

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



BRIANA CORTABERRIA

Executive assistant to the superintendent and board of the Hermiston School District

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

It was spring of 2010. Greg and I moved to Hermiston with our first boy, needing more space and bedrooms for our growing family. Both Greg and I are from the area; this has always been home. Greg is a Hermiston native, and I am from Pendleton. He was pleased with himself, to move me into a home overlooking Hermiston.

What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

As with everyone, it can depend on the mood. I have a favorite pizza place, Mexican restaurant, etc. Picking just one... I would say Kobe Hibachi Sushi. Until I started a career, it was something completely out of my norm, making it seem like a "treat" now.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

What spare time? With three boys, two of which are now in sports, spare time is a premium! I will say this, though, I have come to enjoy the time I have to fold laundry because at least I am off my feet. Bonus benefit, I can get in a Hallmark movie or two at the same time.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

I am surprised Hermiston is big enough to have "traffic!" I don't remember traffic two or three years ago, but now I definitely have roads I try to avoid at certain times of the day.

What was the last book you read?

I just finished "A Shade of Vampire 5: A Blaze of Sun," by Bella Frost. I downloaded the first book free on social media, from one of those "If you liked the Twilight books, then you must check this out." sponsored ads... Little did I know the series had 68 books!

What app or website do you use most often other than Facebook or Google?

For social media, I prefer Instagram. I enjoy the more personal aspect of it, keeping up with my friends and family through pictures and avoiding most of the political posts now on FB.

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

It is funny now, but looking back it wasn't at the time! When we were pregnant with our second child, the doctor initially told us we were having a girl. I was elated! We would have one of each, a quaint little family. About ten minutes later, as the doctor is checking all the organs and such, she says "well, what is that." She kind of paused; then apologized and corrected herself. "You are having a boy." She went on to profusely apologize, as I am in tears at this point, and Greg is trying to not jump up and down and cheer!

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Without a doubt, the family that Greg and I have built together. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to have three children, let alone all boys! Just sitting here thinking about it, I can get emotional! I am truly blessed.

HERMISTON HISTORY

25 YEARS AGO

NOV. 20, 1993

Jeff Greene said curiosity led him to the burning house from which he rescued a 91-year-old Hermiston man Friday.

"I was just curious. I wanted to see where the smoke was coming from," he said. "I kind of expected to find a brush pile."

Albert Reeves is in guarded condition in Good Shepherd Community Hospital's intensive care unit recovering from smoke inhalation. Hermiston fireman Glen Phillips said Reeves was likely sleeping when a fire broke out in his split-level house on East Beech. Greene found Reeves unconscious on the floor of the house. He told a neighbor to call 911, then entered the house through the front door to retrieve Reeves.

• DNA, the basis of the Jurassic Park movie plot, and the key sometimes used to solve murder mysteries, aided local game officers in solving a wild-game poaching violation by a Umatilla man and a member of the Umatilla Confederated Tribes.

Oregon State Police game officer Tim Gallaher recently solved an illegal deer violation case, brought to the attention of officials by a witness, after an intensive investigation and DNA testing by a federal laboratory. Tissue samples taken from fresh gut piles and carcasses were broken down and the blood was analyzed to determine a DNA profile, Gallaher said. The profiles were then compared to find possible matches between animals.

50 YEARS AGO

NOV. 28, 1968

A new two way blinker traffic light was installed over the intersection at Main and Harding Avenue in Stanfield Thursday, Nov. 21 as a result of efforts on the part of a Stanfield citizens group that pressed for the signal several months ago through the State Highway Commission.

The intersection is at the base of the hill on the north approach to Stanfield, main street actually being the extension of Highway No. 32 South.

• From a classified ad by Charlotte L. Newman, Realtor for Universal Realty: "Available now and ready to move into, new three bedroom homes from \$14,500 to \$19,500. These homes offer the conveniences and location that today's buyers are looking for. Drop in and we'll be glad to show them to you and work on the financing."



HH FILE PHOTO

Firefighters fight a blaze at a home on Punkin Center in 1993. A man was rescued from another fire that week on Beech Street.



HH FILE PHOTO

Two drivers discuss their minor collision in Hermiston in 1968.

"We have some real sharp used homes in the middle-priced range. If you can use a good three bedroom priced right at \$13,500 we can fill your need."

75 YEARS AGO

DEC. 2, 1943

Mr. and Mrs. John Jendrzewski were considerably nonplussed and at the same time quite worried this week when they received by mail an envelope containing identification tags belonging to their son, First Lt. Bernard Jendrzewski, who is in the army air corps. There was no explanation with the tags — as a result the parents had considerable cause for alarm.

