

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



PATTY FEHRENBACHER

Hermiston

How many great-grandchildren do you have?
We have 17.

When you have so many, how do you keep track of them?
I do a lot of video on my phone. Our kids are really good about sending pictures of all of our grandchildren. They keep us up to date.

Is being a great-grandmother different than being a grandmother?
I think when you're just a grandmother, you have more energy. When you're a great-grandmother, you don't have the energy that it takes to sometimes play and cope with them.

How is that different from being a mother?
Being a mother, there's a lot of work to do. Having more children leaves you with even more work. But the love for each child, each grandchild, each great-grandchild is the same.

What are some of your favorite things?
I love my yard. I have a big yard. You'll have to see it in a month or so. I'll have hundreds of daffodils. I love the daffodils. I used to have roses, but the deer would come. They loved the roses even more than I did. So I gave up on roses. The deer don't like the daffodils.

You see a lot of deer near your home, then?
Yes. I think there's some sort of cougar or bobcat that's spooking them out here. Just recently, there were a hundred here in a straight line.

Have you ever been confronted by a wild animal?
No, and I'm not really afraid of that. If I were, I'd holler for Douglas (my husband). He keeps me safe. I've seen a fox, and I know there have been bobcats in the area. I'm a sensible old lady though, so I keep safe.

Do you like to read?
I love reading. Right now, I'm reading the Old Testament. I wasn't very good about reading the Old Testament, but I read Ezekiel, and I'm in Jeremiah. That's heavy reading.

Do you have any favorite Bible stories?
One of my favorite chapters is John 14. I memorized that as a young girl, out in the country. That whole chapter means a great deal to me. Jesus was talking to his disciples, and said, "I'm going to go and prepare a place for you. And I will come again and take you upon myself." I've always believed every bit of that.

Do you get a lot of peace and enjoyment from your faith?
I do. I really do. When I got an infection in my chest from this COVID, there was about a month when I didn't believe I was going to make it. The doctors looked, and they couldn't see anything, but I knew I was going downhill. When you can't breathe, things are pretty scary. I was OK with that. I figured if it was my time to go, it was my time to go, and that was OK. I'm feeling much better now, so I'm glad I'm still here.

HERMISTON HISTORY



Joyce Hensley/Hermiston Herald, File

One of Bill Walker's many astounding rock creations in 1997 was "The Flintstones."

Stanfield man creates art from found rocks

25 YEARS AGO
Feb. 18, 1997

Bill Walker of Stanfield is a rock star, literally. Walker, 72, turns river rocks into beautiful figurines.

After finding them along nearby rivers, he packs the cracks with plastic wood-fill and sands them to get the shape desired. Next comes the decorating. He uses oil-based hobby paints, attaches wire and other materials and then finishes them off with other adornments.

Products this unique and magnificent do not go unnoticed for long. Walker's collection was featured in "Country Magazine," a reporter from a television station came to Stanfield just to shoot a video of him at work, Channel 12 filmed a short segment featuring him for its "On Our Town" series and he's gotten phone calls requesting orders from all over.

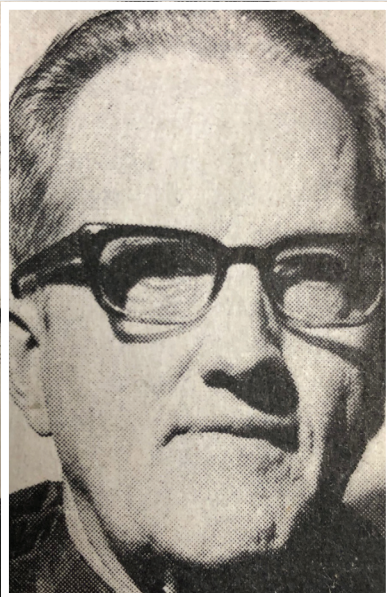
"I had orders from places back east like Florida and Missouri," he said.

Some of his most famous creations include Johnny Carson, the Flintstones, the Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam, Mickey Mouse, Popeye, Shotgun Red, Alf and several Garfield figures. Some of these miniature masterpieces have taken him over 30 hours to create — but he loves it.

50 YEARS AGO
Feb. 17, 1972

The city of Echo was a bit shocked to hear that their mayor was stepping down, but adjustments were quickly made and the position has been filled.

