

Museum outreach teaches youth to preserve environment

By SEAN HART
Staff Writer

Local youth learned about the importance of preserving the environment through the historic lens of Native American stewardship.

Mia Jackson, from the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon, presented information Monday at the Hermiston Public Library about how Native Americans lived on the land in Oregon for more than 15,000 years.

She said Hermiston was one of many outreach presentations in the state featuring artifacts from the museum.

"This program talks about the relationship between the Native Americans and the environment and how it was important to take care of the environment because the environment took care of them and how that's still important today," she said. "It lets people know that the museum exists, but it also gets our educational message out to more audiences."

After the presentation, attendees participated in activities that illustrated the educational message. They learned how to weave baskets and were challenged to create a boat conservatively using a small piece of tin foil to see how many pennies it would float.

Isaac Edwards, 11, was able to float 50 pennies on the foil and said he enjoyed the program.

His father, Jonathan Ed-



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

Mia Jackson, left, from the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon, helps 14-year-old Lucia Wiley with a weaving activity after a presentation about preserving the environment at the Hermiston Public Library Monday.

wards, said more people should take advantage of the library's educational opportunities.

"It's good for our kids to learn about the region that they live in," he said. "There's a lot of stuff in our area that sometimes we take for granted. It's good to learn about the Native American archeology and artifacts."

Another father, Jerry Hennings, said these types of education events help foster the curiosity of his 6-year-old daughter, Katie.

"It's definitely a way to broaden the kids' education about the environment and conserving and being able to use things around you," he said.

Flor Pena, 15, and Lucia Wiley, 14, said they enjoyed learning about basket weaving. Ivana Pena, 13, said she did not realize how difficult

life would have been without modern technology.

"I thought it was pretty cool how (the museum) still had stuff from the past, and it was way different than what we use now," she said.



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

Mia Jackson, left, from the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon, helps Hermiston 4-year-old Hinkley Edwards with an activity in which participants were challenged to construct a boat from aluminum foil to float as many pennies as possible. Jackson gave a presentation about being a hero for the environment at the Hermiston Public Library Monday.

Herald wins four awards in statewide contest

THE HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston Herald won four awards in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association Better Newspaper Contest announced Thursday, July 16, at the organization's summer convention at Salishan Spa and Golf Resort at Gleneden Beach south of Lincoln City.

Former Herald editor Jessica Keller won a first-place award for best editorial writing for a collection of three opinion pieces: Blame ordinances, not commissioners, for strip club, A questionable decision, and Now the fun begins.

Former Herald reporter Maegan Murray won a third-place award for Best Coverage of Business and Economic Issues for a story headlined It's all in the Ingredients about Walker's Farm

Kitchen making a name for itself for its food using fresh local ingredients.

Murray also placed third in the Best Lifestyle Coverage category for three stories that were part of a five-part series on the homeless in Hermiston: Christmas just another day for homeless man; Out on the streets; and Hermiston Warming Station safe house for homeless.

Herald sports writer Sam Barbee placed third in the Best Sports Story category for the story Playing with the boys about female quarterback Madison Feigum of the fifth/sixth grade 49ers Grid Kids Football team in Hermiston.

The full list of winners in all sizes and divisions is available on the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association website.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oregon Volunteers community meeting planned

The Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service will host a community meeting from 9-11 a.m. July 30 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

The meeting is one of 17 in the state, and the results will be used to create the 2016-18 Oregon State Service Plan and prepare a report for the Oregon Legislature on how to strengthen volunteerism and engagement.

Government, nonprofit, business and organization leaders, volunteers and interested residents are encouraged to provide feedback about what is working well and what issues need to be addressed. For more information or to register for the meeting online,

visit oregonvolunteers.org/events/commcon.

Thorpe honored for 83 years in Grange

Margaret Thorpe of Hermiston has been honored by the National Grange of the Order of Patron's of Husbandry for 83 years of Grange membership.

Thorpe, who celebrated her 99th birthday earlier this month, received a letter recognizing her achievement from Ed Luttrell, National Grange president.

Thorpe first joined Greenfield Grange in Boardman but later transferred her membership to Columbia Grange in Hermiston, where she is still a member.

The National Grange, which was founded in 1967, is a fraternal organization that advocates for agriculture and rural issues.



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