

Our Community

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Road trip leads to special moments with family

After returning from a road trip to visit my folks — I was reminded that there are things about being someone's kid that really rock.

Despite the fact that I'm a college graduate, have a full-time job, pay a home mortgage and have been married for 32 years, whenever I go to Coos Bay I'm "Kidlet No. 2."

My mom always tells me, "It doesn't matter how old you are, you'll always be my little girl." Since Coos Bay is about a 15-hour round-trip drive from Hermiston, it's not a weekend destination. Needing to take some time off from work, I figured it was the perfect opportunity to cruise across the state to see my folks.

While talking on the phone confirming plans for the trip, I asked my mom if she'd make roast.

Over the years I've ruined many good cuts of meat trying to replicate my favorite family Sunday dinner. One time I even got cooking tips from an octogenarian while at the funeral of a former boss's mom. Even though I wouldn't be there on a Sunday, my mom was more than happy to prepare a roast for her "Tammy Sue."

I packed the Jeep and headed out last Tuesday afternoon with the General, my 3-year-old German shepherd. He makes a great traveling partner, but since he doesn't share in the driving duties I made a pit stop in Woodburn. In addition to being about halfway to Coos Bay, it provided an opportunity to get some shoes for my husband at the outlet mall and have lunch with some old friends.

I arrived in Coos Bay the next evening just in time for dinner. And, as luck would have it, my mom had prepared meatloaf — another one of my favorites.

As we ate dinner, my pops asked me what I wanted to do while I was in town. I didn't have much of an agenda, I wanted to go to the student store at Marshfield High School — my alma mater — to get a baseball hat and do some junkin' in second hand stores.

My mom was giddy with excitement to have me home. Sitting in the living room, we took a jaunt down memory lane — sharing stories from days gone by. I couldn't believe my mom was still up. Oftentimes when I call, she's already in bed by 8 p.m.

When my eyes started to droop, I finally retired

to "the pink bedroom." When I lived in that room, it had obnoxious smiley face wallpaper. If you think that sounds dreadful, imagine how I felt as a 17-year-old waking up with a hangover with yellow, orange and pink smiley faces everywhere.

The next day, my brother joined us all for lunch at a Mexican restaurant. Partway through the meal my mom's face was beaming. "I have both my kidlets here," she said. It had been almost four years since our whole family was all together.

That moment made the whole trip worth it — that and the roast beef dinner my mom and brother prepared.

Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, Inside my Shoes, includes general musings about life. Contact her at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539.



Tammy Malgesini
INSIDE MY SHOES

Arts center seeks area shutterbugs

Regional photo contest features cash prizes

HERMISTON HERALD

Photographers from across the region are invited to get their best shots ready for the Open Regional Photography Exhibit at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

The exhibit offers both amateurs and professionals a chance to share their work in the East Oregonian Gallery, as well as vie for more than \$1,400 in cash awards.

Participants may enter up to two photos. The entry fee is \$10 per work for adults and \$5 for teens. The photos must be dropped off Saturday, April 2, between noon and 4 p.m. at the arts center, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton.

The exhibit opens Friday, April 8, with a judge's critique at 5 p.m. and a reception from 5:30-7 p.m. The photographs will be on view through May 27.

More than 75 photographers from throughout the region participate each year and organizers expect even more in 2016. The exhibit is non-juried, so every work is accepted and displayed.

Banner Bank of Pend-

leton underwrites the event each year, providing funds for cash awards for both adults and teens. Visitors to the exhibit will have an opportunity to cast their vote for the \$200 Jacqueline Brown People's Choice Award, which will be presented on the final day of the exhibition. Also, in celebration of this year's 100th anniversary of the opening of the Carnegie building that houses Pendleton Center for the Arts, an additional \$200 in prize money — made possible through the support of Jill and Mike Thorne — will be awarded to photos that celebrate the building in some way.

Hosted by the Arts Council of Pendleton for more than 35 years, the Open Regional Exhibit alternates paintings and sculpture with photography every other year. Before the renovation of the old library building, organizers used several venues, including Blue Mountain Community College and the Pendleton Convention Center.

