

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



ANI JEMMETT
Hermiston

How long have you lived in Hermiston?

I'm 32. That means I've lived here for 32 years.

You've lived here all your life?

Yup.

What keeps you here?

Honestly, Hermiston is kind of a black hole, so it's hard to leave. But I like it here.

What do you like about Hermiston?

Unfortunately, what I like about it is changing. I liked how small it was, but it is expanding. This is happening very fast.

What is your favorite restaurant?

I was recently introduced to Midway Bar & Grill in Hermiston. The food is really good, and the atmosphere is awesome. I don't drink, so I couldn't tell you about that end. But it's a really nice place with friendly people.

What was the last good book you've read?

Probably the Mercy Thomson series. It's urban fantasy, but the fun part is that it is based in the Tri-Cities. I've met the author, Patricia Briggs. She shops here (NW Farm Supply), and so does her husband. She's awesome.

Really? What does she buy when she visits?

Actually, in the last few books, her characters have gotten into horses, so she dove into the horse world. She's also gotten into horses herself. She comes here to get fencing and supplies for them. And her husband, he's just along for the ride, as far as those things go.

Do you see yourself ever leaving Hermiston, if it ever gets too big?

Honestly, probably not. Mostly because I don't have funds to uproot.

Have you traveled?

Sure, but probably the farthest I've gotten is Sacramento (California).

What did you think?

Old Sac is fun, but way too big and busy.

Do you have any hobbies?

I do some photography. At my house, I raise goats. I've started to get into spinning yarn.

What's something about goats that would surprise people?

How troublesome they can be. They're like toddlers; they get into everything. If it's new, they get curious and they have to taste it. They have to put it in their mouth. It's like children. I'm running a daycare.

Are you curious, too? Do you like to learn new things?

Absolutely. Now, with my yarn, I'm working with fleece and spinning wheels. It's a lot to learn. I'm staying busy.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Business saved by hardworking family

25 YEARS AGO

Feb. 4, 1997

When Marie Rankin found out that she could save her husband's business, pursue her own passion in business and stay home with her children, she seized the opportunity.

In 1983, Rick Rankin started a trophy-making business, R and R Trophies with his friend Ron Hosek. Three years later, Hosek was transferred and they learned that Rick, being an Oregon State Police member, couldn't work in businesses outside the department. So, Marie stepped in.

"R and R Trophies was doing well enough that we decided I would keep it as a family business," Marie explained.

For over 10 years, Marie ran the business out of a shop adjacent to their garage. All three of the Rankin children, Rob, 22, Kyle, 20, and Hayley, 10, help out from time to time by answering the phone, assembling trophies, packing trophies into boxes and other tasks.

They make trophies, plaques, badges and more — and even use their own digital designing equipment. Running a small business without hired help has proved difficult at times.

"I've been known to work long hours out in the shops doing an order, sometimes until 12:30 p.m.," said Marie. But business has been going well, with the Rankins serving numerous dance teams, athletic competitions and other businesses. For Marie Rankin, it's a dream come true.



Hermiston Herald, File
Marie Rankin and her daughter, Hayley, 10, put the finishing touches on their family business's trophies in 1997.

50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 3, 1972

The temperature was freezing in Hermiston on the morning of Jan. 27, except for inside the Wilcox Furniture & Appliances store where a fire was raging.

No one knows how it happened, but a blaze of flames began around 1 a.m. The owner, Lester Wilcox, believes the fire began near the center of the 12,600-square foot building but doesn't have a clue how.

As soon as the fire was reported, volunteers from the Hermiston and Umatilla fire departments set to work and pumped 1,500 gallons of water per minute into the blaze.

Despite their efforts, the weather was rather against them. Freezing water in the drains while not caring to dampen the power of the flames. Finally, well after daybreak, the fire was fully extinguished — but not before much devastation. The Wilcox building was completely ruined while adjacent ones escaped without a scratch. Lester plans to move his business to the Umatilla Fairgrounds as a temporary location until a new store can be built.



Hermiston Herald, File
Brave volunteers from the Hermiston and Umatilla fire departments fight the flames in the Wilcox Furniture & Appliances store in 1972.

75 YEARS AGO

Feb. 6, 1947

The time for scholarships has come, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization has announced the title for the 12th Annual Nationwide Essay Contest, "The Home — Cradle of Good Citizenship."

