available at small countertop displays throughout Hermiston and Umatilla, including Harvest Columbia Foods in Umatilla and the

Hermiston Safeway store. Auxiliary members will be at those locations Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The flowers are free but donations are accepted. All money received will be used to help veterans. The purpose of the annual outreach, which was canceled last year, is to honor the fallen and support the living, said Cathy Stolz, president of Hermiston's American Legion Auxiliary Unit 37.

Stolz shared that following World War II, fields of red poppies appeared throughout France. The blood-soaked fields provided beneficial conditions for the bright red flowers to flourish. Thereafter, the poppy became associated with the sacrifices of veterans.

"We would love to see people wearing them throughout our area as we remember the sacrifices of U.S. veterans around the world," Stolz said. "Wearing a poppy is the easiest way to say thank you to veterans for their sacrifices for our freedoms."

For more information, text/call an auxiliary member at 541-571-5816.

### Stanfield seeks teen applicants for part-time work

STANFIELD — Teenagers looking for a job are encouraged to apply with the Stanfield Public Library and/or the Stanfield Parks and Recreation for Summer Activities for Youth.

Both entities are looking for motivated teens that are interested in joining their teams. The part-time positions are for the summer season.

Teens working at the library will help with planning, organizing and setting up a variety of youth activities. They also will serve as a mentor to youths in the community. The starting wage is \$12 per hour. Applications must be turned in by

Thursday, June 3.

The parks and recreation assistant position is a part-time/on-call job that includes planning, setting up and running events in the community. Those who apply must be willing to work nights and weekends. Applications must be submitted by Friday, May 28.

Applications for both positions are available at the Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave. For questions, call Cecili Longhorn at 541-449-1254.

### VFW honors PELC teacher

PENDLETON — Shellie Wyss, a kindergarten teacher at the Pendleton Early Learning Center, recently received the teacher of the year honor from Pendleton's VFW Letter Buck Post 922.

The annual award is presented to a teacher who inspires their students in community awareness and service, good citizenship and support of veterans, said Judith Burger, post commander. Burger presented the award along with John Cook and Rod Theis of the Pendleton post.

Cook, who has known

Wyss for many years, said he knows she is the kind of teacher who always goes above and beyond. PELC Principal Lori Hale wrote a letter in support of Wyss for the award last fall and said Wyss is one of the best teachers she has worked with in 36 years in education.

"Shellie has a magical way of building powerful and meaningful connections with every child. Her teaching approach involves finding and using children's unique strengths to help them overcome their struggles and develop a positive self-concept," Hale wrote in her recommendation letter.

Wyss, who said she was honored to receive the award, also gave credit to others.

"There are so many wonderful teachers in our district who have made me a better teacher over the years!" she said.

### Irrigon church gears up for highway cleanup

IRRIGON — People are invited in a cleanup project sponsored by the Family Worship Center in Irrigon.

The congregation reaches out to help the commu-

nity during fall and spring Adopt-A-Highway cleanup efforts. The upcoming project is Saturday, May 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. Those who would like to help should be 16 or older.

For more information, call 541-922-3054, visit [www.irrigonfwc.org/our-ministries](http://www.irrigonfwc.org/our-ministries) or search Facebook for "Family Worship Center."

### Business Resource Center announces youth contest

HERMISTON — The Umatilla Electric Cooperative Business Resource Center recently announced it is seeking applicants for its UEC Youth Entrepreneur Contest.

The contest is open to all upcoming high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. Applications must be submitted by Thursday, June 17. The UEC Board of Directors will judge the contest and award the top three applicants. The first place prize is \$1,000; second will receive \$500, and third \$200.

The UEC Youth Entrepreneurship Contest is an opportunity for high school students to enhance their

business and entrepreneurship experience by creating a realistic and sustainable business plan. The UEC Business Resource Center team is available for one-on-one advising appointments with applicants to assist with their business plans.

More information and the application is available via a link at [www.uecbrc.com](http://www.uecbrc.com) or by emailing [uecbrc@gmail.com](mailto:uecbrc@gmail.com). For questions, call the UEC Business Resource Center at 541-289-3000.

### Magic: The Gathering in Umatilla

UMATILLA — People are invited for an evening of casual card play, try out new decks, trade cards and meet new friends during Magic: The Gathering.

The event is Saturday, June 5, from 7-10 p.m. at Infinity Watch Collectibles, 1300 Sixth St., Umatilla. There is no entry fee. The event also will feature a movie, free snacks and drinks. All ages are welcome.

For more information, contact 541-571-6693 or visit [www.facebook.com/InfinityWatchCollects](http://www.facebook.com/InfinityWatchCollects).

—EO Media Group

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