

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



DR. JOHN SPOMER

Dentist

When did you come to the area and what brought you here?

Janet and I moved to Hermiston in 1974 to start a dental practice. The agricultural base of the economy was a prime factor, combined with the overall growth.

What is your favorite local place to eat?

Depends on our mood. No one place stands out.

What is your favorite activity in your free time?

Reading and running.

What's the last book you read? Would you recommend it?

"The Rivalry of Art," and yes if you are interested in art history.

What is your favorite website or app (other than Facebook)?

Google — it works.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

The rate of growth of our school population.

Describe your perfect travel destination.

I guess I would have to say Honduras, as I go there several times a year for volunteer projects.

What's the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?

Difficult to pick one thing, but maybe celebrating Christmas in the East African nation of Malawi in 1973.

What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?

To help the dental health NGO "Cadena de Amor" to be more self-sufficient in the coming year.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Hard to say one thing. I feel good about the years I served on the school board, the care I provided my patients, the positive relationship developed with the young women on the high school running teams, my current work in Honduras, and finally watching and assisting the growth of our daughter, Abbie.

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HERMISTON HISTORY

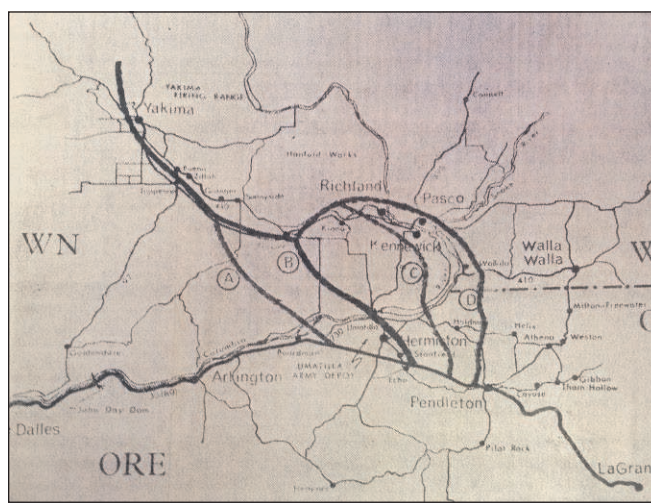
Residents urged to support location of new freeway near Hermiston

25 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 25, 1992

The city of Hermiston could be held liable if the city's water supply is contaminated by a backflow of hazardous materials. John Huffman, from the State Health Division, told the Hermiston City Council that other towns have been sued for millions of dollars because of backflow contamination. For this reason, Oregon has enacted new laws which require cities to use some form of backflow prevention. The new law requires water suppliers to "discontinue service to those premises (where) an existing or potential cross connection is located on the user's premises, until an appropriate backflow detention device assembly is installed or until the hazard is eliminated." Councilors raised concerns that costs would be prohibitive for the city to install backflow prevention devices in every home. Huffman said the prevention device would go between the meter and the house, and it would be the responsibility of the owner to have it installed and inspected yearly. He added that any cost incurred by the city would still be lower than any lawsuits the city may face is a backflow occurs.

Video poker machines are coming back to Hermiston bars. The entertainment devices, which had come under fire for being used all-too-often for gambling, were removed from area bars last year. Oregon's Lottery Commission, however, is bringing the machines back, complete with payoffs as high as \$600 on a 25-cent bet. The Pheasant Cafe and Lounge and The Grainary Inn in downtown Hermiston both received video poker machines last week, but the machines won't be operational until March 30, according to lottery spokeswoman Marlene



HERALD ARCHIVES

A map showing four possible alignments of Interstate 82 being considered in 1967.

Meissner. It will take until March for the machines, along with hundreds throughout the state, to be tested and hooked up to a computer in Salem that will keep track of how much money is paid into the machines and how much money bar owners pay out.

50 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 23, 1967

A virtual caravan of people from the west end of Umatilla County was expected to travel to Pendleton to demonstrate their support for the Umatilla Bridge route proposed for Interstate 82N at the Oregon State Highway Department hearing at Vert Auditorium. Residents from neighboring Morrow County were also expected to attend. Spearheaded by Hermiston City Manager Tom Harper, plans have been completed for a large local delegation to appear at the hearing on behalf of the Umatilla Bridge route connecting with Interstate 80 (now Interstate 84) near Stanfield Junction.

Umatilla Speedway is expected to be delayed about two weeks from the April 1 opening date set earlier, according to Charles Kik. Construction crews have hit a rock formation

which will require an unexpected amount of blasting, Kik said, and this is going to force the opening date to around the middle of April. The asphalt oval will be 200 feet over a quarter mile and will be eight feet higher on the outside, which will allow for some exceptionally high speed races. It will feature stock cars, hard tops, and jalopies. An elevated grandstand on the south side of the track will accommodate 2,500 spectators and a large parking area will be provided. The present schedule calls for Sunday racing until hot weather begins. The events will then be switched to Saturday nights under the lights. The Blue Mountain Racing Association, whose president is Bill Jones of Pendleton, will be in charge of staging the races. "This track will be on par with any track of comparable size in Eastern Oregon," Kik said. "You're going to see some mighty fast times run here."

75 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 26, 1942

Sam Moore, Standard oil distributor here, has been appointed as a member of the county civil defense council, replacing James Todd who resigned. Mr. Moore's position as head of the volunteer po-

lice department will be taken by Charles Hodge, Chevrolet dealer.

Beginning with the March 2, 1942 issue, the Hermiston Herald will be 15 cents per copy at all newsstands and from paper boys.

Hermiston, normally a town of 800 inhabitants, mushroomed almost overnight into a young city of more than 10 times that number of people during the year 1941, when a vast United States Army Ordnance Depot and ammunition dump was constructed. That detail is included in the historical sketch of Umatilla County, in the Inventory of the County Archives of Oregon series of books.

A new ruling for acquisition of automobiles has placed farmers on the eligibility list for the purchase of new automobiles. The following is the complete rule: "Persons requiring automobiles for the transportation of produce and supplies to and from a farm if the applicant does not own or possess a truck or other practicable means of transportation" shall be qualified. The rules are part of war rationing.

100 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 24, 1917

The Secretary of the Interior announces the opening to entry on March 6, of approximately 1,300 acres in the second unit of the west extension unit of the Umatilla, Oregon reclamation project. Persons desiring to acquire any of this land must execute a homestead application subject to the provisions of the reclamation law which, with the required fees commissions accompanied by a certificate of the Project Manager at Hermiston as to the filing of water right applications and payment of water right charges, may be presented to the proper local land office.

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ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

A \$5,000 scholarship is administered to a college student who has completed their freshman year and is interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering-Power Systems. Apply at www.oregonstudentaid.org.

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For more information visit our offices in Hermiston or Boardman or our website: UmatillaElectric.com.

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