This scholarship is open to any junior or senior high school student in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. Ten thousand dollars in total will be awarded to national winners, in addition to gold medals. The first grand prize will receive \$1,000, the second \$500, third \$250 and fourth \$100. In addition, there will be 20 consolation prizes of cash. While there isn't a requirement as for the usage of this money, the VFW encourages winners to put it towards further education.

The local ladies auxiliary decided that they would award three cash prizes to local essay entries as well, with a \$25 bond for first place, \$10 for second and \$5 for third. Educators and editors all over



Hermiston Herald, File
In 1972, Teresa Lynn Jones, a Pilot Rick High School senior, signs up for the Miss Umatilla County pageant while chairman of the event Ron Stevenson observes.

the country have given this contest their endorsement, and encourage students to take advantage of the grand opportunity.

90 YEARS AGO

Feb. 4, 1932

Frank Kugel was rather lucky, having survived a night unconscious in the cold after being the victim of a hit-and-run driver.

Kugel is a resident of Salem and son of foster parents Mrs. and Mrs. Karl Kugel. He had traveled across the state to visit the home of Rev. F.R. Gibson of Stanfield upon Gibson's request.

Upon the conclusion of the meeting, Kugel began the long trek back home early the next morning. While walk-



Hermiston Herald, File
Joseph Whelan, Stanfield West Grade School third-grader, "Jumps Rope for Heart." This program raises funds for the American Heart Association, with sponsors donating for every minute of jumping rope.

ing along the highway on this side of Boardman, he was knocked unconscious by an unidentified driver. He laid along the highway from 9 p.m. until 8 a.m., approximately 11 hours, until he was discovered.

Rushed to the Hermiston Medical Hospital, Dr. A.W. Christopherson conducted a thorough examination and revealed a severe cut on his forehead and slight fracture. Against all odds, though still in the hospital, young Kugel is improving.

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

BY THE WAY

'The Vanishing Sky' to be discussed at the Hermiston Public Library

Time is running out for you to read a book along with a local book club. **Bookminders**, the **Hermiston Public Library's** book club, will meet 1:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, Feb. 8** for their monthly meeting. Held downstairs in the library meeting room, attendees will discuss "The Vanishing Sky" by **Annette Binder**. The library, 235 E Gladys Ave., has copies of the book available for checkout at its front desk.

If you miss this month, do not fret. Visit the library on the following Wednesday to pick up March's book selection.

If you like to read and walk, there is a good local opportunity for you to do both activities at the same time. **StoryWalk** is at **Hash Park**, 440 Pendleton Ave., Umatilla. Every month, the **Umatilla Public Library** places pages from a children's book in frames that line a trail at the park. By the time you reach the end of the trail, you will have read the entire book.

February's book is called "Crankenstein," and it was written by **Samantha Berger**.

Umatilla librarians said the book will be on the path by **Feb. 5**, though it may be out earlier.

Hermiston Senior Center at 10 a.m. on **Thursday** mornings. Crafters are welcome to coffee, project sharing and lively discussion. The meeting takes place in the center's meeting room. Visitors can bring their project and work on it while enjoying the company of other crafty people.

At attention veterans — **American Legion Post & Auxiliary Unit 37** is hosting **Hearts for Veterans**. The free dinner and social for all veterans and their guests is **Saturday, Feb. 12**, 5:30 p.m. at the **First Christian Church**, 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston.

A lasagna dinner will be served and **Dance Unlimited** will provide entertainment. Those attending are invited to bring a dessert to share.

The event also features a silent auction featuring more than a dozen themed baskets. Money raised will generate funds to be used in projects to support veterans.

For more information, contact **Cathy Stolz**, auxiliary president, at **541-571-5816** or **cathystolz@gmail.com**.

For fun with your sweetheart, head to the **Umatilla Ice Rink** for **Valentine's Date Night**. The city of Umatilla is hosting the special event **Monday, Feb. 14**, 5 p.m. at the Rink.

Admission is \$10 per couple and includes skating to romantic music and a special date night basket. Space is limited.

For more information and to register, visit **www.umatilla-city.org**. For questions, contact **Hannah Keister**, community development coordinator, at **541-922-3226** or **hannah@umatilla-city.org**.

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, Feb. 3**, is meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert. The menu for **Tuesday, Feb. 8**, is baked fish, coleslaw, 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.

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**.

Attention: Crafters. **Thursday Crafters** meets at the