

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



AUSTIN SAINES

Hermiston

What is your job?

I was a cashier at Safeway. My last day was a couple of weeks ago. I'm moving to Kelso, Washington, soon.

How long had you been at Safeway?

I was there three years.

What did you like about it?

I loved helping people, especially the older folks I don't feel like they get treated as fairly as other people.

How did the pandemic changed your work environment?

We had to wear a mask the whole shift, had our temperature checked and asked if we have any symptoms. From my experience, I was just very warm all the time because of the mask. Also it was difficult for me to understand the customers and vice versa.

You're a big wrestling fan. What do you like best about wrestling?

I think what I love about wrestling is the technique that it takes and the precision. One false move and somebody can get really hurt. Also the persona that somebody can put on can be odd, yet, after the match or after the show, they're really just people. Most the time they're really cool people.

Have you attended a wrestling show in Hermiston?

Yes.

Who were your favorite wrestlers at those shows?

I would say when Chavo Guerrero came down to Hermiston, that was a dream come true. I remember watching him with the big companies and watching his uncle wrestle so it was a really big honor to meet him. He was a really really nice guy and really felt like he wanted to talk to you, not like you were a nuisance. One other person I would say would be "Filthy" Tom Lawlor. He's very intense and really appreciates and respects the wrestling business. But when you're talking to him as a fan he's a really good guy.

But you also like the team C4, right?

The reason I like C4 is because they have such great chemistry in the ring. You know that's really difficult to find with somebody that you probably haven't grown up with or were great friends with to begin your career with. Also I just think they're really technically sound performers. They seem like the guys that will take the time to talk to you and make you feel special.

What is best in life?

Honestly I think friendship is something we take for granted sometimes. But for me working three years at Safeway I've made some memories that I hope I never forget because I've met some really great people. Also family of course at the end of the day through all the ups and downs of life they're all you have. So try to cherish them and spend as much time with them as you can. Because you don't know when you're going to lose them, I know that well.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Methodist church nears completion in 1921

25 YEARS AGO
Oct. 8, 1996

Five Hermiston residents were recently honored in the 10th annual Awards and Volunteer Recognition Banquet for Oregon Special Olympics: Michael Scott Davidson, Hermiston Police Department Lt. Jerry Roberts, Spike Piersol, and Don and Lori Armstrong.

Davidson, who was recognized as the "Special Olympian of the Year," has competed in the Special Olympics since 1981. He participates in track and field, bowling, skiing and golf — and if that isn't impressive enough, he hasn't missed a single sectional or summer games since starting.

Roberts was honored as an "Outstanding Volunteer" for his participation in the Law and Enforcement Torch Run, a charitable campaign for Special Olympics. He's been the community coordinator for the event for six years and carries the torch during the run.

Piersol also received the "Outstanding Volunteer" award. Being an EMT, he provides emergency medical services for the Oregon Trail Special Olympics sectional and East State bowling tournaments.

The Armstrongs, who own McDonald's, won the "Outstanding Business/Corporate Support" award for providing McDonald's food to the Oregon Trail Special Olympics bowling tournament, which they've done for 10 years. In addition to providing food and beverages, the Armstrongs have provided employment to Special Olympic athletes at their Hermiston and Pendleton McDonald's locations.

50 YEARS AGO
Oct. 7, 1971

• The people of Umatilla County have had enough of mosquitos — they've been a major nuisance in the area and are suspected of causing several local encephalitis cases in people and horses. One proposed solution is establishing a West Umatilla Vector Control District, which the Umatilla County Court will hold a public hearing at the CRC building. If established, local bodies of water would be stocked with gambusia — fish which eat mosquito larvae.

• In a recent meeting with the Merchant's Committee of the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, along with city and school officials, a policy was released to address misconduct by Hermiston students, which typically occurs during the lunch hour. All matters concerning crime (shoplifting, vandalism, etc.) will be reported to the Hermiston Police Department. Non-criminal activities that create a bad image will be reported, including names of the students while keeping the reporting merchants anonymous, to the school principals. If merchants are suspicious of future trouble — such as students threatening each other, planning undesirable activities — they're instructed to notify the appropriate people at the schools or police department.

75 YEARS AGO
Oct. 10, 1946

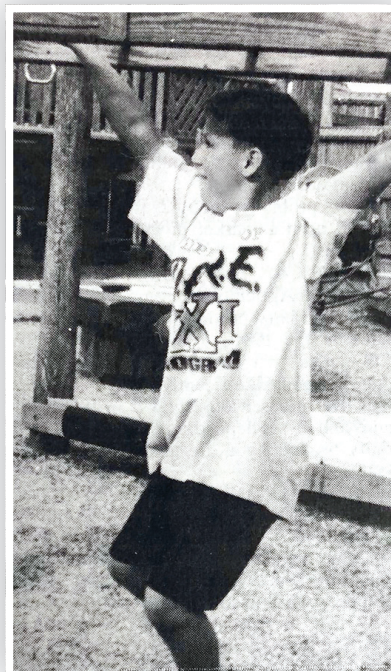
Forget waiting for Teacher Appreciation Week in the spring, let's celebrate them now!

