

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



**TALAN WILHELM**  
Street performer  
and construction flagger

**When and why did you move to Hermiston?**  
*I'm kind of from all over. I actually wasn't going to be stopping through here, honestly. On Wednesday, I was heading to Portland from Utah to pick up a friend, and I noticed one of my tires is bald. So I'm raising money to get that replaced, and trying to make it to Spokane to see my sister by Christmas, but I don't know if that will happen.*

**What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?**  
*The Union Club has good coffee, and they've been kind to me.*

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
*I like to fish, but I only am licensed in Utah. It's been a while since I caught anything along the Columbia River.*

**What surprises you about Hermiston?**  
*There's not much of a surprise here for me, I haven't really explored past downtown yet. The people are nice.*

**What was the last book you read?**  
*Do you really want me to remember that far back?*

**What website or app do you use most other than Facebook?**  
*I use weather apps. It's kind of a 'tool' for when you're traveling, I need to figure out what the weather's like where I'm headed.*

**If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?**  
*Germany. My last name is Wilhelm, and I want to see the Wilhelm Castle.*

**What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?**  
*When I got Muffen, my cat (pictured above), I had no idea what to name her. I bought a banana nut muffin at a coffee shop, set it down on a table outside and warned her not to touch it. I went inside and when I came back out, there was a crowd of people around my table because she'd eaten the whole thing. She was so little back then. That's how she got her name.*

**What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?**  
*I don't really think that far ahead. I've got a job lined up in Utah for March. This is kind of a mini-vacation for me.*

**What is your proudest accomplishment?**  
*Getting my RV, and keeping it running is an everyday achievement. This RV is technically my first home.*

HERMISTON HISTORY



Gov. John Kitzhaber, Rep. Chuck Norris, Rep. Ray Baum and Sen. Gordon Smith listen to Eastern Oregon mayors discuss cities' funding needs in Pendleton in December 1994.

HH file photo

25 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 27, 1994

About a dozen members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers took part in an informational picket north of Union Pacific's Hinkle Rail Yard Wednesday.

The "just practicing" picket, one of 72 nationwide, marked the union's presentation of items they'd like to see in the new engineer's contract to Union Pacific management in Omaha, Nebraska.

The current contract expires Dec. 31.

Among the union's demands are an annual 15 percent raise, paid holidays, personal leave, mandatory time away from the workplace and a meal period on the job.

2) A single mother and her four children found out yesterday how much members of the Hermiston community care.

Opening their heart to Linda Pfel and her family, left destitute by a fire that destroyed their home, community members, churches, businesses, the Hermiston police and fire departments, Agape House and the Red Cross jumped in to help.

"I think it's great; I really appreciate it," Pfel said. "We lost everything."

Christmas wrapping paper stuffed into a wood stove overheated the chimney pipe, causing the ceiling of the single wide mobile home to catch on fire. The blaze consequently spread throughout the mobile home, destroying the structure in a matter of minutes.

50 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 25, 1969

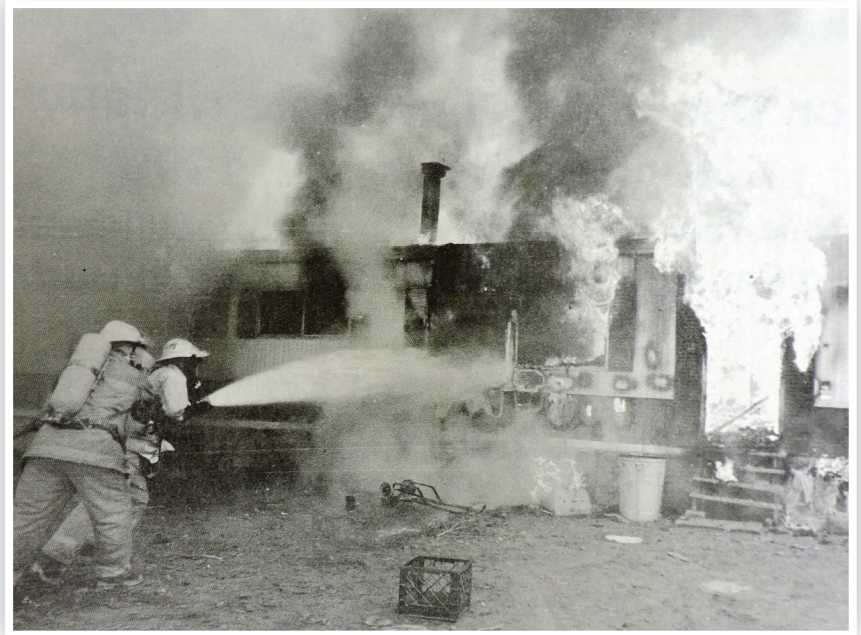
From the front page stories that have been printed and television and radio programs that have been aired during the past week in connection with Hermiston, the Army Depot and nerve gas, it would appear that a little "anti-nerve" gas might be in order for the rest of the state.

