

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



GINNY HOLTHUS

Hermiston School Board member,
contract accountant

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

In 1981. My husband Jay was hired by Lamb Weston.

What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

La Palma, almost always take-out.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Family visits, travel, gardening.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

How almost everyone is from somewhere else, and yet we have a phenomenal sense of community.

What was the last book you read?

One of the books in the "Outlander" series, have many more to read.

What app or website do you use most often?

Tiny Beans. It's a family app for keeping up with my grandson Will's antics, probably the highlight of my day, everyday.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

I love to travel, and I grew up traveling ... top of my list, though, is exploring more of the U.S.A.

What is the funniest thing that's happened to you?

Funny usually means embarrassing... so no, no stories... but I am pretty sure my sister was involved.

What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?

My husband is retiring in October, so one goal is to start playing golf. We'll see how that goes.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Easily, it's my family. And making my mom and dad proud.

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HERMISTON HISTORY

25 YEARS AGO

AUGUST 17, 1993

A 900-acre fire at Hat Rock State Park sent one fireman to Good Shepherd Hospital with smoke inhalation and put two Umatilla Fire Department rigs out of service.

Ron Honey, a Umatilla Fire District firefighter caught in a windshift during the blaze, spent 24 hours in the hospital under observation.

"Fortunately, it wasn't flames causing his problem, just smoke," said Fire Chief Don Drayton.

A Umatilla ambulance standing by rushed Honey into the hospital. Umatilla lost a brush truck when the heat from the fire burned the wiring out of its engine and another when overheating caused the motor to blow up.

Umatilla, Hermiston and Irrigon firefighters responded to the blaze. During the siege, firemen responded to seven flare-ups of the difficult fire according to Drayton. Shifting winds and deep sand hampered the men fighting the four-cornered fire.

"We'd set up to fight the fire one way, then the wind would change," Drayton said. "Also, there is a lot of blow-sand out there that we had trouble getting through."

The fire, burning 700 acres of Hat Rock State Park and 200 acres of United States Corps of Engineers grassland, threatened to cross Highway 730 and the Hat Rock State Park access road, but quick action by the various crews prevented the fire from jumping the roads.

50 YEARS AGO

AUGUST 15, 1968

The Port of Umatilla Commission had a busy time wading through many items of local interest at its recent meeting held Monday, August 12.

Walt Peters, Port of Umatilla Manager, says the following items were discussed: Considered installation of a marine gas refueling facility at the Port of Umatilla Marina.

Marina construction by Grant construction company began Aug. 1 is progressing on schedule, and is predicted to be completed late this fall, earlier than the Jan. 15, 1969 deadline.

Progress on the railroad spur line serving the Port industrial site is 80 percent complete.

Progress on Fleetwood



HERALD FILE PHOTO

In August 1993, two men watched as a fire burned through Hat Rock State Park in the direction of their campsite. The fire lasted three days and burned over 900 acres.



Geoff Newman, a Hermiston High School FFA student in 1993, showed a pig at the Umatilla County Fair.

Enterprises construction of plant facilities at the Pendleton site recently purchased by the trailer manufacturing firm for that purpose.

Discussed the possibility of having the county landscape and improve the land just south of the Marina, between Main and Third Street in Umatilla.

Offered Tidewater Oil Co. a lease on land adjacent to their facility, for the purpose of development of a spur track.

75 YEARS AGO

AUGUST 19, 1943

A freak electrical storm hit this area Sunday afternoon, causing considerable damage to power lines, transformers and other electrical equipment. Mrs. Julia Penney and son Bill of Stanfield can give firsthand information concerning the storm as a bolt of lightning struck just a few feet from where they were standing watching the fireworks.

Although they escaped with

nothing more than quite a scare, some damage was done to their wiring and a radio in the house was also damaged. The storm approached from the south and circled Hermiston to the east. A strong wind came up from the northeast direction and citizens were reminded of the storm which struck here about six years ago, blowing over large trees, buildings and otherwise wreaking havoc. The expected "blow" failed to materialize, however, and continued north.

Lightning struck in several places, destroying three transformers for the Umatilla Electric Cooperative and one for the Pacific Power and Light Co. The former concern lost two transformers on the Meadows and one on the Fred Andrews Sr. Ranch The P.P. and L. Co. automatic switch east of town was blown open by the lightning and the city was blacked out for about five minutes.

A bolt struck a pole east of the Henry Lindner place

100 YEARS AGO

AUGUST 17, 1918

The annual Dairy and Hog Show will be held again this year. This was decided at a representative meeting of ranchers and business men held at the library Monday evening, and from the way plans were worked out at that time it would seem that it is the aim to surpass in grandeur and ponderance the magnificent displays at former fall festivals that made the events so popular and brought people from far and near to witness them.

The county court has already set aside \$500 for use of the Dairy and Hog show, and with the usual donations from the business interest of Hermiston and other local people that have been in the habit of making small contributions, the financing of the fair is already assured. Then the industrial School Exhibit will be held in conjunction, which has always proved a great drawing card.

COMMUNITY



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Katie Anderson, center, visits with people Tuesday during National Night Out in her Southeast Crestline Drive neighborhood. The Anderson family won an ice cream social block party for finding the hidden medallion during a treasure hunt leading up to Hermiston's festivities.

Neighbors on Southeast Crestline Drive got to know each other over some ice cream Tuesday, Aug. 7 as part of National Night Out.

The tradition encourages people in cities all over the country to get to know their neighbors and their local police to encourage safety and prevent crime.

The Hermiston Police Department offers a neighborhood ice cream party each year to the winner of the annual medallion hunt. This year's winners were the Anderson family, which makes their fourth win since the community-wide treasure hunt started.

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 2A. 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) 564-4533 with issues about this policy or to report errors.

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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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