

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



BLAINE GANVOA

History teacher and volleyball coach at Stanfield Secondary School

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

In 2015 to be closer to my job. I used to live in Boardman.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

Don't have one; prefer eating at home.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Road and mountain biking, along with hiking.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

The community support of youth activities.

What was the last book you read?

"Dare to Lead" by Brene Brown.

What website or app do you use most other than Facebook?

I don't have Facebook, I use Twitter.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go, and why?

Spain, to capture more of my heritage to pass on to my kids.

What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?

Once when brushing my teeth, as the toothbrush was being raised to my mouth, I sneezed and toothpaste went into my nostril, at which point I accidentally snorted it up my nose further. Crazy how much that burned.

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

To read one book per month of varying genres.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Being a first generation college graduate and having my wife and kids present at both my bachelor's and master's graduation ceremonies.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Harold Rankin named 1971 fair parade grand marshal

25 YEARS AGO

July 30, 1996

Nearly 200 gallons of sulfuric acid gushed from a broken hose at the Hermiston Generating Project Friday, dousing a truck driver and sending him to a Portland hospital.

Plant officials immediately called the Hermiston Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team (Hazmat) to contain the leak.

Team members donned vinyl full encapsulated chemical suits with self-contained breathing systems, Nomex fireproof jumpsuits and face pieces and set up a decontamination site with showers and hose-down pools. Hazmat workers battled the difficulties of moving in the bulky suits in addition to above 90 degree temperatures outside the rubber suits.

Hermiston Fire Chief Jim Stearns said temperatures inside the suits can reach 130 degrees, forcing team members to cut short their individual time in a scene. The Hazmat team contained the spill and left the scene in just a few hours, Stearns said.

50 YEARS AGO

July 29, 1971

Harold Rankin, who was named by fair chairman Spike Piersol as 1971 parade Grand Marshal, is an obvious choice to serve in this capacity.

Rankin, who served as director and president of the Hog and Dairy Show before the Umatilla County Fair became established over 30 years ago, was instrumental in getting Hermiston chosen as the site of the fair. He was appointed as a director on the first fair board, and served as president of the board and fair manager for 22 years, until he retired in 1963.

After raising turkeys in the Ione area, Rankin began a turkey-growing operation on Experiment Station Road, south of Hermiston in 1931. He first became interested in the Hog and Dairy Show as an exhibitor before becoming actively involved in the managing end of the fair.

The original fair buildings were destroyed by fire just a few days before the fair was due to begin on August 8, 1955. Rankin, president of the board and fair manager at the time, recalled how the grounds were transformed within a week from a smoldering pile of ashes to a lively fair in full swing.

Sixty-five small ammunition

shelters were moved from the army depot to the fairgrounds, and these, coupled with the two aluminum buildings that were saved, provided the setting for the fair that year.

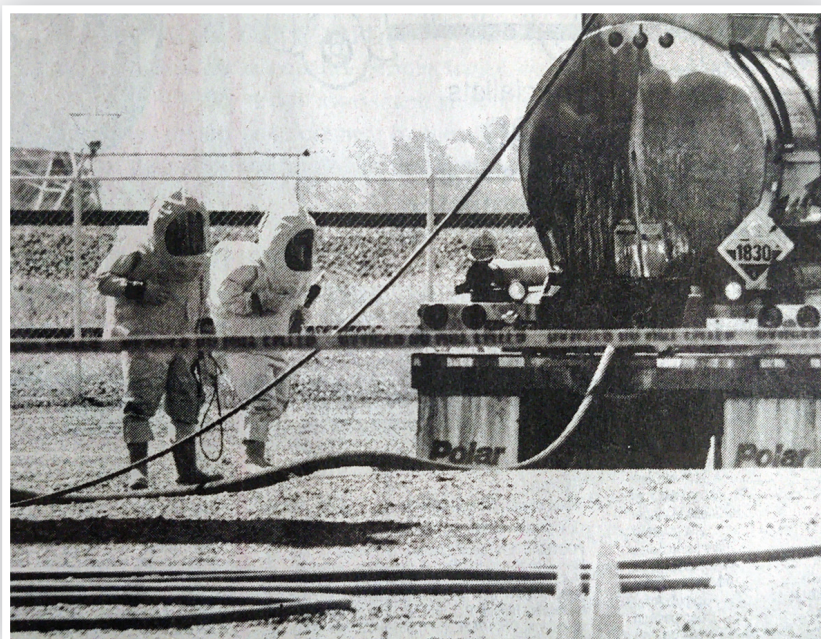
Rankin manages to let a note of pride slip through now and then in spite of his essential modesty about past accomplishments — and there's one particular building on the Umatilla County Fairgrounds that's dear to his heart.