The adult program committee of Hermiston is planning an adult party at the CRC in honor of



Hermiston Herald, File

Cub Scouts from three Hermiston troops invaded the Hermiston Fire Department in October 1971 to inspect the new equipment and listen to Fire Chief Bob Russell giving safety pointers and emergency instructions in observance of Fire Prevention Week.



Hermiston Herald, File

Eleven-year-old Guy Stephens of Armand Larive Middle School plays at Hermiston's Funland Park after school in October 1996. The park is due for some general maintenance and will receive a coat of sealer before winter hits.

local school personnel. Mrs. Bill Helmick and Mrs. Ray Tolar of Echo are co-chairs of the event, and have appointed committees from Ordnance, Boardman, Echo, Cold Springs, Columbia, Umatilla, Stanfield, Irrigon, Pine City and Hermiston to contribute numbers for the program. Following the program, refreshments will be served and there will be dancing, games and cards.

This is the first attempt by the adult program committee of the CRC to carry out a wide community event, which was recommended by the USO when they visited. Not only will the party give people the opportunity to become familiar with the teachers of their respective communities, but also with the CRC building and its advantages.

100 YEARS AGO
Oct. 6, 1921

A new Methodist church is almost finished being built and is planned to be dedicated on Oct. 23. Though it won't be complete by that date, it will be ready for occupancy.

Work on the church is proceeding favorably, with all doors and windows ordered and planned to come in by Oct. 15. The windows are of beautifully stained glass, with the largest and finest going in the back of the pulpit. The furnace has already been shipped and will be installed in the near future — a good sign as winter draws nearer. Folding chairs will take the place of pews until they get ordered, and when they do, the church will have seating capacity for about 300 people.

Bishop W. O. Huges, head of the church in a region covering nearly all of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, will give the dedication address — probably in both the morning and evening services. District Superintendent H. F. Pemberton of The Dalles also will be there for the dedication.

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



Hermiston Herald, File

Hermiston resident Michael Scott Davidson received the "Special Olympian of the Year" honor in October 1996.

BY THE WAY

By the Way: Provide your scary stories for a chance to win

The **Hermiston Herald** is running a true scary story contest on its Facebook page through Saturday, Oct. 30, at noon.

Maybe you lived in a house you believed was haunted. Maybe you had a run-in with someone who turned out to be a notorious criminal. Maybe the bump in the night was not your spouse but something else. We're seeking the scariest real-life stories from residents in the Hermiston area. In no more than 300 words, tell your real-life stories under the contest post at www.facebook.com/HermistonHerald.

After the deadline, we'll pick the story we think is the scariest and print that in the paper after Halloween. The writer of that spooky tale will receive a \$20 gift card to a local coffee shop and a copy of the newspaper that has their story.

Coarse language and graphic imagery will disqualify entries. And please adhere to the 300 word limit. Anything more also will not qualify.

Now, tell us something really scary.

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After taking a year off, **Echo Oktober-Fest** is set for Saturday, Oct. 16, 4-10 p.m. at **Echo Ridge Cellars**. Beer, brats, burgers, dogs and Echo Ridge wines are all on the menu. Organizers are also planning a variety of activities.

There is a raffle, silent auction, and baked goods sale under tents and inside the Echo Ridge winery building. Live music starts at 4 p.m. by **Margaret Mayer** and **Alan Feves** in traditional style and lederhosen. At 6:30 p.m., **The Brass Fire Band** plays.

Admission is \$20. Pre-sale tickets include a \$5 bonus token. Tickets are available at the event or pre-sales at H&P cafe, Echo Ridge Cellars, or Hermiston branch of Columbia Bank.

Young people's activities and food and drink start at 4 p.m. A mule-team taxi is free for getting around town or over to the cafe, corn maze or back to Echo Ridge.

In addition, the historic **St. Peter's Catholic Church** will be having an open house 1-4 p.m. at 33208 Marble St., Echo.

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The **Hermiston Chamber of Commerce** has its new sign up on its building at 1055 S. Highway 395. **High Performance Signs & Graphics** installed the new, cleaner look on Sept. 29.

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Speaking of chambers, the **Irrigon Chamber of Commerce** on Thursday, Sept. 30, held the grand opening of its new offices and visitors center. **Amazon Web Services** sponsored the event. State Rep. **Greg Smith**, R-Heppner, posted on his Facebook page that members of his family enjoyed the event, especially the delicious baked goods provided by **Nathan Wedam**, a senior at **Irrigon Junior/Senior High School**.

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The **Hermiston Linebackers Club** invites football fans to be on their special teams roster. A no-host luncheon meeting is Thursday, Oct. 7, noon to 1 p.m., at **Desert Lanes Family Fun Center**, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston.

Coach **David Faeteete** will discuss the

team's recent loss against the **Walla Walla Blue Devils** and share the game plan as they take on the **Southridge Suns** at Kennison Field (Friday, 7 p.m.). For more information, contact **Flora Larson** at 541-567-5215 or flora@barnettandmor.com.

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The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, Oct. 7**, is beef stew, biscuit, fruit and dessert. The menu for **Tuesday, Oct. 12**, is barbecue chicken, macaroni salad, baked beans 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 before 11 a.m. Meals are \$5 and can be picked up between 11:30 a.m. and noon.

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