First elected to the council in 1957, E.B. Wattenburger Jr., 44, became mayor in February of 1969 upon the



Hermiston Herald, File

The new Mayor of Echo in 1972 was Irvine Howard.



Hermiston Herald, File

Mayor L.P. Gray of Hermiston signs the proclamation designating Feb. 20-26, 1972, as "Future Farmers of America Week." Surrounding him are FFA members, from left, Phil Walchli, reporter and FFA Week chairman; Merrell Stoddard, secretary; Terry Roberts, assistant reporter and FFA Week co-chairman; and Nick Broun, president.

death of Mayor William O'Brien. Mayor Wattenburger announced his resignation just three days ago, claiming he would soon disqualify himself from the office by relocating to Buttercreek Ranch — which is outside of city limits. He recently purchased it from his father.

In response, the city council elected Council President Irvine Howard as mayor and Councilman Ervin C. Williams as council president.

Howard, 63, has lived in Echo for most of his life and been a member of the city council since 1969. Noting that Williams is an expert of sewer systems, Howard nominated him for mayor. Williams rejected, however, claiming he was too new to the city government, having just joined when Councilman Kenneth Dunham resigned in January.

75 YEARS AGO
Feb. 20, 1947

At a recent Hermiston City Council meeting, it was decided that parking on Main Street would be changed from diagonal to parallel — but just by one vote.

This issue has been the topic of discussion at many council meetings since parking meters were installed on Main Street between Third and First streets. A survey taken prior to the meeting showed that business people were evenly divided and the council seemed to be in favor of continued diagonal parking.

But when it actually came time

for the vote, three members were in support of the proposal — J.G. Pearson, Hugh B. Fraser and L.C. Kimsey. Two were against — A.F. Rohrman and W.W. Felthouse. Now the only Hermiston street with diagonal parking is on Second Street a half block each way from Main Street.

90 YEARS AGO
Feb. 18, 1932

Miss Lucy A. Case, nutritional specialist at Oregon State College, emphasizes the importance of proper nutrition in school lunches.

"Make the lunch as complete a meal as possible," she said, recommending whole grain sandwiches with a protein, vegetables, fruit and a dessert.

In addition to promoting nutritious food, Case stresses the importance of having enough time to eat and making the food appetizing. She advises wrapping food in waxed paper to prevent mixture of flavors and drying out, and a lunch time of 45 minutes to an hour so kids have the opportunity to both eat and play.

"A simple, balanced school lunch, with adequate time for consuming it, is an important factor in the economy of health, and it is daily receiving more attention from both parents and teachers," she said.

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

BY THE WAY

AARP Tax-Aide program offers free help filing forms

If things aren't adding up, the **AARP Foundation Tax-Aide** program can help. Taxpayers can receive assistance with filing their **2021 tax forms** from IRS-certified volunteers. You do not have to be an AARP member.

While the focus is to provide help to those who are 50 and older with low- to moderate-income, others may utilize the program. Services are provided in English and Spanish.

Appointments, which are required, are available on designated days from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Local sites: **New Hope Community Church**, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston (**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays** through April 14); and the **Port of Morrow**, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman (**Mondays** through April 11).

To register, call **541-612-1307**. For more information, visit www.aarp.org/money/taxes.

If you and your youngsters are in the mood for a magical tale, the **Hermiston Public Library** might

have something just right for you. The library will host **Family Movie Night on Saturday, Feb. 19**, 3 p.m. This month's film is "Clifford: The Big Red Dog" and tells the story of a middle-schooler who receives the gift of a little, red puppy who grows into a big, red dog.

If you haven't already done so, be sure to mark your calendar for the annual **Desert View Parent Club** auction and raffle. The family-friendly evening also features a chance to play games (tickets are five for \$6 or 26 for \$20).

Join the fun while helping raise money to benefit students and the school. The event is **Thursday, Feb. 24**, 5-7 p.m. at **Desert View Elementary School**, 1225 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston.

To view photos of raffle prizes (tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5) and items on the auction block, search **Facebook** for the parent club page. To donate an item for the silent auction, email dvparentclub@gmail.com

com or stop by the school.

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, Feb. 17**, is Salisbury steak, potatoes, vegetables and dessert. The menu for **Tuesday, Feb. 22**, is barbecue chicken, macaroni salad, baked beans 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**.