

Our Community

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Lions Club member receives service pin

Hermiston Lions Club member Kelly Sanders was recently recognized for his years of service.

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, Lions International president, recognized Sanders, who received his 25-year service pin from Presi-

dent Phillip Spicer-Kuhn. Sanders is vice president of human resources at Good Shepherd Health Care System.

For more about the Lions Club, call Hopkins at 541-534-4390 or visit www.lionsclub.org.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY GERALD HOPKINS

Kelly Sanders, left, is presented with a Lions Club 25-year service pin by President Phillip Spicer-Kuhn.

IN BRIEF

Season springs with seed swap

With spring just around the corner, it's time to freshen up that green thumb.

The Bloomer Girls Garden Club is teaming up with the Hermiston Public Library to help share the bounty. A Seed Swap & Seed Starting Event is planned Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in the library's Lanhams Room, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Everyone is invited — from seasoned seed collectors to novices in the world of gardening.

People are invited to bring seeds and up to five pots for those needing help getting seeds started. A limited amount of soil will be available.

For more information, call Jodi Hansen at 541-567-2882.

Fire chief brews coffee, conversation

The public can learn more about the local fire district during Coffee with the Chiefs.

Chief Scott Stanton of Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services and others will meet with people over a cup of joe Thursday from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Chuckwagon Cafe, 81027 N. Highway 395, Hermiston. The March 17 gathering is at Lucky Jam Barn, 270 S. Main St., Stanfield.

Story stitches together tale of two women

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Community Editor

Delving into Chinese history and culture, Seattle-area author Kelli Estes weaves together a historical fiction novel that alternates chapters with a story in the present day in "The Girl Who Wrote in Silk."

After reading about the brutal deaths of Chinese people being smuggled by boat through the San Juan Islands, Estes was compelled to learn more. Researching the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, Estes read about the intense anti-Chinese sentiment in the United States, which led to whole communities of Chinese being driven out, Chinatowns burned to the ground, beatings, lynchings and massacres.

"As a lover of history and a native of the Pacific Northwest, I was surprised that I had never known about any of this before," Estes said. "I decided right then that it was up to me to write about it so this shameful and important part of our history isn't forgotten."

Inspired by a souvenir from China — an embroidered silk sleeve — the author stitches together the tales of two women in her debut novel, a story that includes tragedy, romance and mystery. Intrigued with the

significance of embroidery in the Chinese culture, Estes said it was the perfect way to tie together the past and present in telling the stories of Mei Lein and Inara Erickson.

The book appeared on the USA Today Bestsellers list in December 2015. "I loved books so much that I believed authors must be magical beings born with special powers, and I certainly believed they lived somewhere far away from the rural town where I grew up in eastern Washington," Estes said.

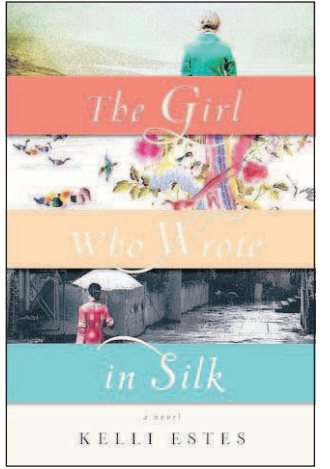
When Carolyn Landwehr Estes — who is now Estes' sister-in-law — mentioned she was writing a book, it opened up Estes' world. Landwehr Estes was the first person the would-be author had met who professed to be a writer — and she appeared normal, not like the fabled creatures of Estes' imagination.

When out promoting her book, Estes especially enjoys connecting with students. With so much emphasis on STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — Estes said kids that are drawn to the arts aren't always validated. It's her goal to inspire students to dream big and to pursue what interests them.

Altrusa International of Hermiston is hosting the au-

thor, who will speak to students at Armand Larive Middle School. Also, the public is invited to a book-signing and presentation by Estes Monday, March 14, at 7 p.m. at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave. The event is free, although, people are encouraged to bring a book to donate to Altrusa's Little Red Library at Belt Park.

For more information, call Armchair Books at 541-276-7323 or visit www.kelliestes.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Estes

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- Gary L. West | Editor • gwest@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4532
- Tammy Malgesini | Community Editor • tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4539
- Sam Barbee | Sports Reporter • sbarbee@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4542
- Jade McDowell | Reporter • jmcowell@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4536
- Jeanne Jewett | Multi-Media consultant • jjewett@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4531
- Jennifer Colton | Reporter • jcolton@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4534
- Shannon Paxton | Office coordinator • spaxton@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4530
- Audra Workman | Multi-Media consultant • aworkman@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4538

To contact the Hermiston Herald for news, advertising or subscription information:
• call 541-567-6457
• e-mail info@hermistonherald.com
• stop by our offices at 333 E. Main St.
• visit us online at: hermistonherald.com

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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Michael Shafer
WESTON-McEWEN HIGH SCHOOL

Michael is currently a junior at Weston-McEwen High School. He has a 4.57 GPA and ranked 1st in his class. Michael has served as president of his class both his freshman and sophomore years and is the student body representative to the school board this year. He is an active member of the Weston-McEwen Band and Pipes and Drums, FFA and plays tennis for the TigerScots. Last year as a sophomore he was awarded the Rickard McCracken award for outstanding sophomore boy. After graduation in 2017, Michael's plans include attending Harvard and obtaining his Juris Doctorate Degree in Law and then becoming a Politician.

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Jacob Tyler Jones
ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
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