Mr. Jendrzewski wired his base at Wilmington, Delaware for an explanation. The answer was that Bernard had evidently lost his tags and they were returned by someone without explanation. They were also assured that their son

was safe and healthy.

• Members of the West End Umatilla County Ministerial Association in a special business meeting this week voted to open Christian religious services at Ordinance, beginning Sunday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. and every Sunday thereafter.

Ministers of the churches of this area will alternate in bringing the message. This weekend Rev. H.V. McGee will be the speaker.

100 YEARS AGO

NOV. 30, 1918

All the cheer of Thanksgiving was taken from the home of Mr. and Mrs. P.E. Hayden of this city after receipt of a telegram Tuesday informing them of the death of their son John, who was 32 years old an a lieutenant in Co. G., 163rd Infantry.

This company gained fame at the battlefield in France, and it was while leading his battalion "over the top" on the 14th day of October that a shell burst,

pieces of which struck him in the arm, thigh, head and back. He was immediately taken in an ambulance and conveyed 26 miles to the base hospital, where he was operated on and all pieces of the shell but one in his spine removed at the time, according to a letter he wrote his parents on Oct. 21, in which he described how he was wounded. He also said in the letter that he expected to rejoin his company in a short time.

It seems, however, that the piece of shell in his spine was what killed him following the last operation for its removal, the dispatch saying he died on the 28th day of October.

The deceased enlisted at Lewiston, Idaho, where he was a professor of agriculture in the schools there. News of the death of their son was a sorrowful blow to the parents and his sister here and his three brothers and a sister in Lewiston.

• The sudden and unexpected close of the war has probably put an end to movements for providing farm homes for soldiers. The soldiers will be home before any progress could be made on reclamation of land for their benefit. Secretary Lane estimated it would require a million or two even to make the preliminary study necessary to work out a plan and determine location of suitable lands.

Any project would require a year in preparation and at least another year before the land would be ready for cultivation. Before this could be accomplished the men will practically all be discharged from the Army, says an Oregonian News Bureau dispatch from Washington, D.C.

Echo Toy Run delivers holiday cheer

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

A group of leather-clad stand-ins for Santa Claus are gearing up for the 15th annual Echo Toy Run.

The United States Postal Service doesn't have a corner on the market when it comes to making deliveries in inclement weather. Neither snow nor rain or sleet and freezing fog has prevented a group of motorcycle enthusiasts from riding their bikes to take toys to Good Shepherd Medical Center each holiday season.

People are invited to bring new unwrapped toys and gather Saturday on Echo's Main Street for a noon departure. With toys strapped to his 2004 Harley Wide Glide and an American flag waving in the wind, Al Sells will lead the way to the hospital, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Those who don't ride motorcycles can follow at the rear of the pack.

Sells has carried on the tradition started by the former owners of the Echo Saloon. While the Stanfield man might look a little rough around the edges, Kelly Sanders, vice president of human resources at Good Shepherd Health Care System, said Sells and the rest of the bikers that participate annually have hearts of gold.

"They are such giving people," Sanders said. "It's a wonderful thing they do for the children at the hospital and in the community."

The bikers filled one of the hos-



CONTRIBUTED BY DANIEL BRENNAN OF BLACK VEST PHOTOGRAPHY

Nearly 100 motorcycles prepare to depart from Echo's Main Street during a past Echo Toy Run. In its 15th year, bikers will meet Dec. 1 in downtown Echo to deliver toys to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

pital's large laundry bins with toys during the event's first year. That amount has increased threefold over the years, Sanders said, as well as filling the back of a pick-up truck with larger items like bicycles.

The generosity of the bikers lasts well beyond the holiday season. In addition to providing gifts to kids in the hospital during Christmas, toys are available for staff to give to children who might benefit from hav-

ing their spirits lifted throughout the year. Also, Sanders said they share some with the Hermiston Police Department's Christmas Express program and other needy children in the community.

Hospital employees will greet the group when they arrive and offer coffee, hot chocolate and pastries. For more information, call Sells at 541-571-1820 or Nick Bejarano at 541-667-3460.

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Jade McDowell | Reporter • jmc McDowell@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4536

Jayati Ramakrishnan | Reporter • jramakrishnan@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4534

Tammy Malgesini | Community Editor • tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4539

Annie Fowler | Sports Reporter • afowler@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4542

Jeanne Jewett | Multi-Media consultant • jjewett@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4531

Audra Workman | Multi-Media consultant • aworkman@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4538

Dana Tassie | Office Manager • dtassie@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4530

To contact the Hermiston Herald for news, advertising or subscription information:
• call 541-567-6457
• e-mail info@hermistonherald.com
• stop by our offices at 333 E. Main St.
• visit us online at: hermistonherald.com

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