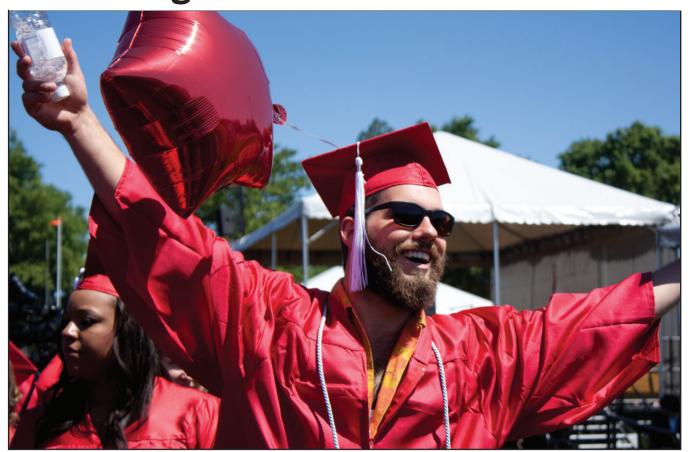
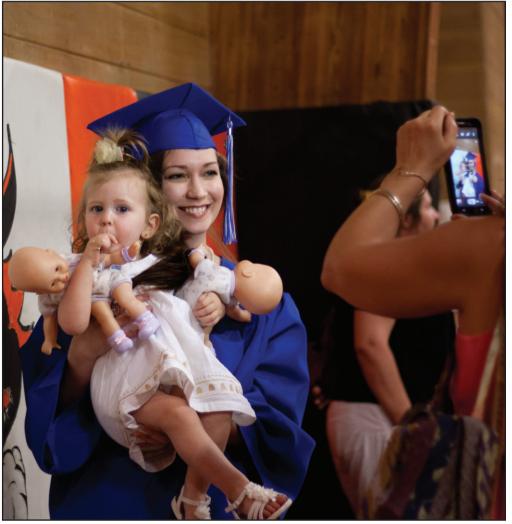
## **Congratulations Class of 2015**



PHOTOS BY JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

**Above: A Western Oregon** University graduate celebrates as he and more than 900 fellow graduates filed into McArthur Stadium at **WOU Saturday morning for** commencement. While about 900 students attended gradation, more than 1,300 students earned degrees in 2014-15. Oregon's Senate **President and former WOU** employee Peter Courtney gave the commencement address, telling graduates to not be afraid about their future.

**Right: Morrison Campus** Alternative School graduate Paisley Baylis poses for a photo with her daughter, Saylabrialle Baylis, 1, Thursday evening after receiving her diploma at the school's graduation ceremony in Dallas High School's gym. Morrison's Class of 2015 included 37 students. Bill Fischer, the school's writing, personal finance and social studies teacher, was the featured speaker at the ceremony.



## **Perrydale teachers** agree to contract

Board, union finally able to hammer out agreement terms

**By Jolene Guzman** 

The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — After more than a year of negotiations, the Perrydale School Board and the Associated Perrydale Teachers (APT) have approved a three-year contract.

The new contract includes the current (2014-15) school year and expires



**Deters** 

hour faceto-face meeting earlier this month that included the district's lawyer, Superintendent Eric Milburn, and a teacher group's representative.

In previous mediation sessions, the two groups were kept in separate rooms, and Milburn didn't participate in negotiations beyond providing information.

APT President Dean Deters said he believed those changes were part of the reason the two sides finally came to an agreement.

"It was pretty productive and it seemed like everyone was focused on finding something that worked," Deters said.

Milburn agreed.

"It helped tremendously," he said. "The contract is definitely fair to the teachers and fair to the district as well, because now we can move forward."

In the agreement, teachers will receive a 1 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the 2014-15 school year, a 1.5 percent percent increase in the final said.

year of the contract.

"We were looking for a little more. We had taken a couple zeros (on COLAs) the last couple years, but I will say it was pretty close," Deters said.

Insurance caps — the amount the district pay toward employee insurance plans — increased to \$1,079 per month this current year and will increase another \$25 in each of the next two years.

In order to agree to the third year of the contract, APT dropped the unfair labor practices complaint it filed against the district in December 2014. After the first day of hearing on the



Milburn

plaint, Milburn said both sides were ready to forgo further action to come to

an agreement. Deters said when negotiations begin for the next contract, both sides agreed to take a different approach to prevent the situation from happening again.

"We feel like part of the problem was lack of experience on both sides," Deters

Milburn added: "I think it was a learning process for the board and teachers as-

When negotiations begin again, the superintendent will be involved, and the groups will meet beforehand to list the items they would wish to discuss before formal meetings begin, Deters said.

"We want to make sure we have some structure in place before we sit down increase in 2015-16, and a 2 for negotiations," Deters

## Supporting others

## Matters to me

**((** Cancer forces a new reality on you and your partner. It's a relief when you can talk about it openly with other couples who are going through the same thing. ))

> -Dennis T., pictured with wife Gerrie, cancer survivors

You don't have to do this alone

Some of the best medicine is low-tech a shoulder to cry on, a hand to hold, an understanding smile. With a wide range of support groups and activities, Salem Cancer Institute connects patients and their loved ones to a powerful network of survivors and families who know what it's like to live with cancer.

Find a group that feels right for you at salemhealth.org/CancerSupport.



you matter.

