

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



DONNA ANDERSON

Hermiston

How long have you lived in Hermiston?

I have lived in Hermiston somewhere between 30 and 40 years.

What do you like about the town?

It's home. It seems like if you go away from Hermiston, you come back. You just can't stay away for some reason. I lived in Indiana four years after my first marriage, and I hated it... hated it. I had to come back to Oregon, so I moved back to Hermiston.

What is it about Hermiston that brought you back?

It's so many things. It's the people, and the community, and the things you can do and experience. It's a hub for whatever you feel like doing. You go one way, and you're at the coast. You go the other way, and you're at the mountains.

What do you like to do on the coast?

I love to watch the ocean, walk along the beach and pick up shells. It's the typical tourist stuff.

What do you like to do in the mountains?

I love the snow. I play in the snow. That's my favorite.

Are you looking forward to Christmas?

Absolutely. Christmas is my season. I go all out for Christmas — not so much this year because I'm recovering from surgery, but I usually go full boar when it comes to Christmas. And I decorate different colors from normal red and green. I decorate in purple and gold.

Now, why is that?

I love purple. I got a white, fake Christmas tree that I use. I put purple lights on it and then I put purple birds and bows on it. That's what I decorate with.

Where did you get this idea?

Just in my head. The first time I decorated the tree in purple, white and gold, I brought my husband over to look at it. He walked in and gasped and said that it was like something from a magazine. Then, I knew I was onto something.

You are an artistic person, aren't you?

I guess you can say that.

When did you discover your artistic sensibilities?

About two or three years ago. It was then that I realized I could do things. I wrote books that aren't published. I wrote a series of books, and if I could find a literary agent, I would.

What are your books about?

The first one is about my husband who passed away — he and I, how we met, fell in love, got married and some of the things we experienced. That was the first book. The rest of the series of three is based on my life. It becomes fiction half way into it, telling about a woman named Jeanette. It tells of her childhood and then follows her to the end of her life. It's interesting. The people I've talked to have looked at it to see if it was worth publishing. They liked it. Maybe one day I will have it published. Did that go over three minutes?

Just a little, but that's OK.

HERMISTON HISTORY



Hermiston Herald, File

An early winter storm hit the area in December 1971. It dumped approximately 7 feet of roadside snow in Meacham, more than 2 feet in the Battle Mountain area and a good amount in Hermiston.

May Bauer to lead Hermiston's first AARP chapter

25 YEARS AGO
Dec. 17, 1996

A grand opportunity has been provided by Good Shepherd Community Hospital for teens wanting to help their community and possibly determine a career path.

The Junior Volunteer Program, as it's called, was restored by volunteer organization chairman Neva Hopper and director LaVon Starr-Meyers.

To become a Junior Volunteer, kids must pass a four-hour CPR course and attend orientation classes, which are sponsored by the hospital. There are currently 25 participants, ranging from ages 12 to 19. They do many tasks, including providing child care, making name tags, answering nurse call lights and much more.

In addition to feeling proud of their activity in the community, the volunteers also get rewards from the hospital: a free soda after every shift, a free meal after four hours of continuous work, and certificates, pins and other gifts after six months of duty. But the experience goes beyond meals and certificates.

"One member, Bryan Blackwell, did such a good job, the hospital hired him," Starr-Meyers said. Blackwell, a home-schooled sophomore, now works part-time in the hospital's environmental services maintenance department.

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 16, 1971

Some good news for retired folks in the surrounding area: Hermiston just created its very own AARP chapter.

The American Association of Retired Persons was organized in 1958 by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus. It's a non-partisan, yet very influential, lobby group that works to provide assistance for retired people, including a focus on Social Security and Medicare.

Being available to all people over the age of 55, AARP is something the retired have come to love, which is why Hermiston is looking forward to having its own chapter. After receiving advice from O.W. Galloway, the state AARP director, retired Hermiston residents decided to elect officers for one-year terms. They chose May Bauer



Hermiston Herald, File

Leaders were elected in December 1971 for the first Hermiston AARP chapter. Pictured from left: May Bauer, president; Victor Christman, vice president; O.W. Galloway, state AARP director; Mathilda Russell, secretary; and Tottie Snyder, treasurer.

as president, Victor Christman as vice president, Mathilda Russell as secretary, and Tottie Snyder as treasurer. The officers will guide the newest chapter of the world's largest organization of retired people.

a constitution for consideration at the next meeting

These individuals are working to create a safer community and hope that their requests will be considered.

