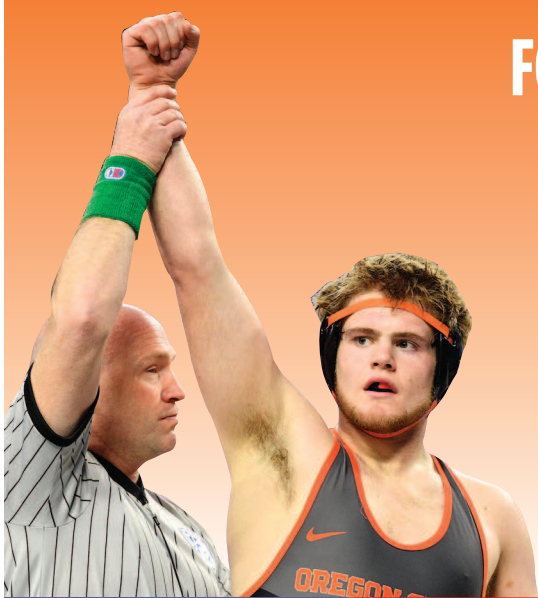


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INSIDE

NEW HOME

The Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce has found a location for its new offices.

A3

TOUGH TREK

Carol Clupny doesn't let Parkinson's disease keep her from exploring the world.

A4

STUDENT SUCCESS

Meet Brittany Mustoe, Highland Hills Elementary School's teacher of the year.

A9

BY THE WAY

Book Bombers take home Battle of the Books title

Don't forget **Rep. Greg Walden** is coming to visit Hermiston on Friday, hosting a town hall from 4-6 p.m. at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

... Hermiston elementary schools participated in a **Hermiston Battle of the Books** competition this year, with teams of four students answering questions about 16 different books.

Each school held their own tournament in January and February to find their top team: **Desert View's Chamber of Books, Highland Hills' Tales of the Readers, Rocky Heights' Book Bombers, Sunset's Fantastic Wonders, and West Park's Wildcat Bookworms.**

Those teams then competed on March 9 for the title of Hermiston Champion. The Book Bombers of Rocky Heights, working together for their third year in a row, are **Catherine Doherty, Eleanor Larsen, Glyn Lystrup, and Caden Lloyd.**

... Several Hermiston student musicians had

See BTW, Page A11

TOO SOON TO VOTE?

Hermiston students debate pros, cons of lowering the voting age in Oregon

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston teens aren't sure they're ready to vote yet — but the students in one social studies class thoughtfully debated the pros and cons of lowering the voting age to 16, something that could become a reality in the next couple of years.

A group of Oregon legislators have introduced a bill to amend the state constitution, and lower the voting age from 18 to 16. The bill is expected to go before voters in 2020. Oregon 16 year-olds can already pre-register to vote, so that they will receive a ballot for elections after they turn 18.

In Aaron Davis' senior social studies class at Hermiston High School, the majority of the students said they didn't think lowering the voting age was a good idea, but had varying reasons.

Harrison Temple said there were likely students during the 2016 election who had enough awareness to make an informed choice.

"But in other circumstances, there are people who don't pay attention," he said. "It's just another vote for their parents."

"I believe at 16, we're not well-informed of our views," said Lucia Wiley. "We rely on social media. It's not reliable, and we're impressionable. I believe we wouldn't be voting for what we believe, but what our friends, or parents believe."

Several other students echoed the idea that 16-year-olds wouldn't take the time to

get informed, but simply go with what those around them thought.

Alexis Perez said he felt turnout for the youngest group of voters was already low.

"Sixteen-year-olds probably don't have the knowledge or base understanding," he said. "There'll probably be even less voter turnout."

Sam Smelser said he likes that the voting age is 18, because it means most students have completed high school, and will hopefully have some more understanding of government.

"By that time, they're already most of the way through civics class," he said. "At 16, most of them haven't had that."

Taylor Greene said she was opposed to lowering the voting age, but said that maybe the solution was to teach those courses to underclassmen.

"Then maybe we wouldn't be so hesitant," she said.

Jessica Ferguson said she was in favor of the change.

"At 16, I'd have appreciated the right to vote," she said. "It was an election year, and considering the results of that election will probably affect my first

See VOTE, Page A11



Lucia Wiley, a student in Aaron Davis' civics class at Hermiston High School, shares her thoughts Thursday on lowering Oregon's voting age to 16.

