

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



JOSH VANDECAR

Groundsman,
Hermiston School District

When and why did you move to Hermiston?
About 20 years ago, for more opportunity.

What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?
Hales

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Anything with family

What surprises you about Hermiston?
The growth of the area

What was the last book you read or are currently reading?
The Bible

What app or website do you use most often?
Accuweather

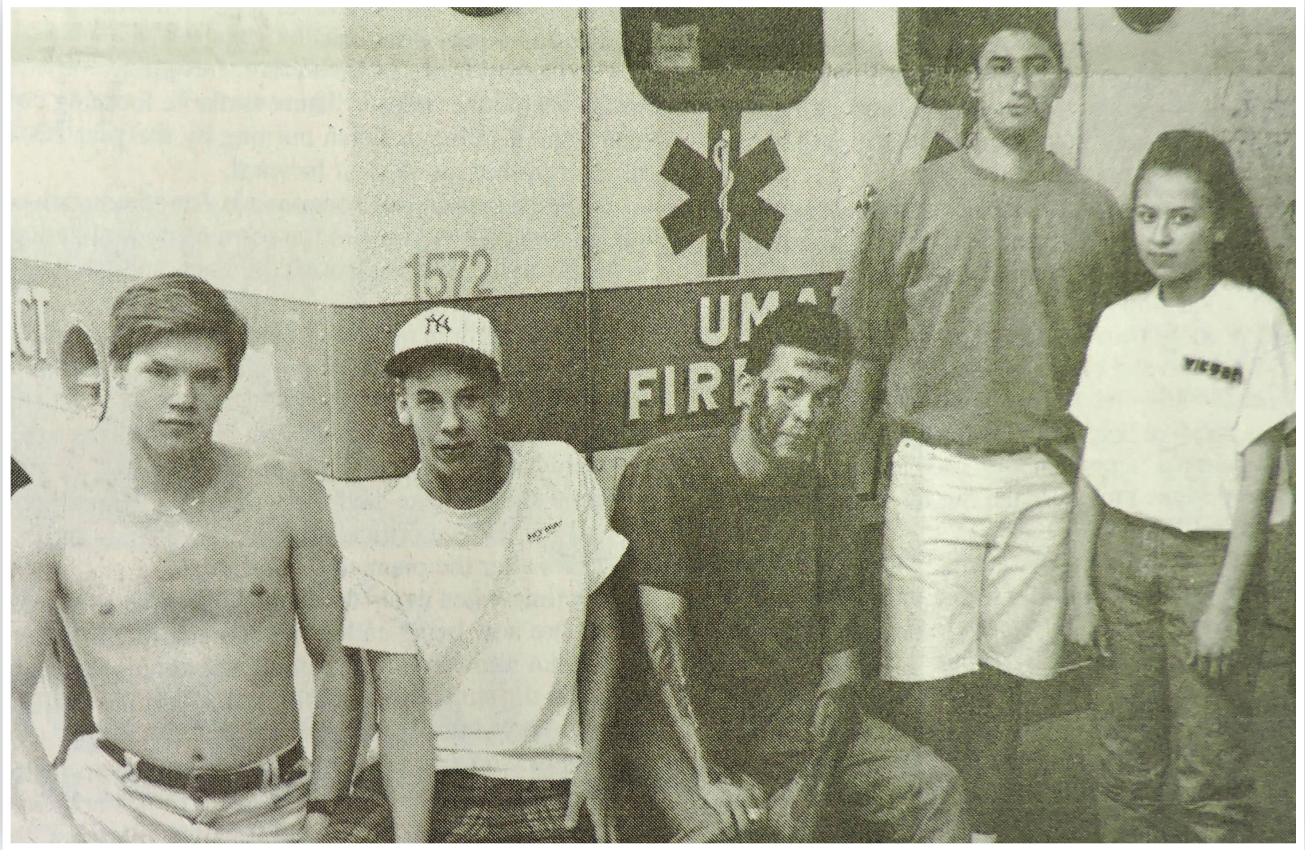
If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
Bahamas

What is the funniest thing that's happened to you?
Nothing comes to mind

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

What is your proudest accomplishment?
Where my family is today

HERMISTON HISTORY



Umatilla High School students assisted Oregon State Police by acting as victims during a disaster drill in 1994. Left to right are Nolan Wetterling, Danny Picard, Rob Maker, Nathan Cleaver and Victoria Sanguino.

HH file photo

25 YEARS AGO
April 26, 1994

International food processing giant ConAgra announced last week that it would purchase Universal Frozen Foods for an undisclosed price.

Parent company Universal Foods Corporation will receive a cash payment that reflects a premium over the food processor's book value, according to company news releases.

The sale of Universal Frozen Foods, which produces frozen potatoes for domestic and international markets, is expected to close June 1.

Purchaser ConAgra will add Universal Frozen Foods to an already large base of food processing facilities around the world.

Ed Brookshier, Hermiston's city administrator, received praise Monday from Mayor Frank Harkenrider and city council members for refusing his 7 percent salary increase. In a letter to city councilors, Brookshier said he was unwilling to accept more than the 3 percent increase that other city workers were receiving.

"He puts others above himself," Harkenrider said. "He is worth the money."

50 YEARS AGO
April 24, 1969

An intense investigation by the Hermiston Police Department has disclosed that the source of barbiturate drugs taken in large doses by five Hermiston junior high students last week was traced to a civil defense first aid supply kit kept at the school, according to Police Chief Bob Adams.