75 YEARS AGO
Dec. 19, 1946

To put a halt to illegal gambling, a group of 50 concerned people met in the First Christian Church in Pendleton to organize the Citizens Law Enforcement League of Umatilla County. The main problem is that some cities issue licenses for gambling operations, which contributes to illegal practices. With the cities failing to enforce penalties, the group is wanting to take matters into their own hands.

The League, with John Crow (Pendleton) as president and Claude McElrath (Freewater) as secretary-treasurer, appointed a committee to call on the district attorney and county sheriff to enforce the anti-gambling law within their jurisdiction. The committee members include, Rev. Paul Moore (Athena), Mrs. Ethel Walker (Milton), Guy Rothwell (Pilot Rock), George Blind (Freewater) and Mrs. Rhodes (Pendleton).

A second committee, including Rev. Earl Cotton as chairman (Echo), E.O. Draper (Pendleton), Henry Ott (Hermiston), Rev. O. D. Parnell (Milton) and W.A. Propeck (Freewater), was appointed to draft

100 YEARS AGO
Dec. 15, 1921

Hermistonians are excitedly awaiting yet another speech by Miss Guila Adams, who shares stories of her adventures overseas, inspires higher thoughts and promotes kind acts.

Adams was called overseas during the war to inspire and uplift troops who were in great need of such commodities.

"In the camps and hospitals of England and France, I had the honor of appearing before the grandest audiences in the world," she said about her efforts.

Adams focuses on encouraging her audiences to think at a higher level, practice more empathy and kindness, and enjoy recreation. What's unique about her speeches is that practically everything is self-made. She creates her own decoration arrangements and writes her own monologues. Her programs are said to be truly wholesome.

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

BY THE WAY

Library activities include Star Wars Party, Wonderland festival

The Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., is giving notice to all young Jedi Knights to attend the Teen Star Wars Party on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 5-6 p.m. It will be a night of snacks, drinks and Star Wars trivia.

And to help shift your holiday spirit into high gear, the Hermiston Public Library invites families to a Winter Wonderland Festival. Featuring cookie decorating, a hot cocoa booth and an ornament decorating craft, the free event is Saturday, Dec. 18, 1-3 p.m., at 235 E. Gladys Ave. For questions, call 541-567-2882.

The SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman, is the place to be Friday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m. for movie night. The featured flick is "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The cost is \$5 per person, which includes entry, popcorn and bottled water. Children under 5 are free. For more information, call 541-481-7243 or visit www.visit-sage.com.

A Christmas Eve service is scheduled Friday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave. The flicker of candlelight will set the mood for communion, special music and an inspirational message. The nursery will be open self-serve style for parents to use the changing table or if children need space to crawl around.

Area churches are invited to share information about special Christmas services/activities planned for the holiday season. To be included in a listing in next week's Hermiston Herald, submit details by Monday, Dec. 20, 4 p.m. to community@hermistonherald.com.

Be sure to provide the name of the service/event, as well as the date, time and place it will be held — including the physical address.

The Umatilla Ice Skating Rink is open Fridays, 4-8 p.m., and Saturdays/Sundays, 12-8 p.m. It's next to Umatilla City Hall, 700 Sixth St. Individuals can glide across the ice for \$3 or it's \$10 for a family of four.

Two-hour private rentals (\$150) are available Monday through Thursdays, 12-8 p.m., and Saturdays, 9-11 a.m. For questions, call Esmeralda Perches, development and recreation manager, at 541-922-3226.

The Festival of Lights continues at Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston. The light show is presented as a drive-thru event Thursday through Sundays, 6-10 p.m. Donations are accepted at the gate for Hermiston Rotary Club projects and charities.

With last weekend's wind wreaking havoc on Peppermint Lane, the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce is hosting walk-thru activities Saturday, Dec. 18, 6-9 p.m.

While the lights will shine through Saturday, Jan. 1, the festival will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Also, stay tuned to the EOTEC Facebook page for special plans on New Year's Eve.

The Sage Center Christmas Light Show will be illuminated through Saturday, Jan. 2 at 101 Olson Road, Boardman. It will shine during the dark of night until daybreak. The synchronized music can be heard via outdoor speakers or by tuning in at 88.3 FM.

The Harkenrider Senior Activity Center menu for Thursday, Dec. 16, is enchilada casserole, Spanish rice, fruit and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, Dec. 21, is baked ham, potato, vegetables, dinner roll 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.

The Boardman Senior Center is open for dine-in lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon at 100 Tatone St. Meals are \$4 for seniors and \$5 for others. Take-out lunches are available by calling 541-481-3257.