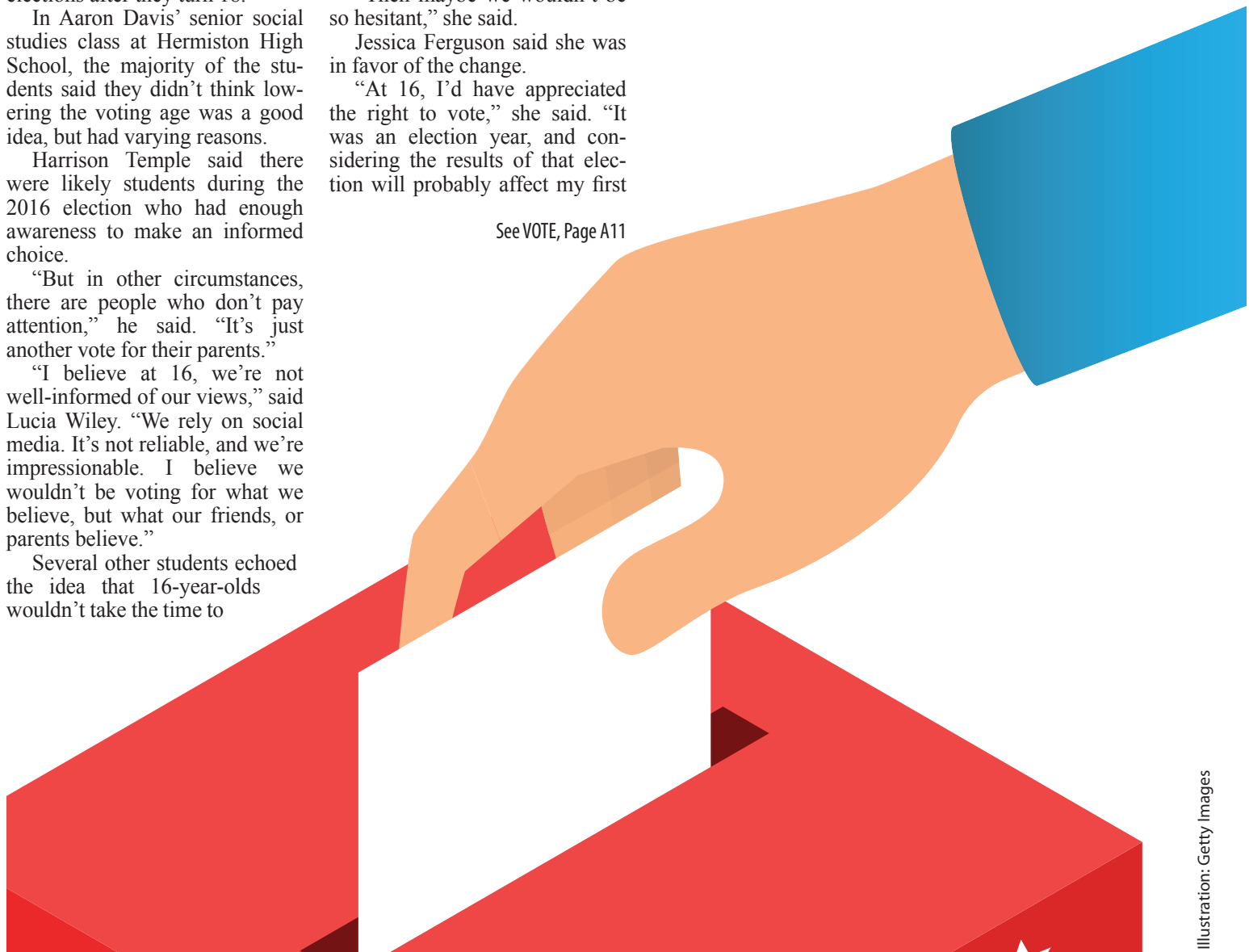


Illustration: Getty Images

Maxfest christens new Hermiston event center

By **KATHY ANEY**
STAFF WRITER

A.L. Maxwell — we raise a glass to you.

Not much is known about Maxwell, the railroad official after whom the Maxwell Siding railroad station was named. The Hermiston railroad station popped up when trains started delivering freight to Eastern Oregon rather than by freight wagons pulled by teams of mules or oxen. The Maxwell Siding Pavilion, sitting in the station's footprint, bears the station's name.

Beer aficionados filled the brand new event center on Saturday evening during Maxfest, the first official event at the 4,600-square-foot event space. Their \$30 tickets gave them tastes of craft beers and wines from

about 20 local breweries and wineries.

We don't know if Mr. Maxwell liked beer, but one can only hope that he did.

Events center owner Mitch Myers probably would have bought Maxwell a beer had he miraculously stepped through the door. He happily surveyed the crowd. The fading daylight shone in through 16 glass sliding doors that made up the building's walls. People stood around little round tables sampling microbrews and eating seafood. Others sat at tables in two tents that butted up against the building, staying warm under heat lamps.

A band, The Wasteland Kings, warmed up at the opposite end of the building.

See MAXFEST, Page A11



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Ashley Lovejoy, Danielle Baldwin and Jordan Richards converse as they sample beers Saturday at the Maxfest Craft Beer Festival at the Maxwell Siding Pavilion in Hermiston.

