

**OUR VIEW**

## Visitors show a positive way to relate with others

Let's all be friends. At the Eastern Oregon Economic Summit, held last week at Hermiston High School, some of the state's top political bigwigs gave us insight into how our government works. Their revelation might be surprising to some people. It certainly gives us some food for thought.

The news, according to top Oregon legislators, is that they are friendly toward one another. They travel together, visit each other's districts, share meals and stay over at one another's houses.

This wasn't just Republicans communing with other Republicans, and Democrats connecting with other Democrats, either. Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, liberals and moderates are all united in friendship, they said.

The picture that they shared of government was of one big love fest, at least within the state of Oregon. They get together, and they make friends.

Such behavior is useful, they said, as it facilitates government action. This is how business gets done in the state.

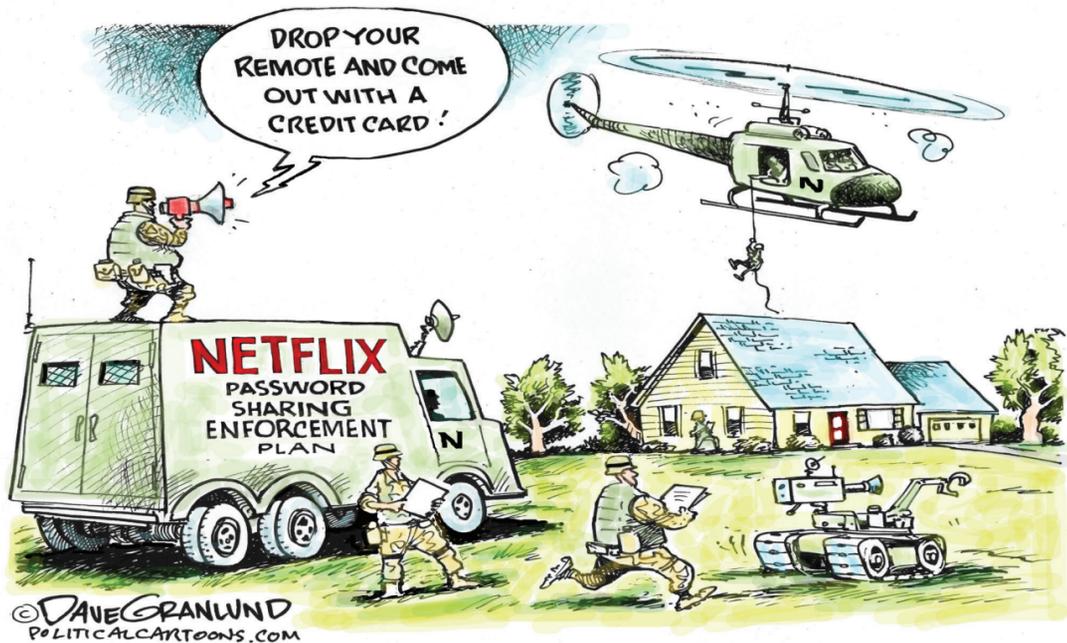
In a world that seems so divided, it is useful to remember that most of us share the same values. People on both left and right want healthy societies, good schools and solid bridges. Also, in most cases, we even agree on how to get those things.

By creating friendships, as is done by our state legislators, we can take positive actions. We can do the things that are necessary to improve our communities.

Yes, many of us disagree with one another on important issues. By forming friendly relationships, we can understand each other.

We may even change the minds of people with whom we disagree. Or, they may change our views. Either way, we all grow and come to a stronger consensus.

To paraphrase one of the speakers at the summit, we should be opponents with people with whom we disagree, not enemies.



**COLUMN**

## Learning doesn't have to end when summer begins

School is out for the summer. This doesn't mean learning has stopped, however.

Summer can be a great time where not only educational learning can take place but life-learning, too.

Technology is fully part of our culture, and we need to help our children embrace it in a positive way. Have your children make short videos for you. Have them do a video of retelling a story or book review.

