

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



**BLAINE CLOOTEN**  
Attorney at Clouten Law

**When and why did you move to Hermiston?**  
*I started working in Hermiston in 2013 after passing the Oregon State Bar. My wife got a job in the area; and we decided to settle in Eastern Oregon to raise a family. I began my role as Hermiston city prosecutor in 2013, and currently hold that position, today. I also practice civil work with my wife in the areas of family law, bankruptcy, estate planning, and personal injury.*

**What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?**  
*This is a tough question. My wife and I used to have a standing weekly afternoon date at Walker's Farm Kitchen, but sadly, they stopped serving lunch (#pleasebringbacklunch). Both Shiki and Kobe are great for sushi. Delish Bistro is also consistently good. An unexpected place I really like is the salad bar at Good Shepherd Medical Center.*

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
*Spend time with my 3- and 5-year-old sons. I also like to run with my dog. I enjoy doing projects on my house and old truck, but I seem to break more than I fix. I always make time to watch the Blazers and college football, but I won't say which college team I favor (go Ducks!).*

**What surprises you about Hermiston?**  
*The community was very welcoming when I arrived, and it hasn't changed. If you ask someone for help, they give it. That's really a big benefit of a place like Hermiston. I've lived in big cities before, and there's nothing like the feeling of a small town. I also love how much Hermiston continues to grow and expand with new business. All things considered, I think the city government does a good job to promote business growth.*

**What was the last book you read?**  
*"Watership Down" by Richard Adams. There's a version of it on Netflix, if you're not into reading (but you're reading the Hermiston Herald, so, chances are you at least moderately enjoy a good read).*

**What website or app do you use most other than Facebook?**  
*Email, news, or the boring guy answers, like ESPN. I visit my own site 3-4 times a day (oregon-legalfirm.com) and of course www.hermistonherald.com. I do have to visit the Umatilla County Jail Roster frequently for work.*

**If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?**  
*I've been planning a trip to Europe with my wife Nicole Clooten, since we started dating. We plan to go to Paris and London. I'd like to visit my brother-in-law in Japan, and someday hope to visit my adopted brother's homeland of South Korea.*

**What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?**  
*To make a positive impact on my community and the legal profession [insert lawyer joke here]. If you have a suggestion, please contact me.*

**What is your proudest accomplishment?**  
*I'm proud of the law firm I started with my wife in Hermiston. I'm proud of the boys I'm helping to raise, but again, that's a team effort with my wife.*

HERMISTON HISTORY



HH file photo

Ana Sandoval and Michele Skinner had their hands full at the opening of the 99 Cent Store in Hermiston in 1994.

**25 YEARS AGO**  
NOV. 1, 1994

Completion of a new school building at the corner of 10th Street and Diagonal Road is just part of a transition to a middle school format.

When the school opens in the fall of 1995, both it and Armand Larive school will continue to house only seventh and eighth graders.

Sixth graders will remain at the grade schools one more year until renovations at Armand Larive are complete.

Got 99 cents?  
That's all you need to buy most of the items for sale at the 99-Cent Store at Highway 395 and Southeast Fourth in Hermiston.

The store opened last week and is already doing brisk business based solely on word of mouth.

"It's all over town now," store manager Joe Key said. "Everybody knows."

**50 YEARS AGO**  
OCT. 30, 1969

Colonel Charles R. Norris announced Wednesday afternoon that the Umatilla Army Depot workforce would number about 750 by early January as a result of civilian strength reductions by the Department of Defense, detailed yesterday morning in Washington by Secretary Melvin Laird.

Currently 790 civilians are employed by UAD.

Colonel Norris, commanding officer at the 20,000 acre installation, stated that in order to align the number of employees with budgeted funds, it will be necessary to give 60-day advanced reduction-in-force notices to the affected personnel.

Changes in the depot organizational structure and realignment of personnel are being studied, according to Col. Norris, in order to use remaining forces to best advantage in carrying on the functions of the post.

He said there have been no changes in the ammunition and general supply missions of the installation.

**75 YEARS AGO**  
NOV. 2, 1944

Two more Hermiston boys have given their lives for their country. This sad fact was revealed this week by receipt of telegrams by Mr. and Mrs. F.C McKenzie and Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Estle.

