

Field trip provides learning experience in State Capital

Rep. Greg Smith recently served as host to students from the Hermiston Junior Academy, providing them first-hand information about government.

The first through seventh graders have been studying about government, both on the local and state level. Prior to their trip to Salem, students hosted Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann, Councilman Rod Hardin and City Manager Byron Smith for the school's "Meet Your Local Government Night."

While in Salem, the group started in the gallery of the House of Representatives where they witnessed the pomp and circumstance of state government. Smith introduced each student by name during the courtesies portion of the welcome ceremony.

After lunch, they took a tour of the capitol building and were able to watch part of the minimum wage debate from



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STACEY STANEK

Hermiston Junior Academy first through seventh graders and chaperones were hosted by Rep. Greg Smith, far right, during a recent trip to Oregon's capital in Salem.

the gallery of the Senate. Smith then took the group onto the House of Representatives floor where he discussed how a bill becomes a law and the importance of working hard and getting an education.

Students also said hello to Gov. Kate Brown, Rep. Greg Barreto, Rep. Margaret Doherty, Sen. Bill Hansell and Tom Insko, president of Eastern Oregon University. The

students were thrilled to meet the elected officials and learn about their jobs.

Hermiston Junior Academy is a Seventh-day Adventist school that provides a Christian education for preschool to eighth grade. The school welcomes students of any denomination and has open enrollment throughout the school year. For more information, visit www.hjra.org.

Beinert graduates from Valdosta State

Timothy Beinert of Hermiston earned a Doctor of Public Administration degree from Valdosta State University. Beinert is one of 786 students who completed the requirements of their respective academic programs during the fall semester 2015.

IN BRIEF

Echo student receives best of show

Ethan Hobson of Echo High School received a best of show for high school sophomores in the Eastern Oregon Regional High School Art Exhibition.

The show, which opened Feb. 19, is on display in the Nightingale Gallery at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. Hobson received recognition for his metal sculpture "Metal Ribbon."

The annual exhibition gives audiences the opportunity to view the work of students from high schools throughout the region. The student work features a variety of media and is juried by the EOU art program faculty.

The exhibit runs through Tuesday, March 15. Nightingale Gallery hours are Monday through Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. It's located in the university's Loso Hall.

For more information visit www.eou.edu/art.

Class highlights Alzheimer's care

A free class will provide information on how to create a positive environment for those with Alzheimer's or dementia.

Presented by Oregon Care Partners, the session includes information about the personal and financial challenges of caring for Alzheimer's patients at home. Family and professional caregivers are invited to attend "Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers: Middle Stage"

Thursday, March 10 from 2-6 p.m. in the education department at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

Although there is no charge, those planning to attend are asked to register by calling 800-272-3900.

Oregon Care Partners provides free trainings throughout the year across the state. For more information, visit www.oregoncarepartners.com.

Elks announce Most Valuable Student scholarships

The Hermiston Elks recently awarded its 2016 Most Valuable Student scholarships.

The first place boy was Colton Seelye of Irrigon High School, who will receive an \$800 scholarship. The first place girl was Gabriela Lemus-Macias of Umatilla High School, also receiving \$800. Second place girl was Jailin Colula, also of UHS, who will receive \$400.

The contest is held each year and requires students to submit a brochure that is graded on academics, leadership, community involvement and employment. Students from Boardman, Echo, Hermiston, Irrigon, Stanfield and Umatilla schools are eligible to apply.

The Elks National Foundation Inc. awards more than \$4 million in scholarships each year. Money for the local contest is generated by the local lodge membership.

Sign dedication includes salute to veterans

A ceremony honoring Umatilla County veterans who served and died in World War I coincides with the erection of highway signs.

Military veterans will give speeches, a color guard will be on hand and a military band will play "Taps" during the dedication event, which is Wednesday, March 9 at 9 a.m. at Pendleton VFW Post, 1221 SE Court Place, Pendleton. Three signs honoring WW I veterans will be placed on Highway 395, south of Pendleton and north of Hermiston.

For more information, call Glenn Scott at 541-667-3125.

