

GAP

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“social capital” via involvement in things like sports and religious organizations.

Closing the opportunity gap is the main goal for the aptly named Head Start. Programs it offers include parent education classes, home visits, matching grants for housing and preschool classes.

“Our goal is to serve children and families to make sure they’re getting the best start,” Brenaman said.

There are a lot of families out there that need help — according to the OCF report, 47 percent of Oregon’s children are being raised in families at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, which for a family of four is \$48,000 a year. The makeup of the family unit makes a difference, too. More than one in three single-parent families is in poverty, for example, compared to less than one in 10 married-parent families.

Head Start also offers parenting classes and support groups open to anyone, regardless of income. Parents are taught to use their strengths to deal with things like discipline and bedtime routines in a healthy, developmentally appropriate way for their children, and can network with other parents.

Mary Lou Gutierrez offers cooking classes where parents and children learn to cook nutritious, low-cost meals together.

“I’ll tell them this rec-

ipe only takes \$8 or \$10 to feed a family of six people and they’ll say, ‘What?!’,” she said. “Because they’re spending more than that on food that’s not even healthy.”

Schools can help fill in the gaps for children who aren’t born into a financially stable home with two married, college-educated parents — the ideal, statistically speaking, for reaching the middle class.

Melody Bustillos, a counselor at Hermiston High School, said only about 14 percent of adults over 25 in Hermiston have a bachelor’s degree or above, so many students who are looking to pursue a college degree don’t necessarily have a parent who can give guidance from personal experience.

“We basically assume all our kids need help,” she said.

The high school has three clubs to help with that: College Club, which is open to any student interested in a post-secondary education; the College Savers club, which is income-based; and Generation College, for students who would be the first in their family to graduate from college.

Last week the school brought seniors planning to study at Blue Mountain Community College this fall to BMCC’s Hermiston and Pendleton campuses, where students were given a tour by current BMCC students who answered questions about things like placement tests and online classes.

Bustillos said Generation College advisors are

unique to most high school programs because they stick with students all the way through their college graduation.

“It’s not enough to just get them accepted,” she said. “You can’t just turn them loose and figure everything’s OK.”

The OCF found that children in Eastern Oregon counties tend to fare better than those on the west side of the state in moving up the income ladder, but Umatilla County and Morrow County are the exceptions to that rule. The report suggests that most Eastern Oregon children may have more upward mobility in part because of the social capital piece. A 2006 study cited in the report called “The production of social capital in US counties” — which ranked social capital based on per-capita membership of civic organizations, religious institutions and more — showed Wallowa County ranked the highest in the state on the social capital index. Umatilla and Morrow counties ranked on the lower end of the scale for the state.

One organization in Hermiston created since then is Made to Thrive, a nonprofit that provides at-risk children with the money, transportation, equipment and support needed to participate in extracurricular activities. Kriss Dammeyer, the nonprofit’s director, said she has seen children learn lifelong skills like anger management, networking and honoring commitments through sports.

BTW

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When the **Riverside High School** class of 2018 walks across the stage this Saturday to receive their high school diplomas, a group of nine classmates will be looking forward to another milestone.

Less than two weeks after turning the tassel at the Boardman high school, **Ruby Barrera, Abby Hernandez, Kevin Madrigal, Misael Madrigal, Fabian Meza, Luis Olvera, Daniel Rodriguez, Brock Rosen** and **Andrew Sorensen** will receive their Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degrees from **Blue Mountain Community College**.

“This is a pretty amazing group of students. They represent the student body president, athletic teams, theater, Key Club — they are involved in all aspects of our school,” said **David Norton**, Riverside principal.

The seven boys and two girls are described as a competitive bunch. They have been pushing each other academically for the past few years.

Norton and counselor **Elizabeth Rosen** have worked closely with the students. They are proud of what they have accomplished and are committed to making it happen for many more Riverside students.

The cooperation between the school and BMCC, Rosen said, has evolved and improved, making the process more streamlined. She also said there has been great support from the **Morrow County Education Foundation**, which pays for the majority of college credits for Riverside students, totaling more than \$100,000 for these seniors alone.

People are invited to a free class that’s designed to help anyone who cares for an aging Oregonian better understand the effects of Alzheimer’s and similar

diseases.

“The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer’s & Effective Communication Strategies” is Wednesday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room M-01 at **Good Shepherd Medical Center**, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. It’s appropriate for individuals who provide care for an aging family member or loved one, as well as those who work in professional caregiver settings, public safety or social work.

