

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



VAL HOXIE

Hermiston

What is your position with the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce?

Executive director.

How do you feel about living in Hermiston?

When you live in a city this size, your sense of community is everywhere. Living in Hermiston, I know all the things the Hermiston community sees and knows. Also, being new to Hermiston — I've only lived here a year — it gives me a perspective of what visitors might be looking for. This community is just so amazing.

Do you belong to any other clubs?

Not yet. I am investigating where I want to go.

What clubs do you have in mind?

I am very interested in Altrusa and the Lions Club. I have a deep history with the Lions Club. When my daughter was very young, she was almost legally blind. As a single mother, going to school, (the Lions) purchased her glasses, so I have a soft spot for them.

Can you tell me more about your family?

Between my husband and myself, we have five daughters. We have 12 grandchildren.

What do you like best about being a grandma?

That I'm not raising them.

Is raising children so difficult?

No, I loved raising children, I did. I think what I loved the best was that I while I was raising them, I was raising my five best friends. I love being a grandma because, since I didn't have boys, having grandsons was a whole new thing for me.

How are boys different from girls?

The girls were a different kind of work. The boys are easier to talk to some times. There's no agenda, no drama. But, as my children got older, there was none of that, either.

Do you have any favorite hobbies?

Camping.

Do you know how to make a fire?

Yes, I do. I know how to make a fire and I know how to build a motor home, because I did it for 11 years.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Soil fungus wreaks havoc with alfalfa in 1971

25 YEARS AGO
Oct. 22, 1996

Get ready to cast your votes, Sunset Elementary School is holding a mock political convention!

Fifth grade teacher Marie Groshong, whose class is beginning to study the various political systems, introduced Bill Clinton, Bob Dole and Ross Perot. The students playing these roles prepared speeches, taking the actual stances of the candidates from the voter pamphlets and rewriting them into simpler language. "The main point is to teach them that it's important to vote," Groshong said.

Both Don Armstrong and Bob Jenson, state representative candidates for District 57, also spoke at the convention. Jenson explained the democratic process and importance of participating. "Voting is going to be one of the most important things in your life if you care about what happens in your country and in your community," he said. Armstrong informed students about the legislative process and warned them that campaign promises are just ideas until they're discussed and agreed upon.

The kids were very excited to have real political candidates there, and had some good questions. One student asked if Jenson and Armstrong disliked each other, to which Armstrong replied, "We don't dislike each other. Elections aren't about like or dislike — it's about choosing who will best represent you."



Hermiston Herald, File
Superintendent Tom Davidson, of the Umatilla Branch Experiment Station, points to evidence of Fusarium wilt. Field tests conducted in the summer and fall of 1971 confirmed the soil fungus disease had infected several Hermiston area alfalfa fields.

50 YEARS AGO
Oct. 21, 1971

It was not good news to Hermiston alfalfa growers that a disease, Fusarium wilt, has infected several alfalfa fields in Hermiston. This soil fungus disease causes plants to become stunted, yellow and eventually wilt away. None of the currently seeded varieties have shown to be resistant to the disease — in fact, they appear more susceptible than others.

In August and September, Oregon State University Extension Plant Pathologist Dr. Paul Koepsell detected the disease in Hermiston alfalfa fields by studying root tissue. Koepsell said Fusarium wilt is known to kill alfalfa plants in several warmer regions of the United States. However, some solutions include long rotations and seeding orchardgrass with Washoe or Ranger varieties until field trials establish values of the "best techniques," he said.

75 YEARS AGO
Oct. 24, 1946

The first of 1,257 new Greyhound



Shirley Wentworth/Hermiston Herald, File
In October 1996, Sunset Elementary School students participated in a mock political convention.

buses is scheduled to arrive at Hermiston in early December. The total cost of all the buses, which feature numerous improvements from the old "Victory" ones during the war, is an estimated \$30 million.

They will be 37- and 41-passenger "Silverside," the distinctive Greyhound model developed just before the war but produced in limited numbers. Although the exterior will be fairly similar, the new "Silversides" will be powered by diesel engines, equipped with the most modern air-conditioning units, and boast more than 100 upgrades for passenger comfort, riding ease and mechanical performance.

However, due to wartime restrictions that limited bus manufacturing and postwar production delays, the wait will be a bit longer until these advanced buses come our way.

100 YEARS AGO
Oct. 22, 1921

Hermiston took 31 boys to a three-day leadership conference and football game in Heppner, and though the game was lost, they got a lot out of the leadership workshops and meetings.

The group left Hermiston at 11 a.m. Friday, and engine troubles resulted in them abandoning the truck and walking the last six to eight miles to Heppner. They finally reached their destination around 11 p.m. Friday and soon after went to bed.

Saturday morning, the football team ran a few signals while the others participated in a discussion about high school problems. There was another meeting in the afternoon, then the football game at 3:30 p.m. with Heppner beating Hermiston 14-3. One of the largest gatherings, the banquet, took place that evening in the Patrick Hotel.

Sunday was the last day of the conference, and the boys attended Sunday school, church, a big lunch at the homes of Heppner residents, and then the last meeting in the evening. Since the group didn't arrive at the conference on time Friday night, they missed the election of officers. As a result, there weren't any Hermiston boys elected as officers of the conference as they were undoubtedly expected to be.

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



Joyce Hensley/Hermiston Herald, File
Bali Sipp, 2, finds the perfect pumpkin for her Halloween jack-o-lantern during a pumpkin patch hayride in October 1996 at Tom Able Farms, Hermiston.

BY THE WAY

By the Way: Radio auction to sell goods from area businesses

The KOHU Fall Radio Auction is Thursday, Oct. 21, 5 p.m. on AM 1360 KOHU. A full list of items on the auction block is available at gohermiston.com — also, the auction will be livestreamed from the site.

Don't miss an opportunity to save on merchandise, services and gift cards from local and regional businesses. Be sure to call 541-567-6500 in advance to get your bidder number.

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Heroic deeds and jolly adventures await visitors Saturday, Oct. 23, 11 a.m. at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.

"The Merry Tales of Robin Hood" will be presented by the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company. The free interactive presentation is geared toward children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

For questions about the local event, call the library at 541-567-2882. For more about the theatre company or to view a virtual performance, visit www.travelinglantern.com.

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Domestic Violence Services offers several virtual support groups:

- **Turning Point:** for survivors of domestic violence. It's available Mondays at 6 p.m.; Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and a bilingual group is Thursdays at 6 p.m.

- **Silence Breakers:** for survivors of sexual assault is Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to contact education@dvs-or.org or 541-276-3322.

The nonprofit organization has provided services in Umatilla and Morrow counties for more than 40 years. The 24-hour crisis line is 800-833-1161. For more information, visit www.dvs-or.org.

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This week's Hermiston Linebackers Club is Thursday, Oct. 21, noon to 1 p.m., at Desert Lanes Family Fun Center, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. Everyone is invited to the no-host luncheon event.

Coach David Faeteete will share the game plan as the team gears up for the battle of the Bulldogs. Still looking for its first win of the season, Hermiston will

host the Pasco Bulldogs (2-5) Friday at 7 p.m. at Kenison Field.

For more information or to RSVP, call Flora Larson at 541-567-5215 Wednesday by 3 p.m.

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The Harkenrider Senior Activity Center menu for Thursday, Oct. 21, is breakfast bake, fruit cocktail and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, Oct. 26, is pork loin, 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 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.