

HHS class of '74 enjoys reunion activities

Bulldogs from the Hermiston High School class of 1974 recently gathered to celebrate 45 years since turning the tassels.

The July 26-27 event including an informal meet-and-greet and a potluck meal and time of visitation. According to Bruce Wilcox, who served on the reunion committee, Susan Bennett Parks traveled more than 1,600 miles, which was the fur-

thest distance to attend the event. Wilcox said Parks and her husband live in Nash, Oklahoma.

"Fun times were had while reconnecting with those in attendance," Wilcox said.

For more information about the class of '74, join the Facebook group "HHS Classmates 1974 on Facebook" or call Wilcox at 541-567-9027.



Photo contributed by Lori Harkenrider Aasrud

Members of the Hermiston High School class of 1974 held its 45-year reunion July 26-27. Pictured are (back): Sonny Liebe, Bill Reuter, Bruce Hall, Robin Conboy, Paul Burns, Wil Phinney, Mark Davis, Jeff Newman, Randy Lemmon, Bob Thomas; (middle): Rosie Rodriguez Whiteley, Susan Bennett Parks, Tricia Barnes Murphy, Sharon Louthan Hayes, Glynis Gettman Newman, Ed Snyder, Lori Harkenrider Aasrud, Cathy Pettey Zinter, Suzie Arnold Stacey, David Trump, Mike Castellaw, Tom Themelis, Bill Reed, Jackie Brangham Myers, Bob Mullay, Steve Carper, Mark Ainslie, Rick Jewett, Joe Faretta; (kneeling): Bruce Wilcox, David Raines, Guy Brown, Jim Stout, Ronna Seavey, Sharla Grover Dance.

COLUMN

Canine kids complete our pack

As National Dog Day approaches I would be in the doghouse if I didn't brag on our canine kids — both German shepherds.

Lucifer, my husband's almost 10-year-old dog, is mostly black; and the General is my tan/black (with a hint of ginger) 7-year-old. My pops trained sentry dogs in the Air Force — so it's no surprise that I fell in love with German shepherds. Many people equate the breed as working dogs with the military and police departments.

One time while walking Lucifer someone asked John if he was a police dog. "Yes, he's a German shepherd," he replied. The person pressed further, again asking if he was a police dog.

"He's not currently employed," John responded with a straight face.

John and I got tired of carrying water for the dogs while hiking, so we purchased a doggie backpack. We were a bit surprised the General took to it right away. I think it made him feel important to carry his own stuff. Also, maybe he thought he was being just like mommy as I often wear a waist pack with my camera and extra lenses.

Although incredibly smart, the General also is a bit quirky. He can't help some things. He has big ears. I mean really big — like Yoda ain't got nothing on him. And they're always getting dinged up.

I felt horrible when I accidentally rolled the Jeep window up on one of



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Three-quarters of the Malgesini pack — the General, Lucifer and John — race down the McNary Tunnel Trail above the Columbia River near Plymouth, Washington.

his ears. Honestly, I don't know how it happened — it was like the perfect storm — but his ears, they're so dang big.

I also had a window incident with Lucifer at the bank drive-through. I turned my head when the teller said something and in that split second I caught his head. He didn't make a peep. I noticed when I went to hand him a treat from the teller.

I'm happy to report that I've never rolled any of my husband's appendages in the window. And now I always watch it go up all the way up.

The General was quite willful from the beginning. His attitude was, "We don't need no stinkin' leash." Being an experienced German shepherd mom, I knew I had to be firm with

him. We practically wore a path in the backyard from me dragging him on the leash.

After being deemed winner of the leash wars, I ventured into the neighborhood with him. Knowing he would grow to be strong, I taught the General to sit down whenever I stopped. He mastered this with ease — sometimes even anticipating as I slowed down approaching a curb.

I realized how well he acquired the stop-sit technique when my husband returned after a morning walk. Foot surgery had John moving at a sluggish pace. In fact, it was so slow that the General kept sitting down every few steps. I couldn't help but laugh thinking how that must have looked to passersby.

During John's convalescence, I had my own experience with Lucifer. One morning while walking him behind Good Shepherd Medical Center, I let him off the leash. He trotted ahead and before I knew it he had triggered the automatic door and entered the hospital — evidently he had ambitions of being a therapy dog.

If you aren't a "dog person" you just won't understand. But those of us fortunate enough to become part of a pack are forever changed.

Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, Inside my Shoes, includes general musings about life. Contact her at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539.

LETTERS

Reunion enjoyed by all

To the editor:

The three-day Umatilla High School all-school reunion ended July 28 and was a tremendous success! On behalf of the alumni association and the reunion committee, we would like to acknowledge the individuals and groups that contributed to this success.

Some of these groups were the Umatilla School District and staff, including UHS cheerleaders, baseball team, robotics team, G&G Smokehouse Catering, Java Junkies catering, Umatilla Banner Bank, Ron Burg and the Hermiston Airport staff. They were all instrumental in making this a memorable gathering.

We especially want to thank those that participated in the fundraising raffle which helps sustain our ability to award scholarships every spring. The main purpose of our nonprofit organization is to award scholarships to students who desire higher education. For additional information regarding the Umatilla High School Alumni Association, you may contact Janet Nagy, president, at 541-567-3968 or write to P.O. Box 1144, Umatilla, OR 97882. The annual meeting is Aug. 23 in the conference room at Desert Lanes Bowling Alley, Hermiston, at 5:30 p.m.

Betty Nobles
Umatilla

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