

## THREE MINUTES WITH ...



## CHARLIE CLUPNY

Hermiston

**Let's start with Valentine's Day. You have a Valentine. Tell me about your wife, Carol.**

*That's a loaded question. My wife and I met at work, here in this county. She's also a trained speech and language pathologist, just like me, but she's the famous one. She wrote a book.*

**How do the two of you spend Valentine's Day?**

*Well, that's her birthday, which makes it easy to remember. There's always something special that happened. We've had skiing Valentine's Day parties and surprise parties. On her 40th, I rented a cafeteria at the high school and I got my son's theater group to perform a murder mystery that was attended by 90 people. Her present that year was to go on a women's kayaking trip through the San Juan islands.*

**What are you planning this year, or is that a secret?**

*What I can say is that she is going to have a surprise dinner somewhere. It'll take some time to get to this place, and we will have a couple of very special guests that are going to be riding with us. I'm not going to say any more.*

**How long have you been married? And what of your kids?**

*Forty years, this year. We've worked with many children, in education, who are like our own. And we adopted two children. Our oldest son is the coordinator of professional development for the Jackson County Library System. He lives in Ashland (Oregon). Our youngest one, he has a place in Fairbanks (Alaska) and works at the Pogo gold mine.*

**After so many years, and raising children, how do you keep things fresh in your marriage?**

*We're always looking for things fun to do. We laugh with each other. We laugh at one another. I can't think of being around anyone else.*

**You've been involved in many different things in the community. Can you tell me about some of them?**

*For 16 years, I was the emcee for the Festival of Trees. For several years, I was Santa Claus for a music presentation at the Umatilla School District. I've been a volunteer firefighter, I served on the city council in Stanfield and the Knights of Columbus for my church for over 40 years. I was a Cubmaster for 4 or 5 years. I was involved in all three builds of Funland Playground. Of course, there was the Boy Scouts and the Lions Club. That's just some of what I've done.*

**What do you think of Hermiston?**

*I thought it was a wonderful community in 1978 when I moved here, and I never changed my mind about Hermiston. I'm 69 now. You know, I am a speech and language pathologist. I could've chosen to work and live anywhere in the world. This is where I chose to work.*

**Why is that? Why did you want to work with children here?**

*Kids in rural areas need to have good services. I thought I could do that. I worked for the (InterMountain Education Service District) for 33 years. In this area, I served kids who are now adults. I still know them by name. I know a lot of people by name. You can say I'm on the pulse of Hermiston.*

**Pulse of Hermiston? What are the biggest stories happening in town right now? What should we all be looking at?**

*Look at our growth. You see what's going on. When I came here, the town was smaller. It has grown so much. That's quite a story.*

## HERMISTON HISTORY

## Rep. Chuck Norris and wife retired 25 years ago

25 YEARS AGO

Feb. 11, 1997

The Norrises decided to retire after serving five terms in the Oregon Legislature, and they are excited for a change in pace.

Chuck Norris was the Oregon State representative for District 57. Always at his side was wife and helper Betty Lou Norris. "We've worked shoulder to shoulder; she has been an essential part of everything," Chuck said.

Once they have finished sorting through and filing papers, the couple intends to vacation and visit family.

"I want to travel through the Panama Canal, take a cruise up the Alaska coast line, go see the New England states and go see the battlefields of Virginia," Betty said.

After all those years of work, the Norrises can't simply stop working, though. Both plan to become engaged in the community — Betty with the Good Shepherd Community Hospital Auxiliary and Chuck serving on the Umatilla Soil and Water Conservation District.



Hermiston Herald, File

The retired Oregon State representative, Chuck Norris, and his wife and assistant, Betty Lou, are all smiles in 1997 as they look forward to post-retirement pleasures.

50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 10, 1972

The Miss Umatilla County Beauty Pageant will be held on Feb. 19, 1972, and the names of the six contestants have been released.

Clara Wassom graduated from Granger High School, Utah, in 1968. She is a sophomore at Blue Mountain Community College and plans to continue her education at Brigham Young University. Wassom stands 5 feet 2 inches tall, weighs 112 pounds and has brown eyes and brown hair. The talent she will perform for the contest will be a storybook display of dress designing.

Krista Loftus, a 1971 Hermiston High School graduate, is attending Eastern Oregon University and she plans to attend Bassit Fashion Institute to become an interior designer. She is 5 feet 5 inches tall, weighs 120 pounds, has green eyes and has brown hair. Loftus will entertain the judges with an original comical skit.

Kathleen Hansell graduated from McEwen High School in 1970 and is an Oregon State University sophomore. She stands 5 foot 7 inches tall, weighs 128 pounds, has blue eyes and has brown hair. She will perform a modern dance.

