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One dollar



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A procession of marchers makes the turn onto Main Street during a Martin Luther King Day march on Monday in Hermiston. More than 100 people took part in the annual march commemorating the life and works of Martin Luther King Jr.

LONG LIVE KING

Martin Luther King Jr. remembered through march, service and music

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN,
ANTONIO SIERRA
and KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The mood at Hermiston's Martin Luther King Jr. Day march Monday morning was positive, but carried a clear message that the fight for social justice is far from over.

"When you come to a small town like Hermiston and still have people watching and marching, it's just amazing," said Don Rome.

Rome was the keynote speaker at the annual celebration of social justice and civil rights, which has taken place in Hermiston for 18 years. More than 100 people from the Hermiston area, as well as Portland and the Tri-Cities, gathered in front of Hermiston's

"He was interested in changing the world non-violently — without shouting, without creating disunity."

— Sarah Woodbury, MLK Day event organizer

Methodist Church to walk, listen to speeches, and discuss what King's message continues to mean today.

After a walk around Hermiston's downtown blocks and a speech on City Hall steps from City Councilor Doug Primmer, Rome took the stage, talking about his own experiences growing up black in Hermiston.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Rev. Robert Eadie of Kennewick sings along to the song "This Little Light of Mine" during a service at the First United Methodist Church for Martin Luther King Day on Monday in Hermiston.

Though some of his stories were lighthearted and had the audience laughing, he described how prejudice can occur, even if

it's not obviously hostile. "The pro was that I always got picked for sports," he said with a grin. "The con was — I sucked!" He told a story of when he was a small child, a teacher had refused to call him by his name, instead calling him a derogatory term.

"I asked her why she called me that, and she said, 'Because that's all you're ever going to be,'" Rome recalled.

He also told a story acknowledging his own insecurities. He remembered a trip to the grocery store last year, where an elderly couple was walking toward him. He smiled, but they didn't reciprocate.

"He looked me up and down in disgust, and walked off," Rome

See MLK/8A



Contributed photo

Herman Hull poses for a photo with his three grandsons, Ke'omakani, Hailionaona and Haloa, shortly after the false missile alert Saturday on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.

Panic in paradise

Locals experience Hawaiian missile alert

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

There's nothing like impending nuclear attack to mess up a vacation.

Kim Puzey, of Hermiston, drove along a highway on Maui on Saturday morning with two friends, chatting about an upcoming bike ride when suddenly all their phones chirped in unison.

"It sounded like an amber alert," said Puzey, who manages the Port of Umatilla. "The screen said, 'Ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawaii. Seek immediate shelter.

This is not a drill." The men stared at each other in disbelief. Traffic slowed.

"People pulled over to the side of the road," Puzey said. "I saw confusion, but not panic."

Everyone contemplated this freakish news. Should they take cover or just carry on?

If it was real, Puzey surmised, he expected the missile to be intercepted, but just in case things went awry, he decided to call his family back in Oregon.

"If it's true, I wanted you to know how much I love you," Puzey remembers telling his wife, Julie.

Another Hermiston resident, Herman Hull, got the alert on the

See MISSILE/8A