The five juveniles, four girls and one boy, were rushed to Good Shepherd hospital late Monday afternoon, April 14, and have all now been released from the hospital, Adams said.

In an official news release, Adams said his department learned from one of the girls involved in the case that she had complained of a headache while at school Monday afternoon, and while reclining on the cot in the junior high sick room noticed the civil defense kit and its list of contents.

Upon seeing the word "phenobarbital" she removed the bottle of drugs from its larger container and replaced the cardboard carton in its original shape, thus eliminating any suspicion



Volunteer Ruth Klaus holds a flowering plum tree as Doug Bennett of the city of Hermiston shovels dirt around it at Belt Park in 1994.

HH file photo

75 YEARS AGO
April 27, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. George Harris have received a letter from their son, Wayne Harris, stating that he recently had a four-day visit with his brother George, who is stationed aboard another ship. Wayne states that his ship was tied alongside that of his brother's and when they first met they were quite surprised.

Wayne writes that they are both in good health and seemingly enjoying their work. While the two ships were tied up alongside, several U.S.O. shows were seen and other entertainment enjoyed.

A ray of hope that Technical Sergeant Vern Daugherty Jr. may be alive and well was received via a postal card Thursday morning by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Daugherty. Tech Sgt. Daugherty was recently reported "lost in action" while a member of an American Ranger battalion in action in the Italian battlefield.

The postal card came from Mrs. C. P. Skilton of Carbondale, Penn., a member of a short wave amateur

radio club. The card stated, "A message addressed to you was read this evening on a shortwave radio broadcast from Berlin. In effect, it stated: "Dear Folks, I am well and feeling fine. This is my address, Stalog 2-B. Contact Red Cross for information about sending me packages. All my love." The message was signed Bernard but it is thought that it might have been mistaken for Vernon. The parents' address was correct.

100 YEARS AGO
April 26, 1919

The Rev. Jones of Baker spoke before the high school and upper grades last Tuesday. His talk was chiefly an appeal to the boys and girls to get to the top of the ladder.

He said in part: "The great thing in life is to be well-bred, not rich, but well trained in manners, in humbleness of heart. Never lose an opportunity to advance."

For example he gave Abraham Lincoln whom he believes to have been a product of reflection and meditation. Knowledge is power; knowledge never amounts to anything until one has a higher, ideal personality that dominates and controls us. Never take a failure as a model, take a success in life. The chief aim in life is to render an unselfish service to the world.

The talk was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all the students.

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- Chris Rush** | Publisher • crush@eomediagroup.com • 541-278-2669
- Jade McDowell** | News Editor • 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 Editor • 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 Coordinator • 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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Please contact the editor at editor@hermistonherald.com or call (541) 564-4533 with issues about this policy or to report errors.

SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters Policy: Letters to the Editor is a forum for the Hermiston Herald readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters should be kept to 250 words.

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.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Hermiston Herald publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at hermistonherald.com/obituaryform, by email to hermistonherald.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the Hermiston Herald or East Oregonian offices. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, x221.

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BTW

BTW
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For a profile on Pre-uninger, see next week's **Hermiston Herald**.

On Monday we were sad to say goodbye to reporter **Jayati Ramakrishnan**, who left the **Hermiston Herald/East Oregonian** after more than two years covering education and public safety in Hermiston. We wish her well at her new job at **The Oregonian** in Portland.

Our newsroom will be short-staffed the next few weeks as we work to hire her replacement, so please keep those news tips and contributed photos coming.

This week's Three Minutes feature wraps up our

spotlight of **Hermiston School District's maintenance department** for the month of April. For the month of May we will be spotlighting **Hermiston High School**, so look for stories and other features about the high school throughout the month.

Sheila Botti and **Vicki Rayburn** of the **Morrow County Health District** were each recently recognized with a Service Excellence Award.

Botti is a medical assistant and limited x-ray technician at the **Irrigation Medical Clinic** and Rayburn is a housekeeper and cook at **Pioneer Memorial Hospital** in Heppner. Health district CEO **Bob Houser** said both women go above and beyond what is expected of

them. Other staff from the health district were recognized for their years of service during the April 5 employee recognition banquet:

5 years: **Regina Brannon**, medical assistant at Pioneer Memorial Clinic; **Kris Jones**, primary care services manager; and registered nurses **Rachel Schonbachler**, **Mindy Smith** and **Lauren Crum**.

10 years: **Dr. Russ Nichols**, clinic physician and hospital chief of staff; **Diana Sharp**, medical laboratory technician; **Shawn Cutsforth**, information services manager; **Lori Jones**, certified medication aide at Pioneer Memorial Hospital; and **Del Turner**, paramedic with the Boardman Ambulance Station.

25 years: **Kim Thompson**, patient care coordinator at Pioneer Memorial Clinic.

30 years: **Susie Thompson**, RN at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Clinic.

The menu for the **Harkenrider Senior Center** for Thursday is chicken cordon bleu, potato, vegetables and birthday cake. Next week the center starts meals five days a week. Monday is a salad bar and dessert; Tuesday is meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, vegetables and dessert; and Wednesday and Thursday is salad, sandwich and dessert.

You can submit items for our weekly *By The Way* column by emailing your tips to editor@hermistonherald.com.