

# History:

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“The things that I stood for, they were also for,” she said.

In her campaign, she frequently spoke of the Hermiston Police Department. Following the election, she still was talking about it. The department, she said, needs to add staff to meet the growing size of the city. In addition, she said, homelessness needs to be addressed.

“I’m very concerned about our homeless population,” she said. “I’ve always been concerned about them.”

She said that she was raised with values that include looking after people and giving them “a hand up” when they need one. Mental health assistance, jobs and addiction recovery services should be high priorities when addressing homelessness, she added.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

**Hermiston City Council candidate Jackie Linton introduces herself at a candidate forum April 12, 2022, at the Hermiston Community Center. Linton said she is looking forward to being part of the council.**

Linton attended the recent joint meeting of the Hermiston City Council, Umatilla

City Council and Umatilla County Board of Commissioners, where the local

governments discussed the plan for a facility to assist homeless people. She said she

# Survivor:

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Under the Nazis, everyone 10 and older had to get ID cards. By acting indignant when asked if he were Jewish, her father managed not to get a “J” stamped on his.

Bloomfield had three brothers, Claas, born in 1934, Bert in 1938 and Tom in 1940.

Their circumstances grew progressively worse. Her dad kept his job for a while. Shell continued to pay him, even though he couldn’t work later in the war. They suffered wartime food and fuel shortages and German soldiers conducting searches, sweeps and roundups. One neighbor was a Dutch collaborator with the occupiers.

## Family sends her away

Shortages worsened. Bloomfield’s father made her shoes from wooden planks in the attic floor.

Bloomfield said her family sent her three times to live with strangers. Her parents feared the situation in The Hague had become too dangerous for her and her siblings to stay there. They might be outed as Jews at any time.

Her older brother was sent away first. Her parents didn’t tell their children the real reason why they were being sent to the country. They said it was for lack of food.

“Imagine how little kids would feel,” Paster said. “What did we do wrong? Don’t you love us?”

The first time, Bloomfield went south to near the Belgian border, to stay with a couple without children. When it became riskier to hide children, they returned her home.

“In Eastern Europe, the Nazis killed people who hid children,” Bloomfield said. “In the Netherlands, the penalty wasn’t always death, but the consequences were severe.”

Her family decided to send her away again, this time to a farm up north. There she stayed with a family that took good care of her. They had a daughter about her age. Bloomfield had never tasted pork, but loved it. The rich food made the starved little girl sick, so she was once



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**This photo on display Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at the Pendleton Public Library shows Holocaust survivor Anneke Bloomfield as a young girl. Bloomfield was a child from the Netherlands who hid in safe houses to escape Nazis in World War II.**

again sent home.

Her father was in the Dutch Resistance. People could enter a library without suspicion, so he became a conduit of information for the Underground. At 8, Bloomfield said she carried two “newspapers” — filing cards with intelligence, to contacts after dark, but before the 8 p.m. curfew.

**“THE BREAD WITH BUTTER WAS THE BEST CAKE I EVER HAD.”**

— Anneke Bloomfield, Holocaust survivor

If out after then, she’d be shot.

She saw two men try to evade detention by German soldiers beneath an underpass.

“It didn’t work,” she said. “They got pushed up on the wall, and they got shot.”

Bloomfield made it home without being caught, but she was too scared to work as a courier anymore. Her father decided she was no longer safe in The Hague.

## Leaving a third time

Her mother gave her a coat and a flannel sheet to make warm clothing. Her father acquired used shoes with the toes cut out.

The third time Bloomfield was sent away, she said she

The British Army liberated Heerenveen, but it didn’t have enough food to share. Neither did the Canadians, who followed. Bloomfield foraged for food. If she found a turnip or potato, she dusted it off and ate it raw.

Finally, the Americans arrived and took pity on a lousy, scrawny girl with frightful hair, a coat shot full of holes and her toes sticking out. They dusted her hair with insecticide DDT and told her not to wash it for three days.

“The bread with butter was the best cake I ever had,” she said.

One day, she was told to report to a truck. There she met her youngest brother, now 5, who, unbeknownst to her, had also been sent north. They returned home together.

## Nothing the same after liberation

Back with her family, Bloomfield asked where her toys had gone, including her scooter. Her parents explained she now had a baby sister, Henny, but her starved mother couldn’t make milk, so they farmed out the infant. The family that agreed to take her demanded all Bloomfield’s toys.

“It took Anneke three years to reestablish a relationship with her father,” Paster said. “They took long walks together, but she was never able to bond with her mother.”

Bloomfield said that she wasn’t able to eat normally until she was 31.