Judging this year's entries is Rich Rollins, a photographer and photographic educator. He has a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Vermont and a master's of fine art from Arizona State University.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A visitor views photos in the 2014 Open Regional Photography Exhibit at Pendleton Center for the Arts. Submissions for this year's event will be accepted Saturday, April 2 from noon to 4 p.m.

Rollins said there is no single subject matter that he prefers. It's the vision of the photographer that draws him into the work as he seeks to discover their world, what they hope to communicate and the meaning it has for them.

"I am eclectic in my photographic interests, enjoying everything from the whimsy and mystery of less than sharp pinhole and plastic camera images to photographs that render the world with extraordinary depth and detail," he said.

For entry forms and complete information, stop by the arts center or visit www.pendletonarts.org. For questions, call 541-278-9201.

Area students chosen for youth tour

Lauren Santoyo of Hermiston High School and Katelyn Bass of Ione Community School were selected to represent Umatilla Electric Cooperative June 9-16 at the 2016 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour.

Santoyo is the daughter of Luis and Norma Santoyo of Hermiston. She has maintained a 3.8 GPA during her high school years. Also, Santoyo is a member of Key Club and is running for president of the DECA (Distributive Education Club of America) Club. She played volleyball during her freshman and sophomore years, and works at the school's Student Store and Kennison Concession. In addition, Santoyo is an active participant in youth group activities at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church.

Bass is the daughter of Gary and Lani Bass of Boardman. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is very involved in her school and community, including 4-H and FFA. She plays volleyball, basketball and tennis. A member of the National Honor Society,

Bass has received Outstanding Achievement Awards in biology, physical science and band. By the end of her sophomore year she had earned more than 20 college credits.

"We are excited to continue to promote this program and be able to find great candidates who will represent UEC in Washington, D.C.," said Connie Shrum, manager of Member Services.

The two young ladies will join 1,500 other students from across the United States on a week-long educational trip hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. They will get to speak with Oregon's state representatives, visit the World War II, Vietnam, Iwo Jima war memorials, the Smithsonian and Holocaust museums, hear motivational speakers, learn about electric cooperatives and participate in many fun activities.

This opportunity was open to area high school juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Umatilla Electric Cooperative.



Bass



Santoyo

IN BRIEF

Congressman invites student art entries

Artistically talented high school students are invited to enter the Congressional Art Competition and possibly have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., invites area students to submit their artwork for the contest, which began in 1982. A panel of artists and art professors will judge each student's work and choose the winner and the runners-up.

Besides having their artwork displayed in the 2016 national student art exhibit in the nation's capital, the winner will receive complimentary round-trip airfare for two to visit Washington, D.C., see the exhibit and attend a reception in their honor. The runners-up will have their artwork hung in one of Walden's offices in Bend, Medford, La Grande or Hood River.

To enter the contest, students must submit no more than two pieces of artwork and the Student Information & Release Form by Wednesday, April 20. To enter, send photos of the artwork and the student release form to Kirby Garrett at kirby.garrett@mail.house.gov. Forms and information is available at www.walden.house.gov/art-competition.

Author shares life with Parkinson's

An author who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2008 at age 62 will share about her new book, "If I can Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, Why Can't I Brush my Teeth? Courage, Tenacity and Love Meet Parkinson's Disease."

Sponsored by Hermiston's Parkinson's Disease Support Group, Parkinson's Resources of Oregon and Altrusa International of Hermiston, Nan Little will speak Monday, March 7, at 6 p.m. in Conference Room 2 at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. The presentation is appropriate for patients, caregivers, health care providers and others touched by Parkinson's disease.

Little is a wife, grandmother, adventurer, cyclist, teacher, volunteer, speaker and Parkinson's advocate. Her recent book provides honest and raw insight into what one goes through in the diagnosis and treatment of a neurodegenerative disease. Even with the disease, Little has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, cycled across Iowa four times, trekked to Annapurna Base Camp and hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

The book will be available for purchase. For more information, call 541-720-4256.

Blu Cru plans dinner, auction

The Blu Cru Umatilla Vikings Booster Club will host its ninth annual Steak Dinner & Auction.

The event is Saturday, March 12, at 5:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at Umatilla schools, the district office and select Umatilla businesses. If the event doesn't sell-out, additional tickets will be available at the door.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/1112751458759325.



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