It's the large show barn at the southwest corner of the grounds, and inscribed over the entry are the words "Rankin Pavilion," a tribute to the many years of service Rankin has volunteered to the fair.

75 YEARS AGO

July 25, 1946

Dissolution of the Hermiston General Hospital Association



Hermiston Hazmat team members donned heavy vinyl suits in the sweltering heat in July 1996 to contain a sulfuric acid spill at the Hermiston Generating Project.

was started last Friday evening at the Civic Recreation Center when about one hundred persons were present. George Harkenrider, president of the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, took charge of the meeting and stated that the organization was dissolved to make way for the new cooperative plan, under the name of Community Hospital Association.

R.M. Mitchell, educational director of the Pacific Supply in Walla Walla, presented the plan for the new association and told of

the benefits of the various hospitals now operating under the plan.

One thousand memberships of \$100 per family is the goal of the new plan and of the fee \$10 will be used in organization and solicitation work. Annual dues will be

in addition to the membership fee. Members will be solicited from this vicinity and possibly from distant points as far as Walla Walla.

100 YEARS AGO

July 28, 1921

Fire destroyed the Hotel Hoskins building in Echo and most of the furnishings yesterday. The fire started at noon in the upper story and had gained such headway before being discovered that there was no chance to save anything except a little of the furniture on the ground floor.

J.T. Hoskins is owner of the property and it is reported he carried no insurance. The hotel furniture, which belonged to Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Shannon was insured. The total loss is between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Mrs. Shannon succeeded in saving her personal belongings, which were in a room on the ground floor. Tex Henderson was the heaviest loser among the tenants, all of his clothing and possessions except a trunk being burned. Most of the roomers had very little in their rooms, and it being the dinner hour they were on hand to save their belongings.

Hotel Hoskins was built in 1906 and has been occupied as a hotel ever since.



Harold Rankin, 1971 Umatilla County Fair parade grand marshal, shows Spike Piersol, parade chairman, a plaque presented to him in 1949 from the Norbest Turkey Growers Association.

BY THE WAY

National Night Out treasure hunt underway in Hermiston

Hermiston's National Night Out treasure hunt — Clue No. 2:

GNR would say "we've got fun and games."

And if we're droppin' names,

He's living large as a city leader.

And to figure it out, you might be a reader.

I'll say this without going on a ledge.

Coming or going, it's under the edge.

Be sure and read the **Hermiston Herald** story about area National Night Out activities on the community page.

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The deadline to submit a request for the fall grant cycle from **Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation** is Saturday, July 31.

Qualifying nonprofit organizations may receive funding for programs or projects that contribute to the health needs or contribute to the quality of life of local communities that Good Shepherd serves, including western **Umatilla County** and **Morrow County**. The application is available online at www.gshealth.org/awards or by calling 541-667-3419.

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People are encouraged to mark their calendars for the **2021 Eastern Oregon Economic Summit**. The event

includes field and industry tours, general session speakers, and a series of discussion panels focused on regional economic updates, federal and state legislative updates, program and industry updates and more.

The summit kicks off Thursday, Aug. 19, and continues through Friday, Aug. 20. Sessions are held at the **Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Campus** and **Armand Larive Middle School**. Transportation will be provided for the tours. Tickets, which range from \$25-\$40 for different activities, are available at www.easternoregonsummit.com.

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The **American Red Cross** has been distributing about 12% more blood products to hospitals across the U.S. compared to this time last year. The Red Cross needs to collect more than 1,000 additional blood donations each day to meet the current hospital demand and end the severe blood shortage.

To thank donors who help ensure a strong blood supply in August, all who come to give Aug. 1-15, 2021, will automatically be entered for a chance to win an exclusive, VIP trip for two to the sold-out 2021 Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival.

Those who come to donate throughout August will also receive a free four-month subscription offer to Apple Music by email (new subscribers only).

Hermiston blood drives listed on the American Red Cross website include:

• Friday, Aug. 6, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at **First Christian Church**.

• Monday, Aug. 16, from 12:45-5:30 p.m. at **Good Shepherd Medical Center**.

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The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for Thursday, July 29, is baked chicken, potatoes, veggies and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, Aug. 3, is breakfast bake, hash browns and dessert.

For a **Meals on Wheels** delivery in Hermiston, call 541-567-3582 before 10 a.m. to place an order. To pick up a meal from the center at 255 N.E. Second St., call the same number before 11 a.m. Meals are \$4 and can be picked up between 11:30 a.m. and noon.

The **Boardman Senior Center** now is providing meal delivery. Meals are \$4 paid upon delivery. Call 541-481-3257 to order.