Barbara Browning is a 1970 Pendleton High School graduate, in her second year at BMCC, with plans to attend the University of Oregon. Browning stands 5 foot 7 inches tall, weighs 154 pounds and



Hermiston Herald, File

The winner of the district public speaking contest in 1972 was Hermiston's Ramona Music.

has blue-gray eyes and brown hair. She will sing "Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head" at the contest.

Holly Beers is a BMCC freshman, who is planning to attend Southern Oregon College to become a juvenile counselor. The 1971 Pilot Rock graduate is 5 feet 6 inches tall, 124 pounds and has green eyes and red hair. She will perform either a song or baton-twirling routine.

The last and youngest contestant, Teresa Jones, is a Pilot Rock senior who is planning to attend BMCC in the fall. The 5 feet 9 inches tall, 135-pound, blue-eyed blonde will play the flute for the judges.

Check the paper in two weeks to learn of the winner.

75 YEARS AGO

Feb. 13, 1947

Despite the fact that a war has hindered the availability of construction supplies, homes in Hermiston are being built at a rapid rate.

There are many houses currently being constructed, with numerous tracts being planned for the near future. W.W. Felthouse has been the major contributor of these residences, having built and remodeled about 60 houses within the last three years. A recent survey revealed a

total of 41 new homes are under construction — 31 to the east and 10 to the west of the railroad tracks. To make this figure even more impressive is the fact that recently occupied homes weren't even taken into account.

90 YEARS AGO

Feb. 11, 1932

For those who love to travel, the Union Pacific Railroad is holding their popular "cent-a-mile" deal in honor of George Washington's birthday.

From Feb. 19-22, reduced price tickets can be purchased and are valid through March 1. These special fares apply between all points over most of the Western United States, as local Union Pacific agent F.C. Woughter announced that his company would be working with connecting lines in the Northwest. This means that if someone left on Feb. 19, they could have up to twelve days of vacation — to places such as Salt Lake City, San Francisco or Los Angeles — at a very small price.

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



Hermiston Herald, File

In 1997, Phil and Juanita Ralston of Umatilla look forward to their 60th wedding anniversary, on Valentine's Day.

## BY THE WAY

## Full slate of activities scheduled for No School Day Camp on Feb. 11

Are your kids having a day off from school on this coming Friday? Lots of fun is planned for them at **Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center**, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston. **No School Day Camp is Friday, Feb. 11.** Drop-off is 7:45 a.m. Pickup is 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Activities include basketball, movies, crafts, interactive inflatables, corn hole, pop-a-shot, gaga ball, pickleball and bounce house. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

The cost is \$15 per children for Hermiston residents, \$18 for non-residents. Call **541-667-5018** or visit [bit.ly/hermistonrecreation](http://bit.ly/hermistonrecreation) to pre-register.

Craft-loving 'tweens and teens have an opportunity for fun. The **Umatilla Public Library**, 700 Sixth Street, will host **DIY Clay Accessories** on **Friday, Feb. 11**, at 2 p.m. Free for visitors 10-17 years old, this event will allow people to create their own earrings, keychains and other accessories using polymer clay. All supplies will be provided.

Who says flag football is just for youngsters? **Hermiston Parks & Recreation** has opened registration for **Adult Flag Football**. The tournament is **March 12-13**, but people should sign up now.

The cost is \$300 per team with a roster of up to 20 players. Games are played at **Armand Larive Middle School** in Hermiston. Captains must register teams via [bit.ly/hermistonrecreation](http://bit.ly/hermistonrecreation) or by calling **541-667-5018**.

Players must be 18 years old at the time of registration, not a high school students and not playing college sports.

An upcoming event will give you the chance to expand your horizons. **Blue Mountain Community College** is inviting folks to learn more about its **Bridges** program with **Washington State University Tri-Cities** on **Wednesday, Feb. 16**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Learn about how you can transfer seamlessly to WSU Tri-Cities and earn a bachelor's degree at in-state tuition rates. Meet faculty, academic advisors and admissions staff who can help walk you through the process.

It will be at **BMCC's Hermiston Center**, 975 S.E. Columbia Drive.

A fun-filled evening hosted by the **Desert View Parent Club** will help raise money for such things as field trips, library books and classroom projects.

The annual auction and raffle event is **Feb. 24**, 5-7 p.m. at **Desert View Elementary School**, 1225 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston.

Raffle tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5 for a chance to win an electric scooter, a Kindle, a Friends Lego set, an old-fashioned gumball machine and more. Also, 13 games — from a lollipop tree to Plinko — will be available to play. Those tickets are five for \$6 or 26 for \$20.

People are invited to join the fun and help raise money to enhance the school and benefit its students. For questions, email [dyparentclub@gmail.com](mailto:dyparentclub@gmail.com).

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, Feb. 10**, is chicken cordon bleu, baked potato, vegetables and dessert. The menu for **Tuesday, Feb. 15**, is ham, scallop potatoes, pea salad 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**.