

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



MELANI PURSEL

Hermiston

You work in a bookstore that is also a dance studio, and I know you like both of them, but which one do you prefer working in?

I really like working in the bookstore, because it's a lot more calming. It's nicer to vibe out with the music instead of the dance music.

Do you have time to actually read books?

Yes, I have a 3-hour break in the middle of my day in which I sometimes spend time reading.

What are you reading right now?

"The Body Keeps the Score." It is a therapeutic kind of book that talks about how to deal with things. It might not be my favorite, though. I really enjoy "The Promised Neverland," which is a manga series. I've read a couple of those already, and they're among my favorites. It's a mature manga series, but it's very interesting and the characters are fun.

When did you first get into manga?

It was probably early in high school. It wasn't very common when I was in middle school, but it was growing in popularity when I got into high school. I was able to pick it up and enjoy it then.

You live in Hermiston. What do you like best about it?

I like how small it is and how everything is kind of in the same area. I'm not very good with directions, so having all of our stores on one road is the easiest thing for me.

Do you have any favorite restaurants?

Delish Bistro is one of our family favorites. Their menu is fun, and they always change it.

Can you tell me about your family?

My mom, Angela, owns the bookstore and the radio station. My dad, Cody, builds. He is building the house, which is huge. I have a sister, Alexis, who is married to her husband, David.

Do you have any pets?

I do. I have a dog, two leopard geckos, a Pacman frog, a beta fish and two hermit crabs.

You're a regular Noah, aren't you?

Yeah, but I like it. It gives me something to do. On days off, it's so easy to fall out of a schedule when you don't have anything to do. Having these animals, I have to get up and take care of them. It's good for my mental health and my happiness.

Do you have any other hobbies?

I do digital art and animation, as well as drawing and watching YouTube.

Do you travel?

Not a lot anymore. I'll go out on family vacations, but mostly I like sticking around in town.

Is there any place you would like to go?

I'd like to go to Las Vegas again. I went a few years ago for a dance competition, and it's really fun there. I'm 20 now, and I think I'd have more fun there as an adult. I'm still not old enough to gamble, but there are some things I can do. There was a zip line there when I was 12. I went on it, but I got stuck because I was too small. They had to send someone up there to push me. Now, I don't think that would happen. I just want to ride it to try it again.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Anderholm is youth activities specialist

25 YEARS AGO

Jan. 28, 1997

After just six months as Hermiston's youth activities specialist, Ivan Anderholm is loving his job.

Formed through a cooperative effort between the city of Hermiston and the Hermiston Youth Development Council, this program aims to help local youth have fun, contribute to their community, and stay out of trouble. It targets ages 5 through 17, with varying activities in fields such as arts and crafts, science and nature, non-competitive athletics and more.

Anderholm has organized snow skiing trips, rock climbing, and local NFL Punt, Pass and Kick competitions; "We don't just finger paint," he said. Funds covering the project costs have been received in just as numerous forms: grants, private donations, aid from the non-profit Hermiston Together organization and a minute amount of city tax. Though a small fee is charged for crafts and skiing activities, simply to cover material costs, Anderholm is trying to "keep the activities low in cost and accessible."

Proud of the participation and youth engagement so far, Anderholm is looking forward to adding flag football and leadership camps and programs to the list of activities.

50 YEARS AGO

Jan. 27, 1972

At the young age of 14, Mark Sheets of Hermiston has a promising future in the art of float designing.

The previous year, with guidance and support from the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, he designed and constructed a float that won an Honorable Mention trophy in the Tri-Cities Water Follies Parade in August.

This year, his plans are even more elaborate. The float he's dreaming up will stretch 50 feet in length and 16 feet in width, display a Dixieland Jazz Band, Southern mansion roof replica, bridge, stream and more. He's already found suppliers for the materials – the only issue left is finances.

For the previous year's float, the Chamber of Commerce covered most of the costs (\$800), but the Sheets family still incurred a considerable amount of expenses transporting the float.

Focusing on the construction of a new building, the Chamber of Commerce is unable to spare the extra money this time. "There have been several projects we normally donate to that have gone by the way-side this year," explained Chamber President Harmon Springer. This lack of funding could pose a serious problem, as Sheets' float is estimated to cost \$1,000. However, young Sheets refuses to give up and hopes that civic groups will lend some aid. For now, he's proceeding with his design and beginning construction. "This year, Hermiston is going to win all the honors," Sheets enthusiastically declares.

