Onion shed fire caused \$1.2 million in damage



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY HERMISTON FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Hermiston firefighters work to extinguish a fire at Columbia Basin Onion southwest of Hermiston on Wednesday afternoon.

A fire that consumed an onion shed outside Hermiston Wednesday, June 1, afternoon caused an estimated \$1.2 million in damage to the building, according to Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services Chief Scott Stanton.

Stanton said that estimate does not include a pickup truck, tools and a piece of machinery that were also in-

LOCAL NEWS

side the building at the time. About 45 firefighters were on scene at Columbia Basin Spreaders' Westland Road location for more than two hours Wednesday after the blaze started about 3:30

One person was injured in the blaze, and was flown to a Portland burn unit for treatment.

The cause is under inves-



STAFF PHOTO BY GEORGE PLAVEN

One man was taken to the hospital with injuries after a truck versus motorcycle crash Friday in Hermiston.

Man hospitalized after pickup truck

A Umatilla man was

Gordon Adams, 50,

taken by ambulance to Good Shepherd Medical Center. Adams was traveling north when he was clipped by Alfredo Santana, 47, of Kennewick, driving for Star West Sat-

not injured.

hits motorcycle

taken to the hospital Friday afternoon after his motorcycle was clipped by a pickup truck on Highway 395 across from Rogers Toyota in Hermis-

sustained non-life threatening injuries and was

ellite. Santana was cited by Hermiston Police with careless driving. He was

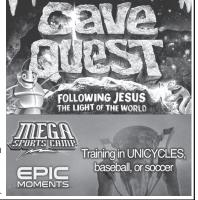
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Senator visits Hermiston High

Staff Writer

Sen. Ron Wyden plans to put Hermiston High School in the spotlight as Congress works to implement new education legislation.

He met with career-technical education students Wednesday, June 1, including business students and members of the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilding Program.

"If it's all right with you, I'm going to talk about you guys on the floor of the Senate," Wyden told the students.

He had high praise for Hermiston's CTE programs, calling them "exactly the kind of model" he wanted to highlight as he works to create legislation aimed at raising graduation rates.

"I haven't heard of anyone else that has the array of

programs you do," he said. Wyden said Oregon has a lot to be proud of, but its high school graduation rate is not one of those things. As he has been looking at what type of legislation might help boost graduation rates, research has shown that those rates are tied to attendance, and CTE programs help boost attendance.

When Congress passed the Every Child Achieves Act to replace No Child Left Behind, Wyden included language that will give schools with low graduation rates access to federal grants for programs that help keep at-risk students interested in

school. He told the students the "spark" he could see in them as they talked about their hands-on projects is something he wants to see spread

to other schools. You guys have a chance to be a real model, and that's why I came here today," he said.

One of the students who shared their project with Wyden was Hannah Reese, who won a gold medal at state for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). She received 97 of 100 points for a recreation and tourism project that involved creating a detailed business plan for a restaurant and catering business that she said she plans to open someday. One of her ideas included cupcakes made fresh every day that will appeal to a variety of customers.

"I want to invest in vegan and gluten-free options, she said.

Wyden said he was working on a bill that would help cut red tape for recreation and tourism businesses, such as requiring all of the permit applications to be accessible online.

"I'd like you to take a look at it," he told Reese. "I'd really like to have your comments."



Sen. Ron Wyden listens to Hermiston senior Hannah Reese, second from left, talk about her project on hospitality and recreation Wednesday, June 1, at Hermiston High School.



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston senior Dru Walchli, bottom, makes a coffee drink for Sen. Ron Wyden as senior Kiersten Miller talks about Java Dawg, the Hermiston High School student run coffee shop, on June 1 in Hermiston.

Salma Anguiano, a sophomore, shared that she was recently elected president of the Oregon FCCLA chapter and will be working with the national council to draft proposals for education-related legislation. She said she didn't know what she would be doing if she didn't have programs like FCCLA to keep her busy.

"Not all schools in Oregon have the awesome opportunity to take the classes we do," she said.

After the roundtable with students, they took Wyden on a tour of the Java Dawgs coffee shop run by accounting students, and the Dawg House, a shop selling Bulldogs gear that is also run by business students.

"I've decided Hermiston High is a hotbed of capitalism," Wyden said.

Following the tour at the

high school the group headed over to Fieldstone #2, the second student-built home created by the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilding Program. While students from an agricultural class worked to landscape the yard, homebuilding students put the finishing touches on the highly energy-efficient home, which is on the market for \$345,000.

gorgeous," "This is Wyden remarked as he got the grand tour.

The home was open to the public for tours on Friday, June 3.





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