



Children participate in a past Stations of the Cross re-enactment at the Hermiston Butte.

## RE-ENACTMENT

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show which Station of the Cross is being depicted. While a scene of Jesus' resurrection is not included in the Stations of the Cross, one of the

church's adult leaders will share about it prior to the conclusion of the event.

Numerous church parishioners and others from the community attend each year.

People who plan to walk to the top of the butte are reminded it includes uneven ground. The wearing of sturdy shoes is recommended.

Those who are interested in reading about Christ's crucifixion can find accounts in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the Bible's New Testament.

For more information about the "Way of the Cross," call Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church at 541-567-5812.

## BTW

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spend much of the next year and post-graduation teaching and hosting workshops at schools across the state.

The **Hermiston High School Chamber Choir** will sing for a shot at the state title in May. At the district regional competition in La Grande last Wednesday, Hermiston placed first in their division, and will get a chance to show their stuff to a state audience at George Fox University on May 4.

Choir Director **Jordan Bemrose-Rust** said the students had to get a score of 85 or above from two of three judges at the event. The group received an 87, a

90 and a 92 from the judging panel. There were four competitors in Hermiston's 5A division.

The Hermiston High School Chamber Choir has 38 students, ranging from sophomores to seniors. Several choir students are traveling to Disneyland over spring break for a choir trip that will include performing at one of the Disney parks and recording music.

"They're super excited," Bemrose-Rust said. "The kids have been working very hard."

If you were worried about getting your snow tires off this week, worry no more. The state has extended the deadline to April 15 due to the possibility of some late snowfall in parts of the state.

To help local golfers get back into the swing of things, **Big River Golf Course** in Umatilla held the **Brown Grass Tournament**.

Taking home the green in cash prizes during the March 17 event included the first place team of **Josh Williams, Matt Bergstrom, Dick Snyder** and **Gary Mercer**, who had a 59 gross.

Coming in second with 63 was the team of **Sergio Rodriguez, Jim Johnson, Mark Herman** and **Ben Hunter**; and third place, also with a 63, went to the team of **Jake Burns, Pat Kerrigan, Don Obrist** and **Bev Miller**.

Scappoose resident **Opal Miller Timmel** recently

dropped a line to the **Hermiston Herald**. The 92-year-old **Herald** subscriber previously lived in Hermiston from 1946-1991.

Timmel said she misses living in the area. The newspaper, she said, helps her stay abreast of what's happening in her former hometown.

You can submit items for our weekly **By The Way** column by emailing your tips to [editor@hermistonherald.com](mailto:editor@hermistonherald.com) or share them on social media using the hashtag #HHBTW.



HH FILE PHOTO

Scott Lukas, assistant professor of horticulture at Oregon State University, checks on his watermelon trials at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Experiment Station in 2017.

## DISTRICTS

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other districts.

"It really varies tax lot by tax lot what the impact would be," she said. "There has been some concern in Milton-Freewater, [which is] not currently under compression. In that local government pool, if the extension was added, it would put them at about \$8, a couple of dollars under the cap."

Umatilla County Assessor Paul Chalmers said voters can look at their own tax statements and calculate how the extension district tax will affect them. Taxpayers can find their own tax code area on their property tax statement, then go to the county website and access the tax rates for everything in their code area. The tax rates are available at [www.co.umatilla.or.us/at/index.html](http://www.co.umatilla.or.us/at/index.html). Compression, as set by Measure 5 and Measure 50, limits government taxes to \$10 per \$1,000 of assessed value. That number does not include schools, which have a separate compression rate.

Because taxpayers are limited to that \$10 cap, those in areas that are

already at that level will not see an increase in their overall taxes. Instead the amounts paid to individual tax districts will be compressed to fit under the limit, which means less money for ambulance districts, library districts and others in areas in compression.

"Part of the irony with the property tax system now is that people can calculate and figure out that it's not going to affect them, but they still get to vote on it," Chalmers said.

Compression is more likely to be triggered in incorporated areas, such as the city of Hermiston or Pendleton, because city taxes often make up a large chunk of government-related taxes.

Corp said the extension service has always had financial support at the county level. State and federal dollars have been directed toward faculty and science positions, and local dollars were often sent toward support staff, rent and utilities. Money for those services has always come out of county general funds, she said. Even if voters approve the district, the county may still allot some funds to the extension service.

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