

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



JEFF KELSO

Technology Manager
Hermiston School District

When and why did you move to Hermiston?
After living my whole life on the wet side of the state, I moved to Hermiston in May of 2017 to become the technology manager at the Hermiston School District.

What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?
The miso soup and sashimi at Shiki Hibachi Sushi is very tasty! In fact, I like pretty much everything at that restaurant.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to go fishing with my wife and I also like to get out and hike as often as I can. The scenery around the Columbia River is incredible!

What surprises you about Hermiston?
I was surprised by how incredibly warm and welcoming everyone here has been. After living in the suburbs of Portland my whole life (where people often don't know their neighbors' first names and freeway driving is considered by many to be a competitive sport) coming to a place where strangers frequently smile and wave to each other as they drive by in their cars has been a refreshing change of pace. I love how open and friendly the people in Hermiston are.

What was the last book you read/are currently reading?
I recently re-read 1984 by George Orwell. I enjoy a good dystopian story from time to time, and 1984 is one of the best.

What app or website do you use most other than Facebook or Google?
YouTube, by far. Any topic you're interested in learning about is probably covered in one or more YouTube videos.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
I'd like to see the whole planet, but Israel is at the top of the list. I'd love to see the land where Jesus lived.

What is the funniest thing that's happened to you?
My wife had never caught a fish before I came to Hermiston. Since then, we've gone fishing together on every weekend that weather and our schedules have allowed and she's outfished me every single time. Now, I'm afraid to introduce her to any of my other hobbies.

What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?
In addition to the perennial "attempt physical fitness" and "lose ten pounds," I'm determined to read through the entire Bible this year.

What is your proudest accomplishment?
Raising my three children with my wife of 23 years is the most rewarding thing I've ever done, by far.

HERMISTON HISTORY



Richard Betz, Gerald Rains and E.A. Betz pose at the future site of a new packing shed in 1969.

HH file photo

25 YEARS AGO

MARCH 8, 1994

A week with absolutely no television; some might say it's impossible.

Many Highland Hills Elementary School students this week, though, plan to do just that.

The Parent Teacher Association challenged students to meet that goal as part of the second annual No Television Week.

Participating students volunteered to sign contracts last week pledging to give up television for an entire week. Last year, about 300 students signed contracts and more than 200 met the goal.

Activities were planned for each night this week to promote alternatives to watching television, including a night at the Hermiston Skateway and a game night.

2) The Hermiston city council approve the sale of \$450,000 in bonds to finance the beginning of construction for the Regional Water Project.

The funds will be disbursed by the Port of Umatilla when it awards the construction bid for the intake pier at tomorrow's meeting.

The bonds were sold with the condition that U.S. Generating pay half of the debt.

50 YEARS AGO

MARCH 6, 1969

Approximately 40 dogs have been impounded at the Hermiston Veterinary Clinic since the clinic was designated as the pound facility for the four west end towns of Hermiston, Echo, Stanfield and Umatilla pursuant to an agreement with the County Court effective Feb. 13, say employees of the clinic.

The arrangement with the Hermiston Veterinary Clinic came out of negotiations between the towns and the county after inspectors from the State Department of Agriculture showed their disliking for the facilities

offered by the various towns several months ago.

Bud Draper, mayor of Umatilla, says, "We are checking up on licenses that are recently expired and will soon step up the pace in picking up stray and unlicensed dogs."

2) A new potato packing shed, indicative of the accelerated trend toward intensive farming on irrigated ground in the West End, is due to go into operation around July 1, says E.A. Betz of Hermiston.

Betz, long active in potato farming and processing in Washington, says that Royal Pak Produce, Inc., a Washington corporation with which he is associated, will be the legal entity under which the packing shed will be built and operated.

When completed, the shed will use the unique process of sorting the potatoes while dry, rather than wet, with a giant vacuum cleaner powered by a 30 horsepower motor.

75 YEARS AGO

MARCH 9, 1944

ENGLAND — The Flying Fortress "Hard Luck" almost had to bring back three bombs from the Berlin district raid Saturday when they stuck in their shackles, but Sgt. Austin Roberts kicked them loose, one by one, right over their targets.

Roberts, a waist gunner from Hermiston, Ore., and Sgt. Delbert Burns of Eureka, Kas., the other waist gunner, noticed just before their ship reached the target that the ball turret was revolving continuously in one direction.

