

# Turning the tassel on old-school ideas

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Evidently I'm old-school. I like to think I'm progressive and hip — geez, even the very use of the word “hip” indicates I come from a bygone era — but I am amazed at some of the attire people wear when attending graduation ceremonies. Ceremony is a big hint. The word’s very definition indicates it’s a formal occasion.

Granted, it’s been 40 years since I turned the tassel, but when I graduated, people in attendance treated it as a formal affair and wore their “Sunday best.” I recently covered Pendleton’s graduation and couldn’t believe some of the

clothing. Sure, it was held in the Round-Up Grounds, but I guarantee you cowboys getting bucked off horses in September will be better dressed than many who attended the June 2 ceremony.

Don’t get me wrong, I like to be casual and comfortable as the next person — dressing up in Eastern Oregon is more likely to mean starched jeans and a sport coat rather than evening gowns and tuxedos.

I wore capris, a collared shirt and a sun hat (NOT a baseball hat). I was definitely dressed nicer than a 20-something gal who was wearing what could best be described as an adult onesie.

Before you jump on the bandwagon dissing Pendleton’s lack of

reverence to formality, Hermiston’s recent ceremony at the Toyota Center had its unceremonious moments as well.

Last summer during discussions about possible venues (and back-up sites) for the class of 2018 ceremony, Hermiston School District officials reiterated the importance of maintaining a tradition of treating graduation as a very formal and serious event. Chicago transplant Mark Gomolski, who joined the board after a write-in campaign last spring, had questioned whether they really needed to paint the gymnasium each year for the ceremony.

Further establishing the formal nature of the event, district officials even outlined appropriate attire for those donning a cap and gown. Clothing underneath,

a letter said, could not include shorts or flip-flops. It also indicated that balloons, noise makers, silly string and confetti weren’t allowed during the ceremony.

However, the concession stands at the Toyota Center offered popcorn, nachos and other food and drinks. Seriously, what formal events feature the consumption of junk food? Do you think people snacked on meat pies during the recent royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at St. George’s Chapel?

While the consumption of food and drinks is available prior to formal performances and during intermission at New York’s Metropolitan Opera House, it isn’t allowed in the main venue. And, less formal than the MET, A.C.T. A Contemporary Theatre in Seat-

tle allows drinks in its theaters, provided they are in plastic cups with no ice. Food is a no-no.

It seems to me that those attending a graduation ceremony could forgo eating snack foods that are reminiscent of watching a sporting event. The next thing you know they’ll add a countdown and shot clock indicating how many graduates are still waiting to receive their diploma — or god forbid, having the audience engage in “The Wave” as a send-off to seniors.

*Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, Inside My Shoes, includes general musings about life. Contact her at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539.*



**Tammy Malgesini**  
INSIDE MY SHOES

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Election loss doesn’t mean end of service

Dear friends:

As you all know, I ran for the City Council position in Hermiston, Ward 1. Sadly, I came in third. However, it was an awesome experience. I loved meeting many of you and sharing my vision as a possible Council member. I want to thank Hermiston Herald and East Oregonian for their support. I want to thank all those who supported me and cast their vote for me.

I am going to continue to work behind the scenes to help Hermiston to become even a greater town to live in. I am on the budget committee and I plan on attending City Council meeting and other meetings at the ground floor level of development to ensure that the community voice is heard.

At this time, I like to announce that I am supporting Lori Davis for City Council. I’ve met with her and discussed her vision for Hermiston. She has a humble spirit and a listening ear. She will be a fine City Council member and representative of Ward 1.

Once again a million thanks to you.

Love,

**Jackie Linton**  
Hermiston

### Bounds nomination good for justice

Ryan Wesley Bounds’ nomination to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 7. Lady Justice, with her blindfold and scales of justice, smiled.

Why? Because Lady Justice knows that Ryan Bounds of Hermiston High School, Stanford University and Yale Law, law clerk to Justice Diarmuid O’Scannlain, counselor to President George W. Bush, and assistant U.S. attorney, will be a superlative justice.

Along the way, our two U.S. senators sullied themselves trying to waylay the confirmation of this worthy attorney and decent man. They failed. As they should.

After Mr. Bounds is appointed to the bench and hands down his decisions, Democrat and Republican alike will be surprised. Lady Justice will knowingly smile.

**George Anderson**  
Hermiston

### SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters Policy: Letters to the Editor is a forum for the Hermiston Herald readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters should be kept to 250 words. No personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person. The Hermiston Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length and for content.

Letters must be original and signed by the writer or writers. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Writers should include a telephone number so they can be reached for questions. Only the letter writer’s name and city of residence will be published.

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