

## THREE MINUTES WITH ...



## NONA HARTWELL

Umatilla

**Do you like your town?**

*I do. I've lived here since 2010, and I like that it is quiet. But then, I live in the quiet part of Umatilla. I'm pretty near the dam.*

**Do you often visit McNary Dam?**

*After the pandemic started, my son and I went down to the nature trails to walk. It was good to get out of the house.*

**Do you see any animals out there?**

*Deer, raccoons, squirrels, birds, lots of ducks. There are these large white birds that we see. They're really pretty.*

**What do you like about animals?**

*It's nice seeing them in their natural habitat.*

**What do you like about people?**

*They're friendly and generous. There are some people who I really like, who listen to me when I need to vent.*

**You have a child, too, right? Can you tell me about him?**

*He's 19, graduated from Hermiston High. He has autism and is in the Next Steps program.*

**Can you tell me about being the mother of an autistic person?**

*It was hard at first, when he was younger, because I didn't know anything about autism. It's a learning process, because there are a lot of things that happen at different stages of autism. He's come a long way since kindergarten. His speech is still a little off, but he's gotten better. His behavior is better, too. He's sensitive to loud noises, like a lot of kids with autism.*

**Do you meet with other parents of kids with autism?**

*I met with some parents just today. It was at The Arc Umatilla County. We did that today with some moms. Our kids are in the same age bracket.*

**How many people were there?**

*There were eight there today. Sometimes there are more, sometimes less.*

**What sorts of things do you talk about?**

*We talk about different things that are coming up. In April, baseball will be starting. Little League works with special needs in what they call Challenger Baseball. And The Arc Umatilla County has a summer program coming up. We talked about that.*

**What do we need in this community? What would help you and your son?**

*There's so much already. I don't think we need anything else. We're well taken care of.*

**Do you have any other hobbies?**

*Karaoke.*

**What's your favorite song?**

*Either the theme song from "Friends" or "Honey, I'm Home," by Shania Twain.*

## HERMISTON HISTORY

## Jeannette Saboe celebrates centennial

**25 YEARS AGO**  
March 4, 1997

As Jeannette Saboe nears her 100th birthday on Mar. 18, she reflects on her life and the rich history contained within.

Her story starts in Colfax, Washington, with her grandfather, James A. Perkins. He built the Perkins Sawmill there, the first of its kind in that area, and then a two-story house in 1884. It is now owned by the Whitman County Historical Society and has been placed on the national registry.

Jeannette Saboe was born in that house in 1897. Colfax soon became a trading hub for both Indians and white settlers, and she remembers watching entire tribes of Palouse Indians meander through town as she grew up.

"They had the whole bit (all their household items); even their dogs and trawls," she said.

In 1920, Jeannette Saboe attended WSU in Pullman where she met her future husband Joseph Saboe. They married in December of that same year and then moved to Hermiston in 1941. Joseph Saboe worked as Hermiston's first building inspector. As Jeannette added, "there was nothing here at that time; no housing. People slept under trees and bushes." Jeannette worked at the depot as a clerk typist until she turned 70, when she was forced to retire from the Army.

Since then, she's been an active community member — helping start the local Girl Scout Chapters, being on the American Legion Auxiliary Committee, Umatilla County Fair Board and much more.

When asked what it takes to live so long, Jeannette Saboe's answer is simple: "Just keep breathing."

**50 YEARS AGO**  
March 2, 1972

Elder D.E. Caslow will be the Hermiston speaker for a new evangelistic program titled "Reach Out for Life."

Mission '72 in Hermiston is part of a significant world project of the Adventist Church in 1972 that encourages people to study the Bible and seek a better life with God. It's "Reach Out For Life" program will run from March 4 to April 1 each weekend and Wednesday evening. These meetings will be held simultaneously all over the United States, Australia and the Far East.

During the meetings, Caslow will follow a specific discussion series and provide free study guides. Once people have completed the study guides, they'll be awarded a free Bible. Hoping that this program will be effective and beneficial, he plans to lead 17 discussions total to truly reach out for those who need it most.

**75 YEARS AGO**  
March 6, 1947

Whatever happens, don't raise our taxes. That was the argument of farmer representatives in the three-day, 14th annual, Pacific Supply Cooperative convention held recently.

This was in response to legislation that would increase Oregon truck taxes on highways. It had been passed in the lower house with the assertion that, "truck taxes already are five times as high in neighboring states." However, there was great opposition among the marketing and supply group's newly elected board



Hermiston Herald, File  
**Roger W. Heinrich of Hermiston's Seventh-day Adventist Church points to a "Reach Out for Life" banner, an evangelist program in 1972.**



Hermiston Herald, File  
**Elder D.E. Caslow, photographed in 1972, was planning to be Hermiston's speaker for the international "Reach Out For Life" program.**

of directors — which claims to represent farm co-ops in Oregon with a membership of 40,000. They also voiced their discontent with proposals to increase gasoline taxes in Oregon and Washington.

