

# Local students chosen for health career camp

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

A handful of local high school students were among the 37 chosen from across the state to participate in the 27th annual MedQuest Health Career Exploration Camp. In addition, a Umatilla resident will serve as one of the camp counselors.

Based at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, the special summer camp is offered to students interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field. The Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center announced that local students include Venus Gonzalez and Cindy Quezada, both of Hermiston High School; Edith Gonzalez, Irrigon High School; and Yeidi Ramos Mendoza, Riverside Jr/Sr High School. Applicants were selected based on extracurricular involvement, essays, academic performance and passion for the healthcare field.

Yessenia Garcia-Sanchez, who had the unique honor of being selected to participate as a MedQuest camper in both 2016 and 2018, is new to the camp staff team this year. A 2018



High school students participate in the 2018 MedQuest Health Career Exploration Camp. Based at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, a handful of local students have been chosen for this year's camp.

Photo contributed by Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center

Umatilla High School graduate, Garcia-Sanchez earned dual credits at Blue Mountain Community College, where she is currently studying to obtain an associate's degree. She hopes to attend

the Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing at La Grande.

During the June 16-21 camp, students will engage in a variety of unique medical experiences, including

job shadows, panel discussions with local health care providers, tours of medical facilities and more. Many past campers have gone on to pursue careers as doctors, nurses, dentists, physical

therapists and other health care professions.

With a shortage of people

in the healthcare field, especially in rural areas, Brittany Hargrove said the program contributes to the philosophy of "growing your own" health care professionals. The hope is that many of them will return to work in underserved communities.

The camp, Hargrove said, provides an immersive experience of life on a college campus and offers a clearer picture of work in medical careers. In addition, it often leads to an increased passion to pursue a career in a rural health care setting.

Many area health care workers have been supportive of the program, including Dr. Don Benschoter. A former NEOAHEC board member, the retired Pendleton dentist provided a substantial scholarship donation to assist with tuition for students in need.

For more information about the camp and other programs offered by NEOAHEC, contact Hargrove at 541-962-3422, bhargrove@neoahcec.org or search www.neoahcec.org.

## Hale twins celebrate 90th birthday

The Hale twins, Juanita Mary Proctor and Margaret Frances Pieper, were born May 22, 1929, in Heppner, to Vier and Mary Hale.

Recently turning 90, the twins are currently living at Avamere of Hermiston. Family and friends recently celebrated with Juanita and Margaret during a birthday gathering held at the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church parish hall in Hermiston.

The twins grew up in McDonald Canyon on a 3500-acre ranch with their mom, uncle Charlie and Irish grandparents, Phil and Mary Hirl. They attended their first seven years of school in a one-room schoolhouse near their home; and later went to school in Heppner, graduating in 1947. After gradu-



Juanita Mary Proctor & Margaret Frances Pieper (then and now).



Contributed photos

ation, Margaret and Juanita both moved to Hermiston.

In 1950, Nita married Leroy "Rocky" Proctor. Nita and Rocky raised five children, Clarence, Pat (Smith), Mike, Mary Ann (Munkers), and Theresa (Proctor-Reece) from which they had 11 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-

great-grandchild. They built a wonderful life working together on their ranch in Irrigon where they raised beef cattle, grass hay, chickens and horses until Rocky's death in 2011.

In 1951, Margaret met and married the love of her life, Bill Bunten, while working at the Umatilla

Army Depot. He died in 1965. In 1968, Margaret married Arnie Pieper (who died in 1982). They bought a farm on Buttercreek, which is now Westwinds Nursery. Margaret is especially proud of her children, Pam, Sally, Billy, John, Jim and Lori along with her 15 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

The twins enjoy hanging out for lunch and dinner while visiting with friends and family at Avamere of Hermiston. They enjoy reminiscing about the old days and love spending quality time with their families.

For a full story about the twins written by Theresa Proctor-Reece, search [www.hermistonherald.com](http://www.hermistonherald.com).

## Hermiston secondary schools shine with awards

Student leaders from Hermiston were recognized April 28 during the Oregon Association of Student Councils spring conference, held at the Red Lion Hotel at Jantzen Beach in Portland.

Hermiston High School and Armand Larive Middle School student councils each received Gold Council awards for outstanding achievements. The high school group was one of 16 schools from across the state that received the honor. Armand Larive was one of only three middle schools to earn the distinction. In addition, Sandstone

Middle School brought home the Silver Council award.

Recognition is presented to student councils when they achieve standards related to community service, by creating events that promote school spirit and pride, sportsmanship, unity, recognition and leadership training, said Maria Duron, district communications officer. This is the second year in a row the schools have been honored at the conference, she added.

Club advisors Dave Rohrman, HHS social studies teacher; Cathy Kay,



Photo contributed by Maria Duron

The Hermiston High School student council was one of 16 high schools from across the state to receive the Gold Council award from the Oregon Association of Student Councils.

Armand Larive math and science teacher; and Sara Marks, Sandstone language arts teacher and leadership club advisor; were pleased with the recognition.

"I am impressed with

our student leaders," Marks said. "I am proud of their accomplishment and cannot wait for next year to see what difference our leaders will make in our school and community."

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