Peg Willis discusses new novel

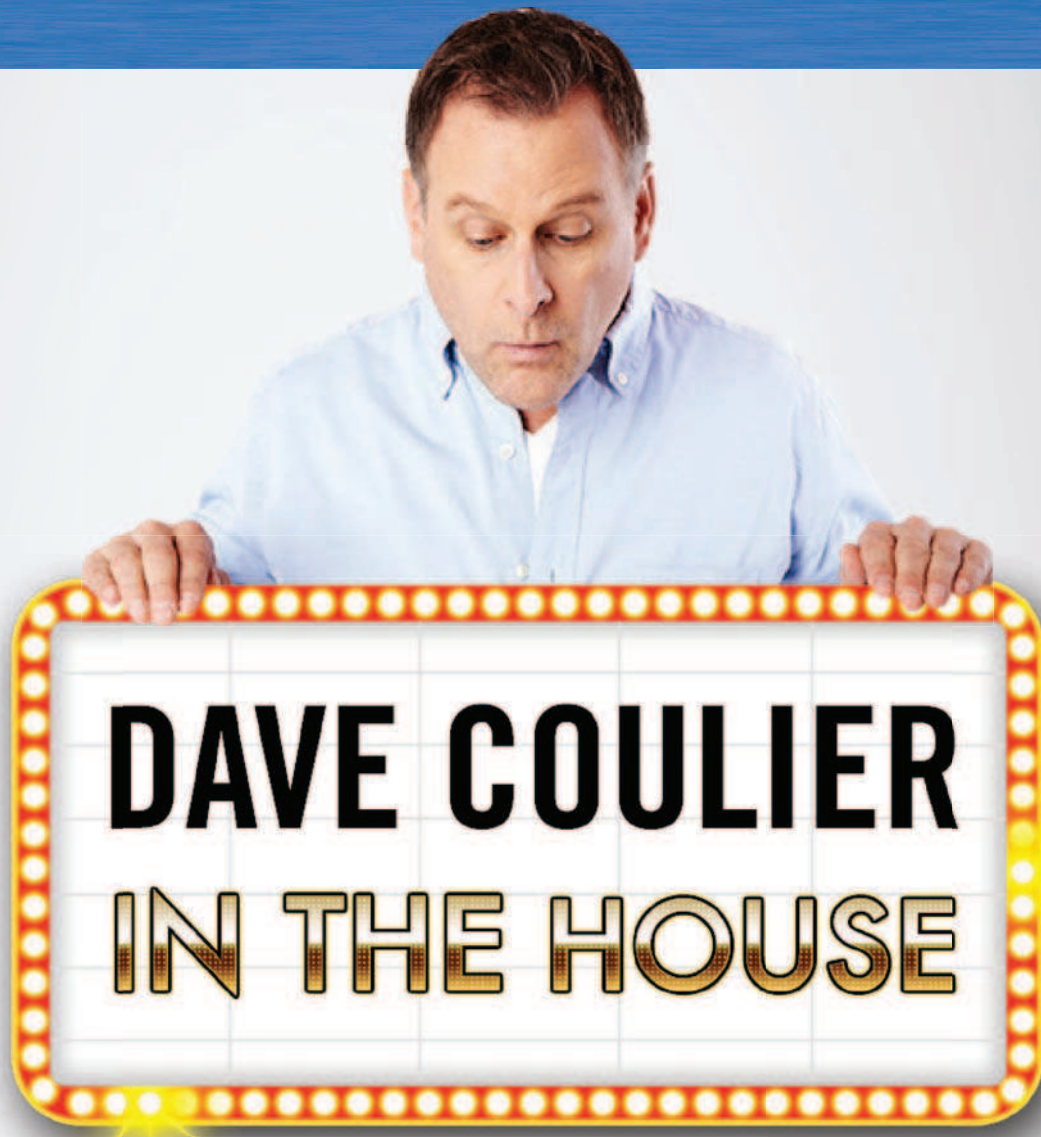
Pendleton author Peg Willis will sign copies and discuss her new book, "Rise Above."

The unexpected cloudburst turned an otherwise mild day into one that Heppner would never forget. A historically accurate novel, Willis tells the story of one man's quest to reunite with his children following the devastating Hepper Flood of 1903.

The event is Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Community Room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton.

For more information, call 541-966-0380 or 541-276-7323. For a book review, visit www.eastoregonian.com/eo/book-reviews/20151212/tragic-flood-basis-of-new-novel.

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