

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



RON GIBBS

Retired

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

Moved to Hermiston in 1975 from Umatilla. I worked at JR Simplot until they closed.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

Hales.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Follow the grandkids' sports, travel memorabilia collector.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

The amount of growth. So many new homes.

What was the last book you read?

"The Last Pass" by Gary Pomerantz.

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

eBay and News app.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

New York, Washington, D.C. and Boston.

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

Going to visit my high school friend at Christmas and walking in to find a strange family at the dinner table. They had moved and didn't tell me.

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

To be alive.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My wonderful family.

HERMISTON HISTORY

County fair history a little confusing

25 YEARS AGO

Aug. 20, 1996

In the stretch of just a few days, three deadly accidents occurred on Highways 730 and 395, near Hermiston.

The first one, happening around 11 a.m. on Thursday, killed Ernest L. King, 50, and Trinette Statton, 19. King was traveling westbound on Highway 730 when his sedan crossed the centerline, resulting in a head-on collision with Statton's pick-up truck. Statton died at the site, while King died later that day at Good Shepherd Hospital. David Karlin, 22, was riding with Statton when the accident occurred, but walked away without major injuries. According to senior OSP Trooper Rod Hansen, both Statton and Karlin were wearing seatbelts — while King wasn't.

The second accident happened around 5 a.m. on Saturday when Christopher Thomas Gumpert, 20, was thrown from his pick-up after it drifted off the road and rolled over

In 1937, the Umatilla Project Fair celebrated its 25-year anniversary in their new location near the junior high



Hermiston Herald, File
Paramedics remove Ernest L. King from the site of his head-on collision with a truck on Highway 730 in August 1996.

school. The following year was the first time that 4-H and FFA exhibitors were entered as part of the show.

The fair board was expanded to 15 members in 1939, representing all areas of the county, to estab-

ing Victory Gardens and selling war bonds instead of creating fair exhibits, it resumed with as much spirit and entries as before. In addition, 1946 was the first year a full queen and court were chosen.

75 YEARS AGO

Aug. 22, 1946

In this day and age when vaccines are a very common topic of discussion, it's important to remember when there weren't any. Around this week in 1946, there was a confirmed case of polio that was diagnosed as "infantile paralysis" at a Walla Walla hospital.

The illness was described as "slight" with the patient getting along "satisfactorily," though there was no mention of any treatment. Although it was only one case, it was enough to remind people to be cautious and observant.

The public was warned to keep out of drainage and irrigation ditches, as well as the Columbia River, and instead stick to swimming in public pools. Also noted were symptoms, the first of which being sleepiness and headache. Those noticing such symptoms were even requested by public health officials to get plenty of rest and consult a doctor if the conditions continue or worsen.

100 YEARS AGO

Aug. 18, 1921

Oregon's newest town at the time, Boardman, boasted quite a grand school. In fact, it'd been hailed as "probably the finest school building in the northwest in a place of Boardman's size" by a Hermiston Herald editor.

The new public school building cost more than \$50,000 and had manual training, domestic science, and other classrooms. It also hosts an engine room in the basement and an auditorium on the upper floor. The school was built on the unit-basis, which means that new wings could be added on whenever necessary.

This, in addition to the cost, makes it "a great monument to the public spirit of the citizens and shows how confident the people are in the future of their town," said the Hermiston Herald editor. Perhaps the only thing that seemed to be missing was a gymnasium, which was deemed unnecessary since the climate permitted outdoor activities practically year-long.

McKenzie Rose, a sophomore at Echo High School, searched Hermiston Herald archives to compile these article summaries.



Hermiston Herald, File
Two of Umatilla County's best products were on display at the fair this week — watermelons and beautiful girls. The 1971 fair court, from front to back: Queen Doneva Shockman, Princess Joan Howard, Princess Cheri Smith and Princess Karen Cramer.

multiple times. He was headed east on Highway 395 and wasn't wearing a seatbelt at the time. When emergency medical personnel arrived, he was already dead.

The last of the accidents involved a tractor-trailer and sedan near the Hermiston Municipal Airport. Matthew A. Prentice, 27, crossed over the center line and several lanes of traffic, hitting Orville G. Blazer's tractor-trailer. Prentice, at the time, was remaining in serious condition at Oregon Health Sciences University while Blazer was uninjured.

50 YEARS AGO

Aug. 19, 1971

The history of the Umatilla County Fair is an intricate one, though many disagree as to when the first official fair actually was. Numerous fairs, under just as many names, have been in the area since the 1870s.

Contributing to the confusion is the fact that many of the early fairs were held as add-ons to the Pendleton Round-Up. However, many deem the 1939 Umatilla County Fair as the first full-fledged real one.

lish the Hermiston show as a county fair. Though it was somewhat put on hold during the duration of World War II, as people focused on grow-



Hermiston Herald, File
A Quetzalcoatl dance was performed by Costa de Nayarit during the 1996 Umatilla County Fair. The group put on crowd-pleasing shows demonstrating a variety of dances for fairgoers.

BY THE WAY

CityFest gets nod for top parade entry

The Best of Show for the Umatilla County Fair Parade went to the Greater Hermiston CityFest with Andrew Palau! If you don't know about the upcoming faith-based event, check out the community story in today's Hermiston Herald.

Other entries recognized during the Aug. 7 parade included:

Best Theme (Ready, Set, Show!): Hermiston Drug & Gift; Best Float: Atkinson Staffing; Best Equestrian: Happy Canyon Princesses; Best Motorized: Desert Shrine Club; Best Royalty: Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days; Best Dance: Steppin' Country Dance Club; Best Bands & Music: Main Street Cowboys and Pendleton Side Saddlers; and Best Non-Float: Happy Canyon Directors.

Tony and DeAnn Amstad of Hermiston have amassed a mighty collection of John Deere collectible tractors, which will be auctioned off Saturday, Aug. 21

at noon by Booker Auction Company. It will be held at the Amstad Farm, 79480 Canal Road, Hermiston.

The auction will feature more than 100 rare and collectible John Deere tractors, Caterpillar tractors and a few select classic automobiles. In addition, a band will play in the afternoon, and food and beverages will be available.

The auction preview is Aug. 20 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Aug. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. The collection also will be available for online preview Aug. 20. For more information, visit www.bookerauction.com.

Conexion de Madre, a group designed to provide support to mothers of all ages, recently started in Umatilla. It's held the last Thursday of each month from 6-7:30 p.m. at Umatilla City Hall, 700 Sixth St.

The free event includes snacks, crafts, community resources, guest speakers and more. Infants are welcome if you don't have childcare available.

The next group is Thursday, Aug. 26. For more information, visit www.umatilla-city.org/parksrec or call 541-922-3226.

The Harkenrider Senior Activity Center menu for Thursday, Aug. 19, is spaghetti, garlic bread, fruit and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, Aug. 24, is roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables and dessert. (In-house meals will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m. People planning to dine in are asked to call by 11 a.m.)

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 \$5 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.