If such a thing is available it would be welcomed by most everyone. Maybe just a couple of tranquilizers!

In the past seven days and apparent security test was made at the Depot with the results turning out a little embarrassing for the Army and giving opponents of the gas shipments a lot of ammunition for more news stories.

Opponents have claimed publicly that because of their actions, the Army has delayed the planned shipments. The Pentagon immediately denied the claim made by a Washington Senator.

Hermiston people have been interviewed by representatives for CBS, ABC and NBC television and radio, United Press International, Associated Press, a Eugene television station, all local newspapers and radio stations, and a few more.



Firefighters attempt to put out a mobile home in flames on Christmas Day in Hermiston in 1994.

HH file photo

75 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 28, 1944

Mr and Mrs. Fred J. Estle have received the Award of the Purple Heart and certificate of the son, Robert Clair Estle, Gunner's Mate Third Class, U.S. Naval Reserve, who was killed in action some time ago. A letter was received, portions of which follow:

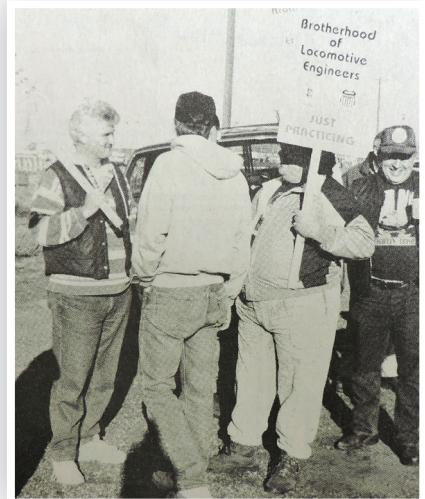
"Our ship, the U.S.S. St. Lo, was one of a group of six CVS's which, with our escorts, engaged in air and surface action with a strong force of the Japanese fleet for several hours on Oct. 25. The enemy finally turned and retired to the northward, badly damaged, and having had two heavy cruisers and at least one destroyer sunk.

"After some time following the end of the surface engagement during an air attack, a Japanese bomb penetrated to our hangar deck spaces and exploded. This was followed by a series of violent explosions which caused such damage that the ship sunk in a short time. Your son received serious injuries from one of the explosions, but nonetheless during the abandoning of the ship, distinguished himself by clearing away life rafts on the port gun gallery forward.

"His actions without doubt saved the lives of many shipmates. He then abandoned ship, reached a raft, and was rescued by the destroyer, Heermann, but died on board that vessel as a result of his wounds on the night of Oct. 27, and was buried at sea on Oct. 28. The burial was attended by all survivors on board who were not too badly wounded."

100 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 27, 1919

Luella McCoy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.O. McCoy of Hermiston, sprang a surprise on her high school friends and teachers last week by



Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotives picket at Hinkle Rail Yard in Hermiston in 1994.

HH file photo

announcing her marriage the day after her sixteenth birthday. The groom, Walter Mead, is a rancher of Lexington and will take his bride to that place, where they will make their home.

2) At noon Wednesday, Hermiston came within an ace of experiencing serious damage from water, and probably would have been partially flooded had it not been for prompt action on the part of Superintendent of Irrigation Maurice Scroggs. The danger came through a huge ice gorge forming at the bridge over the feed canal south of town, which had backed the water up until at the time of discovery was on the verge of running over and washing out the banks.

Assembling a crew of men in a hurry, Mr. Scroggs hustled them to the large flat some distance south of town that had been used as a spillway on one former occasion when a happening like the above occurred. On arrival there they dynamited the bank and loosed the water and slush ice, thus saving the town from further danger.

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Community banking board elects BEO president as officer

HERMISTON HERALD

Jeff Bailey, president and CEO of Bank of Eastern Oregon, was recently elected as secretary/treasurer of the Community Banks of Oregon board of directors.



Bailey

A native Oregonian, Bailey has spent more than two decades with the Bank of Eastern Oregon. He's also active in the Heppner Chamber of Commerce

and Willow Creek Economic Development Group.

Other board officers elected to the CBO are Ron Green, chair (Oregon Pacific Bank, Florence), and Kenneth D. Trautman Jr., immediate past president (People's Bank of Commerce, Medford). Also, new four-year directors elected Dec. 6 include Randy Compton, Kate Salyers and Jim Schlotfeldt. Those re-elected to new four-year terms were Trey Maust and Joseph J. Postlewait. Others currently serving on the board are Jarrett Stuchlik and Craig Wanichek.

"Oregon's community banks are fortunate to have this accomplished group of bankers leading the Community Banks of Oregon. Their commitment and passion for community banking will be invaluable to our organization and the communities we serve," said Linda Navarro, president and chief executive officer of CBO and the Oregon Bankers Association.

The Bank of Eastern Oregon recently opened a full-service branch in Hermiston. It's located at 1475 N. First St. For more information, call 541-303-8274.

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.

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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.