Offered through **Oregon Care Partners**, the class will focus on care for those with memory loss, dementia or Alzheimer’s. For more information or to register, visit www.oregoncarepartners.com For questions, contact 1-800-930-6851 or info@oregoncarepartners.com.

You can submit items for our weekly *By The Way* column by emailing your tips to editor@hermistonherald.com.



Gladys West Graham (far left) stands with the other students in her Hermiston High School class of nine which graduated in 1918.

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In a scrapbook created by Gladys, she labeled a picture of her along with two friends, “Hermiston Peaches.”

“It’s so ironic because Peach is kind of my nickname,” Emily said. “My family said I look peachy all the time. My friends just started calling me that.”

Donning her purple graduation gown, Emily’s long brown hair flowed in the wind while recently standing under the concrete archway of the old Hermiston Union High School. The site, located on East Ridgeway Avenue and Second Street, also is where the old Sandstone Building once stood. According to files reviewed by Briana Cortaberria, Hermiston School District executive assistant to the superintendent and board, the building served as Hermiston Standard High School from 1908-1937.

An interest in education apparently has been passed down through the generations. As part of the family lore, it was said that Gladys longed to attend school and could often be found hanging around the building.

“I guess Gladys used to sit on the steps of the school before she was old enough to go,” said Heidi Marvin, Emily’s mother. “And Emily always loved school and couldn’t wait to go.”

Lee’s sister, Suzie Sams, said Gladys only got in trouble one time while attending school. As a third grader, she was acting out in class and was sent to the principal’s office. After that, she would visit the principal on her own.

“She loved going to the principal’s office because she could read books,”



STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANEY
Emily Marvin holds the framed Hermiston High School diploma earned by her great-great-grandmother Gladys West Graham. Emily will graduate from HHS 100 years after Gladys.

Suzie said.

Emily said her only visits to the principal’s office have been to receive awards.

“I’m a pretty good kid,” she said with a laugh.

Gladys was born in Superior, Iowa, to Adora and John Sherwin West. She was the youngest of four children. Gladys’ family headed to Hermiston by train in 1908 — lured by the promise of job opportunities through the Umatilla Reclamation Project, which implemented irrigation and hydropower projects throughout the region.

As her graduation neared, Gladys had another important milestone on the horizon — her upcoming wedding to Verlin Graham. According to family stories, her father wasn’t too keen on the idea.

“They had to call Sheriff Til Taylor to provide protection,” Lee said. “He

didn’t want his daughter marrying the son of a Methodist minister.”

Emily was born in Walla Walla, Washington, to Heidi and Brandon Marvin. She is the middle child with two other sisters. She has lived in Hermiston her entire life.

Her future plans include moving to Corvallis where she will study hospitality and business management at Oregon State University. After being active in DECA, serving as the chief executive officer of the student store and taking nearly every business class Hermiston offers, Emily is looking forward to furthering her education with the ultimate goal of owning her own line of luxury hotels.

“The campus is beautiful and the college of business accepted me, so it kind of worked out rather nicely,” she said. Rather peachy.



CEU credits available!

THE BASICS & EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

DATE Wednesday, June 6

TIME 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

LOCATION Good Shepherd Health Care System
610 NW 11th St., Conference Room 2
Hermiston, OR 97838

REGISTER These class is free, but registration is required. To register, call 800-272-3900.

The Alzheimer’s Association Oregon Chapter is pleased to present these back-to-back community classes in Hermiston: “The Basics” and “Effective Communication Strategies.”

In the first class, you’ll learn about Alzheimer’s disease detection, causes and risk factors, stages of the disease and treatment. In the second class, you’ll explore how communication takes place when someone has Alzheimer’s, learn to decode the verbal and behavioral messages delivered by someone with dementia, and identify strategies to help you connect and communicate at each stage of the disease.

An education program by the
alzheimer’s association

Presented in collaboration with
OREGONCAREPARTNERS
Creating a Culture of Quality Care



"Scramble for Scholarships"

Friday, June 8th
1pm Shotgun Start

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

Big River Golf Course - Umatilla

Golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate in the 25th annual "Scramble for Scholarships" golf tournament. Four person teams can sign up together or individual pairings can be made by the tournament committee. Your \$70 entry fee covers green fees, a box lunch, and BBQ dinner, and makes a charitable donation to the foundation to use in awarding scholarships for local health care students. Join us by registering at scrambleforscholarships.eventbrite.com or by calling 541-667-3405. **Entry deadline is June 6th.**

Great prize holes and Hole-in-one on #1 & #9 wins a new car sponsored by Tom Denchel Ford and Hermiston Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram!

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