

LOVERS

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She was rounding the bases when she tripped and injured something — she remembers it was her ankle, he says it was her wrist — and they ended up back in the exact same clinic where they first got to know each other. Jim thought, “Why not?” and got the flowers and ring out of the car and proposed right there.

The first year of their marriage wasn't easy — they got married on a Saturday, and Jim flew back to California on Sunday, where he would wait for two months for Michelle to be able to join him. Then they were both on 24-hour shift work for over a year, home at the same time only two or three times a week.

Twenty-eight years, four children and several moves around the world later, however, they're still happily married and have settled down in Hermiston.

Wanda Hunt and Richard Scarlett

Though they didn't get married until they were 40, Wanda Hunt and Richard Scarlett's history goes back a little further than that.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED.
Jim and Michelle McAllister pose in a recent photo with a grandchild.

They met in first grade at West Park Elementary School in 1956. More than 30 years later, Richard proposed to Wanda, in the same classroom where they'd met as kids.

“We lived across the street from each other when we were young,” Wanda said. “Our families knew each other, and I always said to my mom I thought he would be the boy I married but he moved away to Seattle and got married.”

The couple remembered each other, and would visit each other's families when they were in town.

But their romance didn't take off until their 20th high school reunion,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY WANDA HUNT.
Richard Scarlett and Wanda Hunt.

in August 1988. They started dating in earnest shortly after, and got married in 1992. The couple has enjoyed a life of adventures both at home and abroad, visiting more than 35 countries. Wanda said one of her favorite memories is a trip they took to Thailand, and Richard recalls fondly a trip to England to visit friends, where their plane had to be used to fly troops for the Gulf War before they were supposed to leave.

But Richard's dream was always to move back to Hermiston, where he grew up.

“It reminded him of the TV show *Mayberry with Andy Grif-*

fith,” Wanda said.

Every Christmas, the couple has a special tradition: dressing up as Santa and Mrs. Claus, visiting local retirement and nursing homes, and giving out treats and gifts.

“We do that in our parents' memory,” Wanda said. “Everyone in those nursing homes — a lot of them are between the ages of 80 and 90. All those people knew our parents. We'll keep doing that as long as we can.”

Lillian and Jack Smith

Lillian Smith's late husband Jack knew he was going to marry

her the first time he met her, when they were both introduced during a Friday night at Hale's. He told her so right then and there.

“He said, ‘That's wonderful, can we have a dance?’” Lillian said. “I said, ‘There's no music,’ and he said ‘That's OK, I can sing.’ We had a dance. He told me ‘I'm going to marry you,’ and I said ‘Like ‘H’ you are.’”

Lillian, who turned 95 this month, was divorced with two children and wasn't looking for love again. But Jack was so kind to her and the children that over time she changed her mind.

The minister at their Lutheran church wouldn't marry them because Lillian was divorced, so they got married by a Methodist minister instead. Jack adopted Lillian's two oldest and they had a third child together. During their working years, Lillian worked at the Umatilla Chemical Depot and Jack at the Hinkle rail yard. They were married for 58 years before Jack died in 2006.

Their daughter Judy Jung said they loved to throw a good party and that their house for a while was the second largest stop in the county for the Olympia beer truck. Lillian still has that love — she said her 95th birthday party with friends and family lasted until midnight.

BTW

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Walla Walla head coach Ben Robert said of Campos: “Antonio is a quality goalkeeper that has proven his ability to keep clean sheets. Antonio possess a great amount of athleticism to make top-class saves. ... Looking forward to his contributions to the team.”

For a full story and photos from the signing celebration, visit www.hermistonherald.com.

The Hermiston city council plans to discuss and possibly vote on a final deal with Umatilla County to take over ownership of the **Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center** during their March 12 council meeting.

The city and the county are currently co-owners but are working

out a deal to transfer sole ownership and financial liability to the city. On Monday city manager **Byron Smith** reported to the council that negotiations were going well, although the two most difficult issues — an agreement to build storage/office space for the **Umatilla County Fair** and an agreement for the city to take over at least part of Ott Road and Airport Road — have not yet been tackled.

Mayor David Drotzmann asked when the public would be able to weigh in on the deal, and Smith said information would be published on the city's website in the agenda packet for the March 12 meeting a few days before the meeting, which will then include time for public testimony.

The January **American Red Cross** blood drive at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston celebrated first-time donor **Kayla**

Humphrey.

“It is people like Kayla that keep our blood supply strong,” said volunteer **Patti Perkins**. “Our donors are a special group of people.”

Calling the Jan. 16 event “a highly successful drive,” Perkins said it included 51 donors, which resulted in 48 units. In addition, Perkins expressed appreciation to **Altrusa International of Hermiston** for providing the canteen.

This month's blood drive is Monday, Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., also at Good Shepherd, 610 N.W. 11th St. While walk-ins are welcome, Perkins said it helps with volunteer staffing if appointments are made in advance by calling 1-800-448-3543.

The Red Cross is currently experiencing a blood shortage due to illnesses and winter weather that have kept donors away.

The local **American Youth Soc-**

cer Organization recently scored, thanks to the **Hermiston Lions Club**.

AYSO Regional commissioner **Erik Juarez** expressed appreciation for the \$1,000 donation, which contributed to the support of six local teams. Money for the donation was generated from the annual Don Horneck Memorial Dinner. **Don Horneck** was a Lions Club member and an avid supporter of AYSO and other youth programs. He died unexpectedly in 2014. Lions Club president **Phillip Spicerkuhn** said the Hermiston group was pleased to honor Horneck's memory by contributing to the local AYSO program.

“Don contributed to our community in many ways but one certainly important to him was the youth soccer program,” Spicerkuhn said.

A **Clara Brownell Middle School** student already has his

sights set on the future. As part of “The Promise of Oregon,” **Bhavya Kumar** shared that he hopes to become a police officer.

Kumar said he wants to help criminals turn their lives around. Referring to the middle schooler as “amazing,” **Umatilla School District** employees **Tina Ridings** and **Stefanie Blake** both give the youngster high marks.

The “**Promise of Oregon**” is a statewide public education support campaign launched by the Oregon School Boards Association showcasing school districts that are using cutting-edge programs to help prepare students for careers and college.

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

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Hermiston

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