



## ‘A big, old teddy bear’

Community mourns the passing of ‘Buzz’ Brazeau, former high school principal, NFL player

By ERICK PETERSON  
Hermiston Herald

When the word went out about the death of a former Hermiston High School administrator, many people expressed their sorrow.

Philip “Buzz” Brazeau Jr. died Jan. 12 at the age of 72. Locals are talking about the man they describe as both a “giant personality” and an “intellectual.”



Brazeau

“B u z z was more than just a great administrator,” Tricia Mooney, Hermiston School District superintendent, said. “He was a great human. The Hermiston School District and our community are fortunate that we had the opportunity to have Buzz on our team. His legacy is in the lives he touched and the people he impacted. We are all better because of him.”

According to the Hermiston School District, Brazeau was employed as a Hermiston High School assistant principal 2004-07 and principal 2007-12, and he was the 2011-12 Hermiston School District Administrator of the Year.

Outside of Hermiston, he was known as a football player for Washington State University, the Los Angeles Rams, the Green Bay Packers and the Portland Storm. After his football days, he worked as a teacher, a coach and a school administrator at different school districts.

His obituary praises him as a family man, a loving husband to wife Kathy, and a beloved father, uncle and grandfather.

Umatilla County Commissioner Dan Dorrان is among those who said they grieve over Brazeau’s death. Dorrان was at Brazeau’s

See Brazeau, Page A8



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Hermiston High School senior Marcos Preciado, left, age 17, practices drawing blood from instructor Janci Sivey during an internship class Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, at the high school. Preciado and three other members of the class recently passed the national phlebotomy certification exam.

# Drawing blood

Hermiston High students pass phlebotomy exam, plan futures in health care

By ERICK PETERSON  
Hermiston Herald

Marcos Preciado said he was feeling a little nervous on Friday, Jan. 28, as he was drawing blood from one of his teachers, Janci Sivey.

This was not the first time he had done this, though. He and other students are taking a class from Sivey, and they draw her blood at least once a week, Sivey said, for practice.

Preciado, along with Grace Vertrees, Lilly Chase and Karsen Graham on Jan. 21 took the National Health Career Association exam for accreditation as certified phlebotomy technicians. All four students in Sivey’s internship class passed the test.

Graham, 18, is a senior who said she wants to work for either the American Red Cross or a phlebotomy lab. She said she sees this as a career path because she likes to help people. She said she can be a helper by becoming a phlebotomist.

In the internship class, she and her classmates visit workplaces. They also perform classwork and prepare for phlebotomy and medical assistance exams. It was in this class, Graham said, that she discovered phlebotomy.

On June 4, she will take a test to be a medical assistant. Though excited about the exam, she said she already is looking beyond it. Her plans include going into the medical field after graduation, she said.

Sivey said she is proud of her students, despite the occasional bruises she gets from



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

Hermiston High School seniors Karsen Graham, left, Marcos Preciado, Lilly Chase and Grace Vertrees (not pictured) on Jan. 21, 2022, took the national certification exam to practice phlebotomy as a portion of their in school curriculum at the high school. Each student passed.

them and their needle practice. This group of four phlebotomists comprised the first four students to take and pass the exam in her class. She has other students who are planning to take the phlebotomy test in the spring. Sivey said these students will be qualified

to obtain phlebotomy jobs — but only after graduating from high school. For now, they will gain additional practice in class and through internships at Interpath Laboratory

See Exam, Page A8

## Group seeks to invalidate green energy credits for dairy digester

By GEORGE PLAGVAN  
EO Media Group

An environmental group is asking California regulators to nullify green energy credits for biogas produced from dairy manure at Oregon’s Threemile Canyon Farms.

Food & Water Watch filed a complaint to the California Air Resources Board on Jan. 19, arguing that Threemile Canyon was generating lucrative credits possibly worth millions of dollars under the state’s Low Carbon Fuel Standard while at the same time committing air quality violations in

Oregon.

Threemile Canyon is Oregon’s largest dairy with nearly 70,000 cattle — including 33,000 milking cows — along the Columbia River near Boardman. It is run by R.D. Offutt Co., a farming corporation headquartered in Fargo, N.D.

The farm built an anaerobic digester in 2012 to capture methane emissions from manure, which was initially used to generate electricity that was sold to the interstate utility PacifiCorp.

In 2019, Threemile Canyon installed \$30 million of new equipment at the digester plant to convert

methane into “pipeline quality” natural gas, tapping into California’s Low Carbon Fuel Standard, or LCFS.

Iogen Corp., a Canadian firm, markets the gas as a cleaner-burning fuel for trucks and buses on Los Angeles freeways.

Created in 2011 by the California Air Resources Board, the LCFS is a market-based incentive program specifically for the state’s transportation sector. Companies that produce lower-carbon fuels generate credits that can be sold to offset emissions from more carbon-intensive fossil fuels.

The LCFS is one of several measures under a 2006 California climate package that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

The board certified Threemile Canyon’s bio-methane production on Sept. 9, 2020, making it eligible to bank and sell LCFS credits.

However, Food & Water Watch — part of an environmental coalition called Stand Up to Factory Farms — is calling for a revocation of Threemile Canyon’s credits after the farm was fined by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality



Threemile Canyon Farms/Submitted Photo

The diversified farm has 93,000 acres of cropland and open space.

for violating conditions of its air quality permit. According to DEQ, Threemile Canyon used

excess natural gas at the digester to dry leftover solid

See Digester, Page A8

### INSIDE

A2 ▶ ‘Hermiston History’ looks into the past

A3 ▶ Echo School District denies lawsuit’s discrimination allegations

A4 ▶ ‘Inside My Shoes’ column addresses pronouns and respect

A6 ▶ McNary Heights teacher nominated for national award