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Blue Mountain Community College graduates took many paths to their degree.

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NEW ERA

Eastern Oregon Telecom celebrates new building and new ownership.

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LIGHTEN UP

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is working to make hunting and fishing regulations simpler.

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BY THE WAY

By the way: New ice cream shop in Hermiston

Hermiston has a new shop selling cool treats, just in time for temperatures that are expected to reach well above 90 degrees this week.

Helados la Michoacana sells various flavors of ice cream made directly by the store using fresh fruit and other natural flavors. It also sells other treats, most of them fruit-based, including strawberries and cream, cheesecake, shaved ice, and bianocos (a sort of fruit salad).

The store is owned by **Jesus Higareda**, who also owns a Helados la Michoacana in Pasco. It is located at 1875 N First St., Suite C, next to Fiesta Foods. For now hours vary while new staff are being trained but regular hours are expected to be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

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The **Hermiston Police Department** took some space on their Facebook page last week to thank the **Umatilla Police Officer's Association** for helping one of their own through the association's annual golf tournament, which raises money for local charitable causes.

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Sweet RIDE

Hermiston Corvette turns heads at Tri-Cities car show

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

William and Christy McMillen's 1976 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray is a thing of beauty.

And it's not just the McMillens who think their car is something special. The root beer-colored Corvette recently took home the top prize at one of the largest Corvette shows in the Pacific Northwest, beating out more than 240 other Corvettes for the Dealer's Choice award at Corvettes on the Columbia in the Tri-Cities.

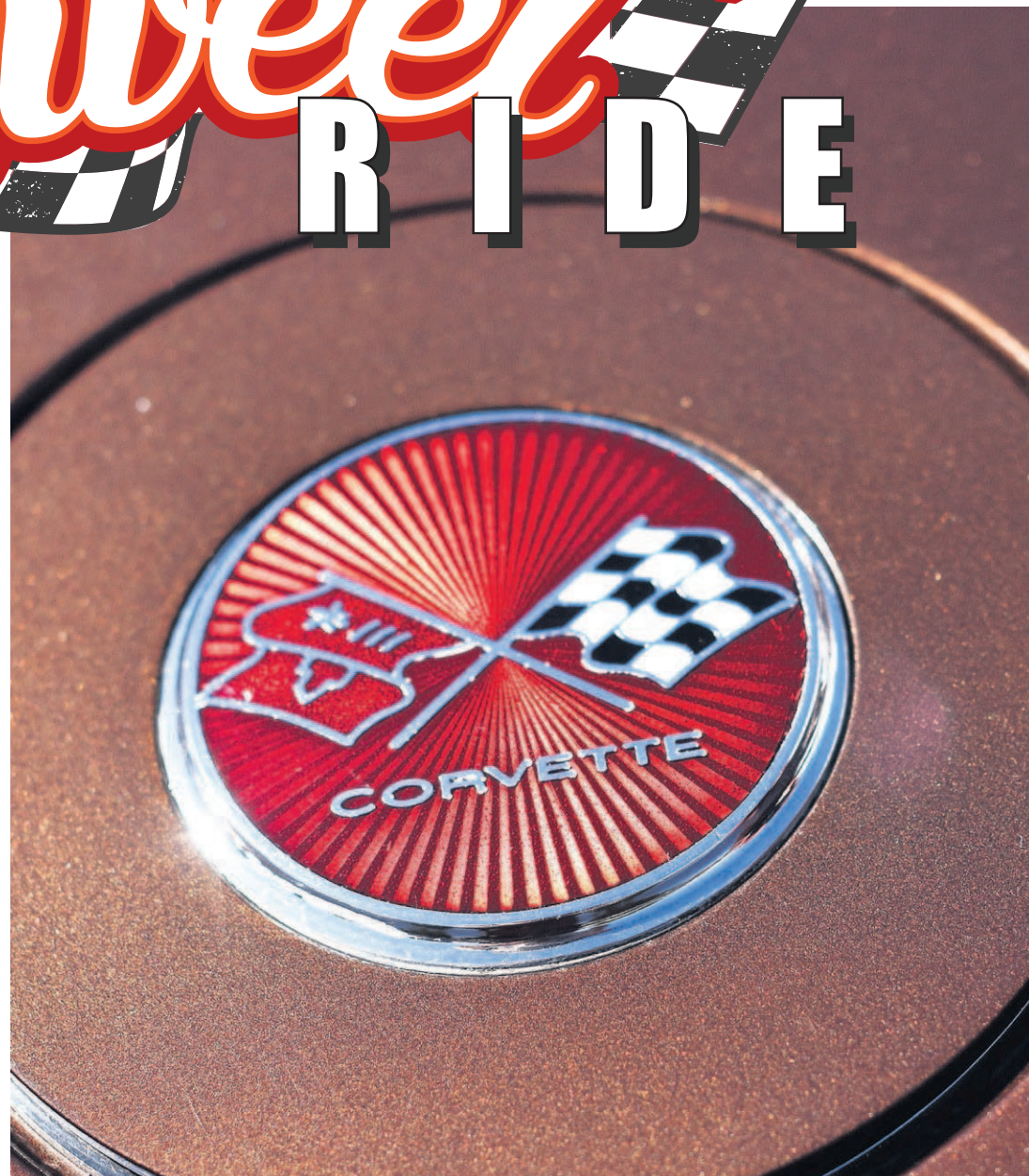
"There were a lot of really beautiful cars up there," William said. "I was shocked when we won."