The only evaluation words you need to use when you watch the video back are, "Wow, that's great, what do you think?"

The "what do you think" places any evaluation back on the child and will begin to develop their own self-evaluation process on their own work. If they say it's great, go with it, there will be a turning point when they may do it over or create a different video.

The objective is self-evaluation, and it will become an innate evaluation process you are helping them refine.

It's hard not to assist them with ideas



**SCOTT SMITH**  
EDUCATION CORNER

and have them produce a perfect video. Learning and development comes from within, as do self-evaluation and self-satisfaction. You can always point out great things you see.

Asking children to send you a short video of what they are doing is a great activity for everyone. This is engaging their ability of comprehension along with being a point of connection with the child.

The video can be about an activity they did, a story they read or that was read to them or just how their day was. Any of these skills helps the student build the ability to communicate, evaluate and learn. Watch over just a short period of time how their short videos will improve.

To get started, do a quick check on YouTube of kids doing explanation videos and watch a couple with the child. Ask them if they would like to make a video about something they are currently experiencing. Chances are strong they will. You'll have them hooked.

It may take a couple of times asking, but once they feel this is important to you, they will most likely take an interest. In most cases, children want two things, to please you and to be in control.

If they say no, just tell them to let you know when and allow them to go off on their own. Chances are high they will want to take on making a video.

All these activities build the child's ability to expand their understanding and explain in their own words their perspective. These skills are key in school.

Have fun and watch the learning take place before your eyes.

■ Scott Smith, doctor of education, is a 40-plus year Umatilla County educator and serves on the Decoding Dyslexia Oregon board as its parent/teacher liaison.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**The Herald's new look**

I have been impressed with the Herald's new look. It looks sleek and clean, the left side column with info regarding what's inside is eye-catching and, overall, the paper looks terrific.

One thing that bothers me is that there are no sports. I am the last person to read a sports section, but why aren't local sports in the paper? Not enough room? No revenue for sports? I would think sports pages practically pays for itself. You have plenty of room for ag stuff that doesn't appear to pertain to us.

**Karen Hutchinson-Talaski**  
Hermiston

**Door-to-door ministry, an important freedom**

June 17, 2002, was just another day for Hermiston and the nation. But for me, as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, this day significantly impacted my life and in ways everyone in the United States. That day a landmark Supreme Court case affirmed the rights of Jehovah's Witnesses to engage in our hallmark door-to-door ministry. Significantly, a facet of free speech was protected for all citizens.

The door-to-door activity of Jehovah's Witnesses was almost banned

by one U.S. village in the late '90s. A case challenging the town's actions (Watchtower v. Stratton) went all the way to the Supreme Court.

This paved the path for all US residents to maintain open dialogue with their neighbors on any number of issues including environmental, civic, political or educational.

Now, 20 years later, I think back on the impact of this case on me, fellow Witnesses and my community. I have seen first-hand how people change their lives because they received a knock on the door from Jehovah's Witnesses. In fact,

I recently spoke with a friend who as a college student was worried about where the world was headed and pondering life's meaning when witnesses knocked on her door. She feels that visit saved her in numerous ways. It feels good to freely share a positive message with my neighbors, knowing my rights are protected by that legal precedent.

While our door-to-door ministry is temporarily suspended due to the pandemic, I look forward to resuming this volunteer work.

**Jim Westin**  
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**CORRECTIONS**

It is the policy of the Hermiston Herald to correct errors as soon as they are discovered. Incorrect information will be corrected on Page A2. Errors committed on the Opinion page will be corrected on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories. Please contact the editor at editor@hermistonherald.com or call 541-278-2673 with issues about this policy or to report errors.

**SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

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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The Hermiston Herald publishes paid obituaries; death notices and information about services are published at no charge. Obituaries can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at hermistonherald.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@hermistonherald.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at the Hermiston Herald or East Oregonian offices. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 800-522-0255, x2211.