

INSIDE MY SHOES

# Hallmark sentiments on National Boss's Day

As I approached college graduation, my goal was to eventually become a boss with my own office where I could hang posters on the ceiling.

Seemingly lofty ambitions for a 22-year-old, it came to fruition much sooner than I anticipated. When John and I first moved to Eastern Oregon, I had hoped to collect unemployment benefits while adjusting to the land of sagebrush and sand.

With a college degree in hand and nearly four years of experience in the human services field, the door quickly opened at Betha House, a facility that provided residential and vocational services for adults with developmental disabilities. The interim

executive director offered me a direct care job at the interview.

When the group home manager left a few months later, I was offered a promotion — I was 25. I promptly moved into the office and attached posters to the ceiling. When the board hired an executive director who only stayed a short while, I stepped into the interim capacity while they searched for a permanent replacement.

It was then that I learned that I didn't want the buck to stop at my desk — I was perfectly content in a mid-level management position — or the "medium cheese," as one of the residents called my role as the residential program manager.



TAMMY MALGESINI, COMMENT

Paula Smith had been talking to Suzanne Tosten, a group home manager, and referred to her as the "big cheese." Suzanne explained to Paula that Candy Lukens was executive director, so that made her the big boss, and that Tammy (me) was the mid-level boss and that she (Suzanne) was under them. Paula quickly figured out the hierarchy.

"Oh, I get it, Candy is the big cheese, Tammy is the medium cheese and you're the little cheese," Paula said.

I appreciate the mentorship I received from Candy and several other bosses I've had over the years. I learned the most from Charlie Carnes, a program manager when I worked for Umatilla County.

A career Navy pilot turned

alcohol and drug counselor, Charlie possessed an uncanny ability to rally the troops. He made each person feel like a valued part of the team.

In accordance with military tradition, Charlie gave each of us call signs. Due to my no-nonsense approaches and literal interpretations of things, mine was Terminator — after the role portrayed by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

After 20+ years in management and leadership capacities, I changed careers and began an entry-level job in the news industry. Several editors have worked patiently with me as I learned a more creative style.

In my early years with the newspaper, deputy managing editor Dave Sager heavily edited my "Dragnet" — "Just the facts,

ma'am" Joe Friday — reporting on city council and county court meetings. Some of them were real snorers.

I'll never forget when I finally got it. Dave said my description about problems Heppner was having with its city garbage service franchise was so vivid that he could actually see and smell the scene.

Today (Oct. 16) is National Boss's Day — so, I tip my hat to Charlie Carnes, who was never afraid to work in the trenches, while also handing out compliments and supporting his team.

*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 TO THE EDITOR

## Hermiston a dynamic city in need of more room for students

Hermiston is a "can do" community. Residents know the value of a good education, and that an investment in schools today will pay off for years to come.

Residents have the opportunity this November to again invest in Hermiston education by approving Measure 30-130. It's a fiscally responsible proposal to address overcrowding in elementary schools and at the high school caused by the significant population growth of the area.

The school district listened to voters after the last bond vote. It reduced its funding request, paid off additional debt, and selected bond projects that focus on increasing classroom space to help keep class sizes smaller.

They are making a request that will not increase residents' school bond tax rates. This bond will not only address overcrowding but will spur private investment by showing Hermiston is a city that takes its future seriously. We're proud to support Measure 30-130 and this unique opportunity for Hermiston to invest in its students and its future. We encourage voters to vote yes on Measure 30-130.

**Representative Greg & Sherri Smith Heppner**

## Yes vote is investment in Hermiston students

Hermiston has the opportunity in

November to yet again invest in its young people and its future.

The Hermiston School District is asking voters to approve a bond that will fund adequate classroom space for its students. It's a package that takes into consideration the growing student enrollment and the priorities of residents polled in the past year.

Support for a school bond such as this is truly an investment, and we see the returns every day. Graduates of the Hermiston school system are a huge part of our community. We're lucky to live in a place that adds jobs and housing at a pace that enables alumni to return and give back to the community they grew up in.

It's incredible to look around at the number of businesses started or managed by Hermiston graduates. Alumni are stepping up into service clubs, nonprofit boards and volunteer positions. At Hermiston High School, more than a quarter of the teachers were once Bulldogs themselves.

I have always been appreciative of the education all my kids received from the Hermiston School District. My son teaches at Armand Larvie Middle School, while my daughter is a member of the Rotarians.

My kids and so many others were students who came up through a district supported by the community. They attended first-rate schools with outstanding teachers and staff. Residents made this possible by supporting school bonds.

Please join me in voting Yes for Hermiston Schools.

**Phil Hamm Hermiston**

## Echo reunion



Contributed photo

Alumni of Echo High School from the classes of 1969 and 1970 gathered Sept. 21 and Sept. 22 to celebrate a reunion. Pictured left to right are: (front row) Pat Fisher, David Stockard, John McCord, Jerry Roberts, Doug Hale, Alvin Umphres, (middle row) Millie Bowman White, Donna McAtee Bradbury, Sylvia Billing, (back row) Sam Haines, Vickie Murray May, Cindy Williams Lucas, Bruce Wattenburger, Donna Baggerly Bowman, Fred Davis, Diane Schultze Wilson, George Koffler, Edith Tefft Roberts and Janet Williams Henderson.

## Hermiston town hall will discuss election

HERMISTON HERALD

The Umatilla County Republican Party is hosting town halls about the Nov. 5 election.

Umatilla County voters get to decide on two measures that would change the county charter. One would change "Law Enforcement Department" in the charter to "Sheriff's Office" to align with the name of the sher-

iff's office as well as reflect the position of sheriff is an elected official.

The other would change the election of county officials to the November election and only require a primary election if more than two candidates filed in a race.

The Hermiston town hall is Oct. 23 at Armand Larvie Middle School, 1497 S.W. Ninth St. at 6:30 p.m. with

Commissioner Bill Elfering. Hermiston schools Superintendent Tricia Mooney will discuss the district's \$89 million bond proposal that will be on the ballot.

Echo voters get to decide on continuing the levy tax to support the Echo Rural Fire Protection District. Fire Chief Delbert Gehrke will speak on the measure during the Hermiston town hall.

## SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor is a forum for local 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. Letters must be original and signed by the writer or writers. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Only the letter writer's name and city of residence will be published.

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**Staff Sergeant Joel Davies**  
US Marines  
Veteran

This special section will print in the Hermiston Herald on Nov. 13th, 2019 and in the East Oregonian on Nov. 12th, 2019. There is **NO CHARGE** to be included. Bring us or send in photos of servicemen, servicewomen or veterans, along with the information in the form to the right, by **November 1, 2019.**

For more information, call 1-800-962-2819

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