

# Our Community

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## Hermiston woman wins homemaker award

### HERMISTON HERALD

The Umatilla County Fair recently announced that Teresa Veach of Hermiston was named the 2016 Homemaker of the Year.

It's not every year that the fair announces a winner of the award due to the very specific requirements that must be met for the title. It includes a minimum of five entries per department in Textiles & Needlecraft, Clothing, Baked Foods and Food Preservation. In addition, the winner must receive at least three blue ribbons in each department.

Veach, who grew up in southern Oregon, has lived in Hermiston for 28 years. She teaches middle school and high school business and math.

She learned to bake at an early age. In addition, her mother encouraged Veach to take a semester of sewing as a high school

freshman. Since then, Veach has continued to make clothing for her parents, nieces and herself.

Her grandmother taught her how to crochet, beginning with a pair of Granny Square slippers. In addition, she has been canning for the last dozen years or so.

However, it was just a few years ago that Veach realized "Open Class" meant she could enter items in the fair, win ribbons and earn premiums. When she picked up the exhibitors guide, the words "Homemaker of the Year" caught her eye. She decided it would be a fun challenge. This was the first year Veach qualified with enough entries to be in the running for the title.

For more information, contact 541-567-6121, fair@umatillacounty.net or visit www.umatillacounty.net/fair.

### IN BRIEF

#### Good Shepherd foundation awards grants

In September, the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation awarded 33,154 in health-related grants to nonprofit organizations to benefit their work in local communities. The recipients were:

Irrigon Jr/Sr. High School, \$2,659; Made to Thrive, \$5,200; CAPECO, \$1,500; America Youth Soccer, \$750; Umatilla Police Department, \$2,100; Hermiston Fire & Emergency, \$15,000; and the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, \$5,945.

As a community foundation, it strives to help improve the quality of life and health of the local community. Grants for worthwhile projects are reviewed and awarded twice a year, in March and September. The deadline for spring grants is Jan. 31, and fall grants is July 31.

For more information, contact Bob Green at 541-667-3419, rgreen@gshealth.org. A grant application is available at www.gshealth.org/foundation.

#### Inland Northwest Orchestra opens season

The Inland Northwest Musicians opens its season with an orchestra performance featuring Geoffrey McKay, Jason Zhuang and Lindsay Armstrong, winners of the Young Artist Competition.

The free concert is Sunday at 4 p.m. in the auditorium at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. A reception will follow.

Under the direction of R. Lee Friese, selections will include "The Barber of Seville" by G. Rossini, "Midsommarvaka" by Hugo Alfvén (Also known as The Swedish Rhapsody) and "Concerto in Eb" by Joseph Hayden, arranged by Michel Rondeau.

For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

## AUTHOR DETAILS REAL-LIFE ADVENTURES BEHIND HIS NOVELS

### Author details real-life adventures behind his novels

By **JADE McDOWELL**  
Staff Writer

When author Roland Smith was in fourth grade, he decided he was going to catch Bigfoot.

It felt like there were stories in the newspaper about Sasquatch sightings every day, he said, so it seemed perfectly logical to his little boy mind that if he just dug a hole in the back yard of his parents' Portland home and covered it with newspapers, Bigfoot would fall in.

Instead one morning as he ate his cereal he watched his mother abruptly disappear from view.

"I said, 'It works!'" he told an audience at Armand Larive Middle School on Wednesday, Oct. 5. "When she got out of the hospital — it was just a broken femur, but apparently that hurts — I was grounded forever."

It's only fitting that one of the Oregon author's young adult novels is titled Sasquatch.

Most of Smith's books relay fantastical adventures, but each of them have some roots in his life. Smith started working at the Oregon Zoo at age 18 and later became a wildlife biologist, so scenes in his books featuring elephants, wild cats or wolves are often taken from his detailed, first-hand knowledge of their behavior.

Smith's first book, for example, published in 1990, is a nonfiction story called Sea Otter Rescue. It is based on



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Oregon author Roland Smith answers questions from the audience while speaking at Armand Larive Middle School on Wednesday in Hermiston.

his months-long experiences rescuing hundreds of sea otters from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Smith said sea otters, unlike many other marine creatures, cannot get away from oil spills because they can't leave the shoreline. To survive, an adult sea otter must eat 25 pounds of shellfish per day, but can only dive up to 50 feet to reach them. Oil on their fur breaks its water-proof protection and results in hypothermia, which is why a team of scientists led by Smith had to quickly capture as many sea otters as they could, wash them, and keep them protected from the oil until they could safely be released back into the wild.

Smith said his main work as a biologist, however, was saving the red wolf from extinction. At one point only 17 red wolves, or Florida wolves, existed in the world. Smith and other scientists captured all 17 and treated them for mange and heart-

worm, eventually getting the population up over 200 and becoming the first program to successfully reintroduce endangered carnivores into the wild after taking them all into captivity.

Later he worked with elephants, his favorite animal. "I love elephants," he said. "I've written a lot of books about elephants."

