



Jesus Rome/Contributed Photo

Jada Rome, center, is handed the certificate for her scholarship from the Hermiston Cultural Awareness Coalition on Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Scholarship recipients aim to make a difference

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

When Jada Rome and Inle Gonzalez were presented with a scholarship for their work with the Hermiston Cultural Awareness Coalition on Saturday, May 1, it was in recognition for a small part of their community involvement.

Gonzalez, a senior at Hermiston High School, is the student body president there. She is also in marching band and Eco Club.

Gonzalez has been involved in several social justice efforts other than the Hermiston Cultural Awareness Coalition, where she has helped plan events and sat on a virtual panel about racial justice on Martin Luther King Day. She is involved in Raices, a local grassroots organization focused on advocating for the needs of Latino residents. Through that organization she has helped with educational efforts on topics such as the U.S. Census or knowing your rights regarding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

She is also one of the students helping advise

the Oregon Department of Education on implementing Every Student Belongs, an effort to eradicate symbols of hate from Oregon schools.

Gonzalez said she enjoyed getting to learn from the other panelists during the Martin Luther King Day panel, and was happy to see more people than she expected turn up for it.

"It was very uplifting," she said.

She said she doesn't want to wait until after high school to start trying to fight to make the world a better place, since progress often happens slowly.

"It's better to apply yourself and do something instead of standing back," Gonzalez said.

The other scholarship recipient, Rome, is also a senior and was born and raised in Hermiston. She volunteers with several local organizations, was an officer for FCCLA at the high school and also participates in speech, track and cheerleading.

She also participated in the Martin Luther King Day panel with the HCAC, and said it was a great experience to hear others'

thoughts on such a diverse panel.

"I loved every second of it," she said.

She said she hope that as she works with the coalition, she might inspire other teenagers to feel more comfortable getting involved there and in other parts of the community.

She also wants to normalize having conversations about racial inequality and other important issues that people can sometimes feel uncomfortable discussing. She feels that ignoring problems isn't a good way to solve them.

"There are even conversations that make me uncomfortable, but I try and have those," she said.

Someday, she hopes to graduate from law school and become a criminal justice lawyer, so she can advocate for others. She said she has already done job shadows with attorneys and a judge and found it "intriguing." She would be open to coming back to Hermiston to practice here, she said.

"I know it will be a lot of hard work and education, but I want to be that difference," she said.

BMCC fundraiser shifts gears with car cruise on May 15

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY WRITER

Blue Mountain Community College's Cruisin' for Scholarships is switching gears for its annual event.

Rather than having a traditional car show, the 2021 event will hit the road with a car cruise. The fundraiser supports the college's diesel technologies program and student scholarships.

The Cruisin' for Scholarships Car Cruise is Saturday, May 15. The green flag will wave at 10 a.m. at the BMCC campus in Pendleton, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave.

Participants will travel to Wildhorse Resort & Casino, where the vehicles will be judged. After judging, everyone is invited to cruise back into town to the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, at which time the best of show with a trophy presentation will take place at 2 p.m.

Connie Green, BMCC interim president, said that over the past eight years, the college has been fortunate to have outstanding support from the community for its Cruisin' for Scholarships event.

"We hope the car cruise will offer the community a fun opportunity to show off their amazing vehicles while still supporting our students



Ian Shadle/Contributed Photo, File

Don Williams' 1959 Dodge Power Wagon won best of show during the 2019 Cruisin' for Scholarships Car Show at Blue Mountain Community College. This year's event, which features a car cruise, will depart from BMCC's Pendleton campus Saturday, May 15, at 10 a.m.

and diesel program," Green said.

BMCC's past car shows have attracted a wide range of vehicles — from Ford Model A's, pre-war vehicles, muscle cars, 4x4s, works in progress, motorcycles and more. Vehicle registration for the general public is \$20 — the student fee is \$5.

Cruisin' for Scholarships has generated thousands of dollars for the diesel technologies program, to help pay for large equipment and scholarships for tuition, cost of living and tools for the program. Many of the diesel program graduates sup-

port the community and are employed locally.

Organizers expressed appreciation for the community and industry sponsors who have stepped up to support this year's modified event. For more information, to register a vehicle, order event swag or become a sponsor, visit www.bluecc.edu/carshow. For questions, contact Ken Daniel, executive director of the BMCC Foundation, at 541-278-5775 or kdaniel@bluecc.edu, or Jeremy Pike, diesel program instructor, at 541-278-5821 or jpike@bluecc.edu.

BRIEFS

Bon Jovi to rock the big screen at drive-in

If you recognize such songs as "Livin' on a Prayer," "You Give Love a Bad Name" or "Bad Medicine," you won't want to miss the Encore Drive-In Concert with Bon Jovi.

The never-before-seen show was recorded live, exclusively for a one-night only event at drive-ins, outdoor venues and some cinemas across the United States — and it's coming to Milton-Freewater.

Tickets are on sale for the Saturday, May 22, event.

Gates open at 7 p.m. with the concert film shown at 8 p.m. The M-F Drive IN Theater, is at 84322 Highway 11, Milton-Freewater. The cost is \$89 per vehicle, which can have up to six people. For tickets or more information, click the link on the M-F Drive IN Theater's Facebook page.

Art display features Irrigon painter

The artwork of Bryce Southerland of Bryce's DreamScapes is on display through May at the Hermiston Public Library. An Irri-

gon resident, Southerland is a self-taught artist who works mainly with oil paints.

Southerland will present an introductory class on oil painting for adults at the library. All supplies will be provided. The free session will be Tuesday, June 22, from 6-8 p.m. Masks will be required. People planning to attend must register beginning Monday, June 7.

The library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., is open Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Friday/Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, visit www.hermiston.or.us/library.

RESERVE YOUR LANE ONLINE TODAY!

Visit wildhorseresort.com

REMEMBER TO PLAY IT SAFE WITH A LITTLE SPACE AND WEAR YOUR MASK!

FAMILY PACKAGE (Starting May 1)

\$50 MON-THU Before 6pm

\$55 MON-THU After 6pm



PINS & PIZZA

Includes:

- ✦ 90 Minutes Bowling
- ✦ Shoe Rental
- ✦ One Large Pizza (up to 3 toppings)
- ✦ One Pitcher of Soda

Package is good for up to six people.

BOWLING • ARCADE • FOOD COURT • CINEPLEX • AND MORE!

800.654.9453 • PENDLETON, OR • I-84, EXIT 216 • wildhorseresort.com

Owned and operated by CTUIR

Management reserves all rights to alter, suspend or withdraw promotions/offers at any time.

Gaga04.21 WH042130

WILDHORSE FAMILY FUNPLEX