

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



KITTY LAMB

Stanfield

Can you tell me about some of the interesting jobs you have had?

I've been a volleyball official for many years, and I was on a team with a bunch of my friends. I really miss them. Back in my 20s, we traveled, and we went all over. I was a commissioner of volleyball. When I became postmaster, I didn't have time to do that.

Where were you postmaster?

Stanfield and Echo. I inherited Echo.

When did you serve?

From 1990 to 2017. I enjoyed it. I loved the people, but it got tougher.

What made it tough?

Basically, it was that we didn't have the people to do the job. I needed people to help me out. Working for two offices, it just got to be too much. I started thinking, I'm 63 and too old. I thought I should let someone else, someone younger, to take over. So that's what I did.

Did you keep in touch with people there?

Yes. You bet I did. The route driver and I were always really good friends.

Now that you're retired, what do you do with your days?

I take care of my granddaughter. I help my son out. I go places, do things. I spend a lot of time with family.

What's the most interesting place you've ever gone?

I've been to Universal multiple times. I've been to Florida, Hawaii, the Bahamas and stuff like that. I love to travel.

What do you enjoy about traveling?

I like seeing new places and experiencing new things. Some people might think I like going to Universal because I'm a big movie fan, but it's really because I'm a Harry Potter fan. But I do like movies, like everyone in my family. Our family thing to do is going to the first night of really big movies. We've been doing that for years.

But you're a Harry Potter fan. Which Harry Potter House do you identify with?

Hufflepuff. That means I am loyal and strong. I'm also the first woman to be your best friend, basically.

How important is loyalty in the world?

Loyalty is a double-edged sword. You can be loyal to people so that you are generous and loving, but there has to be a point when you start asking questions. You have to know when you have to pull back and just do what's right. Morals and your sense of what's right is most important. I'm a Christian, and I have my beliefs.

What church do you attend?

The Baptist church in Stanfield. They're wonderful people, really good people. They have people who are always there for you and doing good for the community and the world.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Local woman hears of deceased husband's WW II heroism 25 years ago

25 YEARS AGO
March 25, 1997

"I knew he was my hero, but I didn't know I was living with a real live hero."

That is what Marjorie Munsell-Forsythe said about her deceased first husband, First Lt. Steve C. Munsell of the U.S. Air Force, when he received the coveted Bronze Star Medal for heroic actions during World War II.

On Mar. 19, 1945, Steve and his co-pilot conducted a rescue mission behind enemy lines. U.S. Air Force pilots that had been shot down disguised themselves in German military clothing and Russian hats.

The men were understandably anxious when they climbed aboard the aircraft, but Steve assured them he would make as many trips as needed until every last one of them had been flown to safety, which he did.

After his military career, of which that mission was the highlight, Steve continued flying at Hermiston's airport for another 20 years. He died in 1990 from a heart attack, and on Jan. 23, 1997, Marjorie's birthday, she received a phone call informing her Steve had been honored with a medal and the medal itself.

"That was the best birthday present I've ever received," she said. To honor the bravery and memory of her husband, she proudly has his medal and letters of accommodations on display at her home.

50 YEARS AGO
March 23, 1972

The second annual Hermiston Fire Department Banquet was the first time length-of-service awards were presented to members — of which there were many.

Mayor L.P. Gray presented the awards, assisted by Ralph Richards, chairman of the Hermiston Rural Fire Protection District. Pins were presented for each five-year increment of service, up to 30 years.

John Dryer, Rodney Sollars, Ralph Tassie, Dusty Harris and Pius Horning all completed their first five years and received pins to prove it. Those with 10 years of service under their belts include Harold Snyder, John Shull, Ben Newman, Truman Messenger, Dave Mull, Julian Woodward, Bob Knight, Otis Wilcox, Ralph Moon and Dave Knerr. The two honored for 15 years were Lou Badoux and Russ Piersol.

There were only three increments, 20, 25 and 30, with just one recipient each. Assistant Chief Ed Lynch was awarded the 20-year pin, Chief Bob



Hermiston Herald, File

In 1997, Marjorie Munsell-Forsythe displays the Bronze Star Medal her husband was honored with after his death.



Hermiston Herald, File

Union Pacific Railroad personnel visit the railroad crossing at Hinkle 50 years ago for its semi-annual inspection. Second from right is Union Pacific President John C. Kenefic. Behind him is George C. Fisher, assistant train master at Hinkle. M.S. Barkdull, Spokane train master, is on the far right. The others are Union Pacific executives from company headquarters.