One of those books, "Thunder Cave," details the adventures of a 14-year-old boy who travels to Kenya and ends up tangling with poachers. Smith said if the world doesn't do more to stop poaching, elephants will go extinct in the wild within the audience's lifetime.

"I don't know about you, but I think the ivory looks a lot better on the elephant's face than on someone's shelf," he said.

Smith's Pacific Northwest home often enters his writing, which have included such famous incidents as the Mount Saint Helens erup-

tion, the D.B. Cooper hijacking and the journey of Lewis and Clark.

Smith arrived in Hermiston last Tuesday and continued his week-long presentations at schools, made possible thanks to grants from the Hermiston Education Foundation, Altrusa International and each school's PTO. He told students and parents gathered at Armand Larive for parent night that he writes every day, so "when my new book comes out, you'll know some of it was written right here in Hermiston."

Kristi Smalley, a media specialist for Hermiston School District, said students have been reading Smith's books in preparation for his visit, and have been visiting the library to get more.

"It's not often they get to see the person behind the books," she said.

Contact Jade McDowell at 541-564-4536.

## Arts center exhibit features Hermiston artist

### Portland2016 Biennial included Arlen Clark's work

Hermiston Herald

Hermiston artist Arlen Clark was surprised last year when he received a call from Michelle Grabner, asking if she could come by and see his work.

A nationally known artist, Grabner was co-curator for the Whitney Biennial in 2014, one of the most prestigious exhibits in the United States. She was traveling the state trying to identify the most interesting artists in Oregon for the Portland2016 Biennial, and Clark's work was on her ra-

dar. After a 1,800-mile trek to visit 400 artists, Grabner invited Clark to be one of 105 artists featured in Salon: Portland2016, The Studio Visits, which was featured at Disjecta Contemporary Art Center.

A springboard from that success, Clark created a new body of work which is on display in the East Oregonian Gallery at Pendleton Center for the Arts. The exhibit runs through Saturday, Oct. 29. The arts center is open Tuesday through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. at 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. There is no admission charge.

Painting for the past 35 years, when Clark first became interested, he took

an art class with northwest painter Sandra Campbell.

"She didn't teach us how to paint, she just told us we could paint anything we wanted, any way we wanted," he said.

Clark spent the next several years trying to figure out what and how he wanted to paint. Like many successful artists, Clark's exploration included making copies of paintings by the old masters.

Shortly after, he was in Hawaii and was struck by the vibrant colors and lush foliage. Clark also was interested in painting portraits of his wife, Linda, from old photographs.

An interest in art history and the works of the icons of modern art has given Clark's work a rich collection of associations. Viewers might recognize references to everything from Picasso and Gauguin to Australian aboriginal work.

"One of the things I love about Arlen's work is that while he's depicting people and places that are very personal to him, the paintings provide a dynamic backdrop that sparks the observer's imagination," said Roberta Lavador, executive director at the arts center.

For more information, call 541-278-9201 or visit www.pendletonarts.org.

## Fourth-graders learn about local agriculture

Staff reports

A total of 245 fourth-graders from five Morrow County elementary schools learned about local agriculture Wednesday, Oct. 5, during an event presented by the nonprofit Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, and hosted by the SAGE Center in Boardman.

Dozens of community members volunteered to lead students around each of 13 stations, featuring everything from fruits and vegetables to equipment safety. Students were able

to grind wheat using a bicycle wheat grinder, and pressed apples into cider.

Presenters included Oregon State University Extension Service, Echo FFA members and other local farmers. The event was sponsored by Madison Ranches, Umatilla Electric Cooperative, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Boardman Foods, Jill and Tim Parker, Sunrise Café and Milky Way.

More information about Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation is available at oregonaitc.org.

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**POWERFUL TOOLS FOR THE CAREGIVER**

Build a tool kit for taking better care of yourself while caring for a loved one. FREE, must pre-register, please call 541-667-3509.

3:00pm - 4:30pm  
Thursdays starting Oct. 13 through Nov. 17

**PREVENT T2 INFO SESSION**

One out of every three American adults has prediabetes - and 90% don't know it! Learn how the Prevent T2 program can help prevent or delay the progression to type 2 diabetes. (Prevent T2 classes will be scheduled to meet participants needs.) FREE.

Attend one of the dates/times listed below  
4:00pm - 5:00pm OR 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
Wednesdays, Oct. 19 Nov. 16 or Jan. 11  
Must pre-register, call 541-667-3509

**HEALTHY FRIDAYS**

FREE health screenings & health coaching:  
Blood pressure checks, weigh-ins, body mass index, cholesterol and glucose.

First & Third Friday of each month  
9:30 - 11:30am  
GSMC Conference Center 7 (by Education Dept)

**BABYSITTING BASICS**

For babysitters ages 10-15. Learn childcare techniques, children's developmental stages and what to expect, basic first aid and infant and child CPR. \$35, includes lunch & all class materials.

9:00am - 3:00pm  
Oct. 8 or Nov. 5  
\$35 - Must pre-register and pre-pay, call 541-667-3509

Information or to register  
call (541) 667-3509  
or email  
healthinfo@gshealth.org  
www.gshealth.org

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