Investigating, they soon discovered Turret Gunner Sgt. George Benedict of Bedford, Mich., had passed out after his oxygen mask froze. Roberts and Burns revived him and then saw the three bombs still hanging in their shackles.

Roberts made his way along the catwalk to the bomb bay and kicked them loose while "Hard Luck" was

still high over Berlin.

2) You just can't keep a good man down. Pvt. Bill Belt, son of Dr. and Mrs. F.B. Belt, who made news headlines a few years ago when he announced his candidacy for United States president in 1964, now heads the list of the staff which publishes the Torch and Sword, a mimeographed sheet printed at Fordham University where Bill is stationed with the U.S. Army. An excellent editorial, "The fate of the ASTP," was printed in the latest issue.

The little paper is very newsy and typical of Bill Belt's work. He was editor of the *Hermiston High School Bulldog* while attending school here. Local friends are glad to see him in similar work with the armed forces.

100 YEARS AGO

MARCH 8, 1919

Umatilla County has again went over the top, her latest achievement being an almost unanimous vote cast at the polls Tuesday for the floating of a bond issue to be used in making good roads throughout the county for ranchers and city folks alike. Well might old Umatilla County feel proud of her patriotic and progressive population, for in carrying the measure an example has been set for the other counties in the state to follow.

All the precincts in and around Hermiston went strong for the bond issue, also all other precincts in the west end. The two Hermiston precincts voted 159 for and 1 against on the east side and 81 to 6 on the west side.

2) S.H. Boardman, after whom the thriving little town of Boardman on the Columbia River and the state highway was named, was a business visitor to Hermiston on Wednesday. Mr. Boardman is a very busy man these days looking after the buildings of the stretch of the Columbia Highway that runs through Morrow County, he being engineer in charge of construction.

OPINION

Everyone wants a dollar (or more)

Everywhere we go, we are bombarded with requests for money.

Even during everyday activities — like grocery shopping or perusing social media — we are confronted by others asking for cash.

It used to be that people would hang out near parking lot exits or freeway off-ramps with a cardboard sign. If you didn't want to be bothered, you could merely look the other way.

In the past few months, I have heard about people being approached in parking lots — to the level of being accosted. People wanting money have stepped it up — even knocking on car windows.

A few weeks back, I went grocery shopping late at night ... so late, that the store was closing. After unlocking the doors, I usually warm up my Jeep while loading groceries in the back. When I noticed a couple of people hanging out near the front of my rig, I decided not to turn the engine on.

Honestly, I don't know if they were up to no good but their presence made me uncomfortable. The store employee that let me out noticed

them too. He came out to help me put my groceries away. While we were talking, my dogs started barking. I laughed and said, "I guess I have a built in security system."

When I got home, I told my husband about the incident. John suggested that I go grocery shopping earlier in the day. My thought is, I should feel safe to go any time of day or night.

I have two German shepherds who have the capacity to bark like big dogs. However, they don't always make noise when I think they should.

I decided to train them a new word that I can use to get them to bark ferociously on command. I was surprised by how quickly they acquired the new command, as was the unsuspecting couple passing by the Jeep during a recent training session.

As my birthday approached last month, Facebook suggested I consider conducting a fundraiser in honor of my birthday. I'm almost 60 years old and the only people that acknowledge my special day beyond saying the cursory "happy birthday" are my family and close friends.

A few days later I received a mes-

sage imploring me to "wish Chanley a happy birthday by donating to a nonprofit." Facebook promised to notify him of the gift. No offense, but I didn't even fork out a few bucks to buy a card and mail it to Chanley.

When Facebook first instituted the "birthday fundraisers," they charged a processing fee. While, they no longer do that for nonprofits, I think it's still all part of the scheme to keep personal Facebook fundraisers on the forefront, which they continue to charge a processing fee.

And, honestly, I turn my head on a lot of those grabs for cash. An acquaintance hosted a personal fundraiser recently, even going as far as erroneously suggesting that any money given was tax-deductible.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying don't give at all. I just think there are better ways to donate to ensure that money is being used in the best possible way. And, just to be clear, if someone approaches me in the parking lot, you'll be barking up the wrong tree.

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COMMENT

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