Russell received the 25-year pin and L.J. Michieli earned the 30-year pin.

Moon also received a special plaque for saving fellow fireman Harris.

75 YEARS AGO
March 27, 1947

Winter and spring in 1947 were quite dry. And while this may seem good because it eliminates the threat of flooding, irrigation on the other side of the spectrum suffers.

In fact, Roy W. McNeal, manager of the Hermiston Irrigation District, told members of the Rotary Club the current water storage in the Blue Mountains was about 50% of the normal amount. He identified the cause as a very short water season, and he said he was worried that such a shortage could cause serious issues if the next couple of weeks

are without cool temperatures and rainy, cloudy weather.

To stress the significance of this scenario, McNeal pointed out that everyone depended upon this irrigation system for their livelihoods.

90 YEARS AGO
March 24, 1932

Though not unusual for the Umatilla County area, a 45-mile per hour gale caught some trees, buildings and chickens off-guard.

The wind arrived early in the morning and caused quite a bit of destruction.

A barn on the southwest portion of Stanfield was torn from its base and turned several somersaults in the air before returning once again to the ground. Even a newly-built shed found itself as a victim; having not been sufficiently anchored yet, it was lifted up and then collapsed. Many telephone poles and trees were also damaged by the wind but did not cause further damage.

The Flannigan's chickens were quite possibly the most unlucky of all entities during the storm. Mrs. Flannigan went to enter her chicken house and when she opened the door, the wind entered with her. It lifted the roof and dropped White Leghorn chickens all over the place.

Though not necessarily cats and dogs, that is probably the closest we will get to actually having animals rain from the sky.

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



Hermiston Herald, File

Students from Umatilla High School's consumer studies class pose with the quilts and teddy bears they made for at-risk children 25 years ago.

BY THE WAY

Boardman Chamber plans a hiring event for March 24

Got cheese? If you have ever wanted to work in the cheese industry, the **Boardman Chamber of Commerce** might have an event to churn your interest.

The chamber is promoting a hiring event **Thursday, March 24**, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be at **WorkSource Hermiston**, 950 S.E. Columbia Drive, Suite B.

Tillamook managers will be onsite conducting interviews for full-time cheese manufacturing opportunities.

Several candidate forums have been scheduled in **Umatilla County** to provide voters with an opportunity to learn more about those running for office. All are scheduled at 6 p.m.:

- **Thursday, March 24**, at the **Vert Auditorium**, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton: Republican gubernatorial candidates.

The following forums feature Umatilla County commissioner candidates:

- **March 31**, at the **Pendleton Convention Center**, 1601 Westgate.

- **April 7**, at the **Oregon National Guard Armory**, 900 S.E. Columbia Drive., Hermiston.

- **April 8**, at the **Milton-Freewater Community Building**, 109 N.E. Fifth St.

For questions about the April 7 forum, contact val-

erie.bradley@gmail.com or josiahbarron.pcp@protonmail.com. For the other three, contact ucrp@gmail.com or Suni Danforth, Central Committee chair, at 541-215-9389 or ucrpchair@gmail.com.

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City Auto Sales is gearing up for its grand opening celebration. The **Hermiston Chamber of Commerce** will rev things up with a ribbon-cutting **Friday, March 25**, 12 noon at 80857 N. Highway 395, Hermiston.

People are encouraged to stick around throughout the afternoon with all kinds of fun planned, including food, raffles and local vendors. For questions, call 541-561-8314 or search Facebook.

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Mark your calendar for "**Time to Shine**," the annual **Irrigon Citizen Recognition Banquet**. It is **April 16**, 5-8 p.m. at **Stokes Lending Senior Center**, 195 Opal Place. Dinner will be served.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Call 541-626-2045 or visit www.irrigonchamber.com for more information.

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The **Hermiston Public Library** honored a special young person, as it named her its artist of the month. March's artist is **EllaMae Looney**. Looney is an enrolled member of the **Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation**. She is currently residing on the **Uma-**

tilla Indian Reservation.

Looney has been recognized as a leader by her tribal peers and elders in her community and also is an artist who expresses herself through painting, beading and poetry.

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The **Hermiston Public Library**, 235 E. Gladys Ave., is about more than books, as it has scheduled **Family Movie Night** on **Thursday, March 24**. Start time is 6 p.m. Popcorn and drinks are provided.

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The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, March 24**, is baked fish, vegetables, coleslaw and dessert. The menu for **Tuesday, March 29**, is ham and beans, cornbread, fruit 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.

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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.