

# McElligott Memorial Scholarship announces 2023 recipients



Madison Orem



Zoey Gilbert



Megan Doherty



Eva Martin

Four Ione High School alumni have been named recipients of the 2023-24 Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship.

A \$3,000 scholarship has been awarded to Zoey Gilbert, studying Nuclear and Industrial Radiologic Technologies at Columbia Basin College; Megan Doherty, studying Liberal Arts at Oregon State University; Eva Martin, studying Agricultural Business at Eastern Oregon University; and Madison Orem, studying Animal Sciences and Agricultural Business at the University of Idaho.

The Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship fund has awarded scholarships to Ione High School alumni yearly since 1997.

The scholarship is open to all college undergraduates, with a preference for students in their sophomore year and above. The fund was established in McElligott's memory after she lost her battle with cancer.

Maryan McElligott was an energetic community volunteer recognized in 1992 as the Morrow County Woman of the Year. She placed a high value on community involvement. She volunteered in the Ameri-

can Legion Auxiliary Ione Post 95, schools and was a 20-year 4-H leader.

An avid baker, she was well-known for her cakes and taught cake-decorating classes through Blue Mountain Community College. Education was very important to her. Maryan and her late husband, L.J. McElligott, who passed in March 2020, raised eight children, all graduating from Ione High School and college; five have received graduate degrees.

"Preference is given to students in their sophomore through senior years of college. However, we encourage students to apply every year of their college experience," said Vince

McElligott, the committee chair. The scholarship committee is comprised of Ione residents Monica Swanson, Linda LaRue and Anne Morter, as well as Matthew McElligott of North Powder, OR, and Vince McElligott, of Houston, TX, two of Maryan's sons.

Scholarships are awarded to students who share and demonstrate Maryan's values but may lack the financial resources to pursue their college education. The following criteria are used to select scholarship recipients: high academic achievement; demonstrated character; and community, family and school involvement. The L.J. McElligott family initially set up the

endowment fund in 1994, and the Oregon Community Foundation administers it.

The Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship fund makes annual awards to graduates of Ione High School enrolled or will be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course at any accredited post-secondary institution, including out-of-state institutions. Applicants, including McElligott scholarship recipients, may reapply yearly if they meet the eligibility requirements. All Ione Community Charter School graduates are encouraged to apply. Applications are available through the Oregon Student Access Commission at <http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov>.

# Gibbs retires

-Continued from PAGE ONE

learning.

"I've learned a lot from the kids themselves over the years," says Gibbs.

Some of her most special moments are when former students approach her and tell her how much the things she did and said affected their lives.

"Those are pretty cool," she says.

She also says she's had colleagues over the years who have become special, life-long friends. At the same time, she says it was time to step away from teaching.

"Teaching has changed a lot. That's not a good or bad thing. It's just a change. But the timing seemed right," she says.

She also says she wants to be free to visit her three children, Garrett, Macy and Keagan, as well as be an involved grandma to her one grandchild and any more grandchildren who eventually come along. It's something she might not have had the time and energy for as a teacher. "Teaching is a really intense career," she says. "Pretty intense."

Of course, "retired" doesn't really mean "not working." Gibbs has now taken on the part-time role of Morrow County Fair

secretary.

"This was a good step down and a good change," says Gibbs. She adds that she will still get a chance to interact with former students as fair secretary, but she will also be able to indulge her love for agriculture and science. She says she also likes that it allows her to give back to the community.

"Raising your kids in a small town like this is the only way to do it," she says, "but you can't do it if you just sit back and don't contribute."

Gibbs also has a love for horses and rodeo and wants to be able to spend more time pursuing that passion.

"I've been a barrel racer my entire life, so I want to make time for more of that."

She also boards a few horses on their property, and says she loves to care for the horses and takes pride in working around their home. She says she and Jay may even try the "Arizona thing" some time.

"I'm really going to miss the kids. I loved my career," she concludes. "I look forward to my new transition in life."

# Shannon graduates from U of M

The University of Maryland has announced that Shayveyanna D. Shannon of Boardman earned

a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from U of M global campus in spring 2023.

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