The first sad message to arrive came from the War Department, stating that Pvt. Frank McKenzie had



HH file photo

Inland Empire Bank employees dressed up as prison inmates for the 1994 Treats on Main in Hermiston.

died from wounds received in action in the Paullau Islands. The following day another telegram, this time from the U. S. Navy, stated that Robert Clair Estle, Gunners Mate 3/c, USNR, had died of wounds following action in the service of his country.

Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie had not heard from their son since September 24, when he wrote that he was getting along nicely and "not to worry." At that time he was thought to have been on Anguar Island. The telegram stated that he died of wounds on Oct. 1, indicating he was injured sometime between Sept. 24 and Oct. 1. He died the day after he reached his 22nd birthday.

Frank entered the service at Ft. Douglas, Utah, on Dec. 29, 1942. He had been overseas about four months, serving with the 81st Division, U. S. Infantry.

He was born and raised in Hermiston, going through all local schools. He was well liked by his fellow classmates for his friendliness and cheerful disposition.

Robert Clair Estle was born on Nov. 20, 1922 in Sharon, Oklahoma. He came to Oregon with his parents in May, 1937 and lived here until he enlisted on Dec. 11, 1941, four days after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. He attended grade school here and later worked on the farm with his parents.

The telegram from the U.S. Navy

stated that he had died of wounds following action in the service of his country. No definite information is available yet as to where burial service was held. Bob was the youngest of 10 children in the Estle family and the first to break up the family circle.

**100 YEARS AGO**  
NOV. 1, 1919

Edward Rose Shaw and Ania McMartin were married in Walla Walla Thursday of last week. After a little honeymoon trip they returned to Cold Springs, east of this city, where they will make their home.

The bride is a sister of Mrs. E. E. Shaw of Cold Springs, and the groom is the son of her husband by a former marriage.

So the way this figures out in relationship now is that Mrs. E. E. Shaw is mother-in-law to her own sister and step-mother-in-law and sister-in-law to the groom.

Carey Wood died from acute nephritis Monday morning in St. Anthony Hospital at Pendleton. He was there only a few days, having been taken from this city when his condition after a week's illness became gradually worse.

His death was thought to be due to the effects of shell shock and being gassed while in service in France, he having been at one time 72 days continuously on the firing line. He was mustered out early in the year and returned to Hermiston.

**Hermiston Herald**  
VOLUME 113 • NUMBER 44

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Delivered by mail Wednesdays  
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Periodical postage paid at Hermiston, OR.  
Postmaster, send address changes to  
Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St.,  
Hermiston, OR 97838.

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Community Bank picks local teachers

HERMISTON HERALD

As area educators were returning to their classrooms in September, Community Bank was collecting nominations for its new Apple Appreciation Awards.

The bank congratulated teachers with the most nominations collected in the communities where it has branches. Meghan Dixon, a fourth grade teacher at Hermiston's Desert View Elementary School, was among those recognized. Other teachers from Umatilla and Morrow counties who received the award included Sarah Matheny (Heppner), Makenna Ramos (Pendleton) and Jeff Bishop (Milton-Freewater).

In addition to honoring kindergarten through 12th grade teachers in local communities, the award also



Photo contributed by Leah Johnson

Meghan Dixon of Desert View Elementary School, left, receives an Apple Appreciation Award from Ashley Gonzalez, a teller from Community Bank.

served to support school clubs. The winning teacher from each Community Bank location received an Apple Appreciation Award trophy and was asked to

choose a club or student organization at their school to receive a \$200 donation from the bank.

Dixon selected the school's Robotics Club as

the recipient. In nominations for the award, Dixon was noted for her hard work and going the extra step.

"She goes out of her way to not only teach her students but to build a community of caring students in her classroom," the bank shared from a submission.

The bank anticipates continuing the Apple Appreciation Awards each fall with plans to expand the nomination radius to include all schools within the counties where Community Bank does business. The financial institution was founded in 1955 by a group of Joseph business leaders as the Bank of Wallowa County. For more information, contact Tom Moran, president and CEO, at 509-525-9860 or tmoran@communitybanknet.com.

CORRECTIONS

It is the policy of the Hermiston Herald to correct errors as soon as they are discovered. Incorrect information will be corrected on Page 2A. Errors committed on the Opinion page will be corrected on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories.

Please contact the editor at editor@hermistonherald.com or call (541) 564-4533 with issues about this policy or to report errors.