75 YEARS AGO

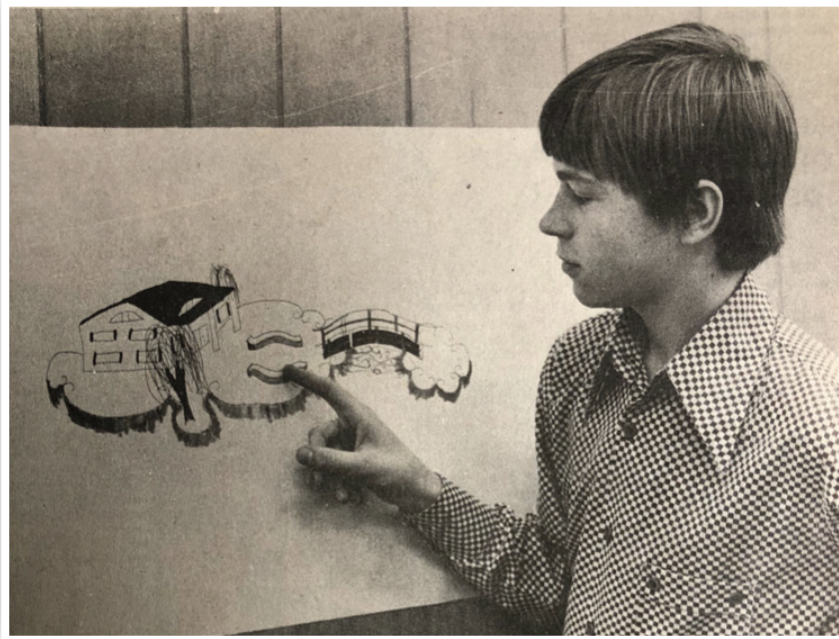
Jan. 30, 1947

Every once in a while, it's good to look back on less-fortunate people and rudimentary times to strengthen our gratitude for the commodities we enjoy today. Well, we'll do you the service of proving such an opportunity now: Sev-



Joyce Hensley/Hermiston Herald, File

John Philips upon donating his 21st gallon of blood during the American Red Cross blood drawing in 1997.



Hermiston Herald, File

Mark Sheets works on his float design in 1972.



Hermiston Herald, File

In 1972, Sgt. Grant Asher, right, of the Hermiston City Police Department holds the rare Kennedy Inaugural Medal that was stolen from a display case from Hermiston Junior High School a week prior. Russell Curry, left, who loaned the collection to the school for study enrichment is glad to see it returned to safety.

enty-five years ago today, exciting news came out of improved and increased telephone wires being laid out in this area. Installation of new control office equipment, which would increase the number of long-distance circuits into Pendleton from Umatilla by 50%, was well underway and expected to be completed in mid-February, with the exterior of the plant expected to be finished in August. In addition,

the installment of a cable capable of serving 200 telephones from Umatilla to Irrigon and the proceeding of stringing 400 telephone poles throughout the area was proudly proclaimed. As of this week, about 30 families in Irrigon have been provided with telephone service. Aren't you now a little more thankful for your phone and the ability to communicate with ease?

90 YEARS AGO

Jan. 28, 1932

A surprising agreement by all Hermiston grocery stores was reached at a recent meeting: to sell only Hermiston Bakery Bread, and at the same price.

The idea was brought forth in a meeting arranged by the Hermiston Commercial Club and Ben Gerking of the MacMarr store. Hermiston businessmen, representing all local grocery stores, agreed that with greater demand and less competition Mr. Winters, the manager of the bakery, could produce better quality bread – with more milk, lard and better flour. In addition, this display of business cooperation would interest and entice outside business and people to move to the area.

Hermiston businessmen feel proud of this huge step in business cooperation, where customers will now have access to the best quality of bread at a uniform price.

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

BY THE WAY

Registration is open for arts and crafts class in Hermiston

Hermiston Parks and Recreation is accepting students into **Creative Kids Arts & Crafts class** for ages 7-11. New fun art projects are practiced each **Tuesday, 5-6:30 p.m., in February**. Acrylic art, string art, paper crafts, chalk art and watercolors are just some of what is involved. Classes are at the **Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395**. Cost is \$50 for the month. Register at bit.ly/hermistonrecreation. Call **541-667-5018** for more information. Registration ends Jan. 31.

Blue Mountain Community College recently announced its **fall term 2021-22 honor roll**, with more than 200 students who made the **President's List** with a GPA of 3.75 to 4.0 and more than 100 are on the **Vice President's List**, earning a 3.5 to 3.74 GPA. To view a list of the students, visit www.hermistonherald.com.

Hola! Are you a Spanish-speaking person who would like to improve your English language skills? Or do you know someone who fits this description? **Hermiston Parks and Recreation** has scheduled **English classes for Thursdays in February, 5:15-6:15 p.m.** at the **Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395**. Cost is

\$10 for the month. Register at bit.ly/hermistonrecreation. Call **541-667-5018** for more information.

Are you curious about **Amazon Web Services**? **Sara Madrigal**, AWS community engagement manager, is scheduled to speak at the **Umatilla Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center, 100 Cline Ave., on Thursday, Feb. 3, 10-11:30 a.m.** She is the first of a series of speakers. In coming months, the chamber will host **Rep. Greg Smith** and **Community Development Director for the city of Umatilla Brandon Seltz**. To RSVP, contact **541-922-4825** or info@umatillachamber.org.

Registration is open for **flag football** with **Umatilla Parks & Recreation**. Boys and girls, 4-12 years old, are invited to play. The season is **April 9-May 21**. Cost is \$40 for Umatilla residents who sign up for early bird registration, \$50 for residents **after Feb. 7** and \$60 for non-residents. Volunteers and coaches are needed. Register at umatilla-city.org/parksrec. Contact **541-922-3226 x113** or hannah@umatilla-city.org for more information.

Veterans, listen up. A hearty meal is coming your way.

The **First Christian Church, 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston**, will host a free dinner and social for all veterans and their guests. **Hearts for Veterans is Saturday, Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m.** The **American Legion Auxiliary** will provide a lasagne dinner. People are asked to bring a dessert.

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, Jan. 27**, is chicken Alfredo, peas and carrots, fruit and dessert. The menu for **Tuesday, Feb. 1**, is biscuit with sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, fruit and dessert.

In-house meals are 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 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**.