Among the resolutions adopted, one urged immediate extension of Bonneville power lines to phosphate rock deposits in southern Idaho. It was stressed that this natural resource should be utilized as a supply for fertilizer, which was pretty scarce at the time. Another resolution reaffirmed the right of the farm-cooperative to operate on a continued tax-exempt basis, advocate reduction of national taxes and lower the national debt.

**90 YEARS AGO**  
March 3, 1932

As the basketball season wraps up and teams compete for a spot at the state tournament, here's an interesting look at what the tournament style and set-up was like 90 years ago.

There are a couple sub-district tournaments to be held, in which the three highest-scoring teams from each one will advance to the district tournament in Heppner.

Eight teams — Hermiston, Ione, Umatilla, Arlington, Condon, Stanfield, Irrigon and Lexington — will compete at Umatilla. Games start at 10 a.m. on Friday and will end at



Hermiston Herald, File  
**Ozan Marsh, American piano master, poses in 1971, ahead of his last concert of the 1971-72 West End Community Concert Series in Hermiston.**



Hermiston Herald, File  
**Local cake decorating instructor Linda Fox (standing) teaches new techniques to student Carla Keys in 1997.**

8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Eight other teams — Helix, Umatilla, Pilot Rock, Echo, Weston, Adams, Athena and Mac Hi — will battle each other in Helix.

The winner from these tournaments will compete with the winners from other sub-district tournaments from Pendleton and Heppner to determine which team will represent this district in the state tournament.

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

## BY THE WAY

## Awards gala to announce Hermiston honorees on March 2

The big day is upon us. The **Hermiston Chamber of Commerce** will host the 52nd annual **Distinguished Citizens Awards Gala** at 6 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 2**. The event is at the **Hermiston Community Center**, 415 S. Highway 395.

At this beloved event, awards are given to Business of the Year, Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Merit of Honor, Educators of the Year, Outstanding Young Citizens and Fire Service Awards to recognize their contributions in 2021.

The chamber is excited to bring back the Awards Gala, similar to what we have all grown to love, just a little more space and reduced occupancy.

Contact the chamber to purchase your tickets or reserve your table. The phone number is **541-567-6151**.

If you are business minded, there is an event coming up that might be of interest to you. The **Umatilla Chamber of Commerce**, 100 Cline Ave., is hosting **Eric DeLary** of the **Small Business Development Center**. DeLary is the chamber's featured speaker **Thursday, March 3**, 10-11:30 a.m. To RSVP, call **541-922-4825**.

It's time to celebrate **Leona Harpster's** 97th birthday. Friends are invited to the potluck birthday party **Saturday, March 12**, 1-4 p.m. at the **Harkenrider Senior Activity**

**Center**, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. Bring your favorite dish to share.

The **Boardman Chamber of Commerce** is inviting folks down for a night of denim and diamonds. The 32nd annual **Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet** is **Saturday, March 12**, starting with cocktails at 6 p.m. at the **Port of Morrow Riverfront Center**, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman. The dinner, which is catered by **Paradise Rose Chuckwagon**, begins at 6:30 p.m., with the awards presented at 7 p.m.

So, what exactly is "denim & diamonds"? The phrase describes casual and formal wear worn together in an ostentatious way, similar to a costume that celebrates the best of both clothing worlds. Jeans and gemstone jewelry, sequins and upscale pieces combine to give people a comfortable and creative option for dressing up their denim.

Tickets are \$40 per person. Visit [www.boardmanchamber.org](http://www.boardmanchamber.org) for a link to purchase tickets.

Good news, book lovers. The **Umatilla Public Library** returned to normal business hours on **Tuesday, March 1**. The library is now open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Monday to Thursday**; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **on Friday**; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **on Saturday**. Curbside service is open during business hours

and delivery is **Tuesday and Thursday**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Are you a Hermiston teenager who would like an opportunity to weigh in on library activities? The **Hermiston Public Library Teen Advisory Council** meets on every first **Monday** at 5 p.m. to discuss, plan and promote library programs and help select library materials.

This month, the group meets on **March 7**, at the library, 235 E. Gladys Ave. For more information, call **541-567-2882**.

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, March 3**, is turkey sandwich, salad, chips and fruit. The menu for Tuesday, March 8, is tacos, Spanish rice, refried 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**.