

BMCC graduates include 22 Morrow County students

A total of 22 Morrow County students are among 215 persons who receive degrees, certificates and diplomas last

Sunday during graduation ceremonies at Blue Mountain Community College. Commencement activities

were held in the McCrae Activity Center, with a professional march performed by

the college Community Orchestra, conducted by John Weddle. University of Oregon President William Boyd gave the commencement address. Receiving associate in science and associate in arts degrees in 18 different two-year programs were 126

students. Adult high school diplomas were awarded 57 persons, with 32 students receiving certificates designating completion of one-year vocational courses. Graduates from Boardman include Dale Harrison Baker, associate in body and fender

technology; Darlene Brandt, adult high school diploma; Terry Jay Crowder, associate in liberal arts; Pamela Sue Daniels, certificate in general business; Ralph Greer, adult high school diploma; Jerry W. Zielinski, associate in liberal arts.

Heppner graduates include Diana Wright Currin, adult high school diploma; William VanSchoiack, associate in production agriculture; David Kolb, adult high school diploma; Cindy McConnell Sumner, adult high school diploma; Laurie Martin, adult high

school diploma; Robanai Coral Riddle, associate in liberal arts; and associate of science in human services.

Graduates from Ione include Kim Michael Gutierrez, associate in science in diesel and heavy equipment; Lauretta Jane Keene, associate in science in accounting; Richard Keene, associate in science in diesel and heavy equipment; David McNary, associate in science in automotive technology; and Paul Peterson, associate in general studies.

Irrigon graduates include Mark Randall Adams, associate in science in body and fender technology; Patricia Hecker, certificate in general business; Mary Ann Munkers, associate in liberal arts; and Robert Richards, associate in liberal arts.

Curtis Gene Cutsforth of Lexington will receive an associate in science in mechanized agriculture degree.

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Work force survey on now in Wheeler

Responding to the closing of Kinzua Corporation's lumber mill at Kinzua, Wheeler County has hired an economic consultant to help evaluate business potentials and devise a strategy for commercial development.

The East Central Oregon Assn. of Counties is paying \$5,000 to cover the cost of the economic consultant firm, Business Economics Inc. of Portland. ECOAC is also assigning two staff members to work full-time with the consulting firm, which has done consulting work in five states, and received an award for directing a development plan for the Springfield-Eugene area.

Jeffrey Lamy, president of the consulting firm, told Wheeler County officials that the area will have to attempt to diversify its employment base, due to the vulnerability to economic cycles in the existing agricultural and forest products industries.

Efforts are currently underway to organize local cooperatives that would contract for thinning, planting, and other forest management projects. Area lumber companies and the U.S. Forest Service would be expected to make use of such labor cooperatives.

Lamy will hold a series of training workshops for county leaders in June. The workshops are designed to provide a review of Wheeler County's development potentials, and give county leaders instruction in how to solicit interest in the area from prospective industries.

The consulting firm will also prepare a promotional brochure for the county, and develop an industrial development facts manual.

Currently, the Wheeler County Economic Development Committee is mailing a labor force survey to all families in the county to survey job wants, employment skills and work experience.

Solid information on the available work force is a primary selling point in attracting new industry. Confidentiality of individual survey responses will be respected, according to committee chairman Judge Andrew Leckie. Survey data will be released only for group totals.

Any families not receiving the survey through the mail may pick up copies from Judge Leckie at the Fossil Merc or County Courthouse.

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