They had been a little disappointed not to win any awards in their class, Christy said, but when the emcee started talking about how the winners had five kids and eight grandkids vying to inherit the car someday.

"We looked at each other and thought, 'No way!,'" she said.

The McMillens are relatively new to the car show circuit. William brought home the Corvette about three years ago. Forced into early retirement by an autoimmune disorder, he bought a classic car because he knew he needed something to focus his energy on. He had loved Stingrays ever since high school, when a friend drove into the school parking lot with an orange one from the early 1970s.

"It was the first Corvette I was actually able to touch," he said. "I fell in love with that body style



A Corvette emblem adorns the fuel tank hatch on a 1976 Corvette Stingray owned by William McMillan of Hermiston.

"There were a lot of really beautiful cars up there. I was shocked when we won."

William McMillan

that day."

He always dreamed of owning one in retirement. And when retirement came sooner than expected, he told Christy that a friend was driving him to a doctor's appointment in Portland. Instead, they were headed there to look at Corvettes they had seen advertised online.

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William McMillan washes his 1976 Corvette Stingray in the driveway of his home Friday in Hermiston.

Migrant education program keeps kids on the move caught up

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITER

A group of seventh and eighth-graders were given one task: make a boat out of foil and plastic straws. And the goal? Hold as many pennies as possible without sinking the boat.

Though the boats were not always seaworthy, the students learned about buoyancy in one of several lessons at the migrant education summer school program in Hermiston.

Run by the InterMountain Education Service District, there are programs throughout the summer at different locations in Umatilla and Morrow County, including Boardman, Hermiston, Irrigon, Milton-Freewater and Umatilla. Each program runs for about three

weeks. The classes focus on reading and math instruction and, as of this year, science, for students between pre-kindergarten and eighth grade.

For students to qualify for the migrant education program, their families have to have moved in the past three years to find work in the fields of agriculture, forestry or fishing.

The classes are split up by grade level, with a fifth/sixth grade and seventh/eighth grade blend.

Because of the short session, program coordinator Loretta Fitterer said teachers have to target specific concepts.

"At the lowest level it may be letter sounds," she said. "The next step may be sight words, and for



Sixth-grader Karla Llamas places pennies in her tinfoil boat during a science class for ESL students Friday at Sunset Elementary School in Hermiston.

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