Her older brother was the most damaged, she said. He kept running away to the farm family that had fostered him. Then, at 18, he left for Alberta, finding work as a truck driver in Calgary.

When she turned 20, Bloomfield also went to Canada. She was able to track Claas down. Against her father’s wishes, she stayed in Canada, married a Swede, adopted a son and moved to Phoenix, Arizona, with her family.

She relocated 19 years later to North Hollywood, California. Her husband died. She eventually retired to the Portland area.

“Some people claim you can’t be a Holocaust survivor without having been in the concentration camps,” Paster said. “But those who escaped capture suffered as well.”

is looking forward to studying that further.

## A native of Hermiston returns

Linton was born in Hermiston in 1957. She attended schools in town until her junior year of high school, she said. In the middle of her junior year, she moved to Tacoma, Washington, with her mother and stepfather.

After graduation, she returned to Hermiston for a couple of years, until she was laid off from a job at Lamb Weston.

“I moved back to Tacoma,” she said. “I got a job there, and that’s where I stayed until retiring.”

She moved to Georgia to care for a grandchild after her retirement, and it wasn’t until 2012 that she returned to Hermiston. She came back to care for a sick family member. According to Linton, she was glad to be here again.

“I’ve been here ever

since,” she said. “This is home, and I’m going to stay home until Jesus calls me home.”

## Work, hobbies fill her life now

While she lives here, Linton said she works at a solar power plant in Arlington. It’s a new job, she said, and it’s scheduled to end in November. After it ends, she will look for new employment, possibly working as a substitute teacher, she said.

“I’ll be working doing something,” she said.

She likes to travel at least once a year. She said she has been to Israel, Germany, Mexico and Fiji. She named Africa as a place she would most like to see next. She said she hasn’t been there before.

“I like traveling to other cultures and seeing how other people live,” she said.

She said she hopes she can bring insights, which she has learned from other individuals and cultures, to the council.

# Threat:

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“Our officers arrive and go in,” he said. “It’s not practical to wait for a team to form to eliminate the threat. Create a distraction. Buy time for kids or customers to evacuate. Even if just one or two officers, we train to enter, find and engage the threat, while communicating with others.”

Hermiston police has three school resource officers. Several HPD members have received Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training, Edmiston added. The ALERRT Center at Texas State University is widely considered to offer the best research-based active shooter response training in the nation. And the department spends \$70,000 per officer to make sure they have all the equipment they need.

“Even allowing \$50,000 for the car, that leaves \$20,000 for personal gear,” he said.

Hermiston officers and the Oregon State Police SWAT team plan to train for three days in late July at Rocky Heights Elementary School, slated for demolition, Edmiston said. The old Armand Larive Middle School previously served as a training site prior to its demolition.

“It’s a good deal for both of us,” he said. “The OSP ‘ninja’ team gets to practice at a real world site, and we can learn from them.”

## Training together essential for local police

Boardman Police Chief Rick Stokoe echoed his colleagues. He said his department’s procedure on a school shooter and the like is to “immediately engage the threat.” That applies to a school resource officer or the first patrol unit to arrive at the scene, he said, but the situation dictates what the engagement looks like.

A shooter who drops their weapon, surrenders and complies with police is likely to end up in handcuffs.

“If they are actively shooting, that’s proba-

bly not going to be a good outcome,” he said.

Police in that situation can “neutralize” — shoot and even kill a suspect — and Stokoe said that’s about minimizing the number of people who are victims.

“That’s the way our agency trains,” he said, “and we do train on it.”

Riverside Junior-Senior High School in April 2018 was the site of an active school shooter training that involved Boardman police and local law enforcement from throughout the region, as well as Oregon State Police. Almost 400 people in all watched or participated in the drill, including 45 students and 260 members of the Morrow County School District. Stokoe stressed the importance of area law enforcement training and learning together.

“In small rural communities, we have to rely on each other,” he said.

Three Boardman police personnel were among other locals who responded Feb. 7 to Richland, Washington, for the deadly shooting at a Fred Meyer store. If there was a similar shooting in Boardman, he said, officers from Umatilla County and agencies in Washington are likely to respond.

Stokoe said Boardman police follow the model from the I Love You Guys Foundation, which developed its Standard Response Protocol based on five actions: hold, secure, lockdown, evacuate and shelter. According to the foundation, more than 30,000 schools, districts, departments, organizations and cities around the globe use the protocol.

But not every agency in the area follows the protocol, he said, and one element of training is to make sure different agencies can communicate effectively with each other during a crisis.

“You want everyone on the same sheet of music,” he said.

Stokoe added he recently reached out to the Morrow County School District and Mark Mulvihill, superintendent of the InterMountain Education Service District, to do more training for this kind of school emergency.

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