

## THREE MINUTES WITH ...



## ERICA SANDOVAL

Police officer, Hermiston Police Department

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

I moved here with my family in 1986. I come from a migrant-working family and my dad was in the army before that, so we moved around a lot. He wanted a more stable life for his kids and for us to be able to complete a whole school year in one place.

**What is your favorite local place to eat?**

My favorite local place to eat is Ye Olde Pizza Shoppe! My favorite food is pizza, but they also have the yummiest grilled burgers! The taco pizza and taco burger are my go-tos there.

**What is your favorite activity in your free time?**

Dancing, hands down! Especially salsa dancing. I do all kinds and have since I could walk, but after participating in Dancing with the Hermiston Stars in 2015, I started taking classes with Salsa Con Rumba in Kennewick, Washington, and it led into other types of Latin-related/similar dances like Bachata, Kizomba and Tango.

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

The Shack! And yes, yes, YES!!! I feel like I've read it a million times but still turn to it when my faith needs

a reminder of how great our God is and trust we all have our place in this world. There is a movie coming out soon based on this book, too.

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

I use my iPhone's music app which includes my Apple Music subscription ALL THE TIME. Music is a part of my soul! I also like to keep motivated that someday I'm going to buy a house, so I use the Zillow app a lot to look up houses not just in Hermiston and the surrounding areas but in other cities I may someday want to move to, like Albuquerque, New Mexico, where my parents live. Yelp is another favorite especially when I travel.

**What surprises you about Hermiston?**

Hermiston is very progressive! The progressive is not the part that surprises me but that we are a small community in the desert with less funding and resources and STILL, we have been able to be steps ahead of our larger, more resourced bigger cities. For example (and I use this example because it's what I know closely), our police department is using and has been using technology and philosophies like our body cameras and community policing for years where bigger departments across the nation are just starting to adopt these practices and ways of thinking.

**Describe your perfect travel destination.**

I can do that in a few words: sand, ocean, sun, and tropical. Hahaha! One of the places that makes my heart happy is the beach and the coast. I would prefer it to include sunshine wherever it is, but I do love our Oregon Coast in any weather. On my bucket list of life is to visit all the colored beaches of the world which includes white, black, green, pink, and red. I'd also love to dance all my favorite dances in the countries that they originate from like Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, etc.

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

I'm not sure if it's the funniest, especially at the time, but it still makes me and whomever I'm recounting the story to laugh. It was the second time I got tased. It's changed now but before in order to carry and have a Taser, we had to pass a training class which included being tased. There was a "refresher" course to give us updates on the new

model and included the opportunity to be tased. This was not a requirement if you had been tased in your initial training but I have to admit I let my ego get a little out and volunteered since a majority of the guys in the class were going to, as well. Did I mention I was the only girl in the class? By the end of the training, several had dropped out of the tasing part but not me. My turn comes up and I take the full tasing. This includes being shot with the darts AND a full 5 second ride. Doesn't sound like a long time unless you are under 50,000 volts. So, I'm shot and everything seems to sloooooow down....during this time I remember hearing what I can only describe as the sound a dirt bike makes when its being revved up. Well, lucky for me several of my "brothers" in the class had whipped out their cell phones and documented this event, which they were all-too eager to show me. When I saw the video, I discovered the cause of that dirt bike sound... yep, it was me!!!! It was me saying a not so nice word (saying, yelling...whatever) and holding out the middle vowel sounds for several seconds! I have a copy of the video and it still gets giggles preceded by the obligatory cringe when the darts hit. Never again, if I can help it!

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

My goal is to take flying lessons, at the very least, one. My first love after dance was aviation and in high school I wanted to be a pilot in the Air Force and had my sights set on working on fighter jets or even the space shuttle (I am even a Space Camp alumni). My eyesight kept me from fulfilling that dream, but I'd still like to try flying and see if my love for aviation (which is still strong and thriving) includes being in the pilot's seat.

**What is your proudest accomplishment?**

I'd have to say my proudest accomplishment is becoming and maintaining a career in law enforcement. It hasn't always been easy and there have been times that it has broken my heart to the point I questioned staying in it, but it's also been the most challenging and fulfilling thing I've ever done in my life. It's truly an honor and a privilege to serve my community and also to be a part of this blue family that is connected all over the world.

## HERMISTON HISTORY

## Word of Army Depot siting near Hermiston first reported 75 years ago

## 25 Years Ago

MARCH 10, 1992

The city of Stanfield could face up to \$500,000 in fines if its wastewater treatment plant is not cleaned up. Citing problems with the operation and maintenance of the plant, Department of Environmental Quality Official Don Caldwell said if things aren't brought back up to required levels the matter will be turned over to DEQ enforcement officials.

Up to 10,350 local people could die if an earthquake were to break open and cause a fire in just two of the chemical-weapons warehouses at the Umatilla Army Depot, according to an Army report. It is unlikely that such an event could occur, the Army points out. Seismic activity in the area is slight, and the colorless, odorless, deadly chemical weapons — 12 percent of American's total — are stored in warehouses that are anything but fragile. Called "igloos," because that's what they look like, the warehouses are 40 feet wide, 80 feet long, 20 feet tall and have walls made two feet thick with concrete. On top of the concrete lies another three feet of dirt. The igloos are strong, earthquakes are rare, but the fact remains: an earthquake is rare, but the fact remains: an earthquake at the depot could precipitate the deaths of more than 10,000 people. Those worries no longer exist as all of the chemical weapons have since been systematically destroyed and the depot is no longer used for weapons storage.

## 50 Years Ago

MARCH 9, 1967

Simple error on federal income tax returns can delay refunds and cause taxpayers trouble, according to A.G. Erickson, district director of Internal Revenue for Oregon. Erickson suggests this simple checklist: 1. Check arithmetic. 2. Attach Forms W-2 from all employers. 3. Sign your return. Both husband and wife must sign a joint return. 4. Print or type name and address, including zip code. 5. Use the correct tax table. 6. Total our deductions if you itemize them on page 2. 7. List your Social Security number correctly. Both husband's and wife's number should be on the joint return.

Air force Lieutenant Roger S. Bounds made a surprise stopover to visit with his mother, Mrs. Doris Bounds. Lt. Bounds has completed training at the missile school in Ft. Bliss, Texas, and expects to be assigned to Ft. Stewart, in Savannah, Georgia, for fixed wing pilot training, about the middle of May.

The new Westland bridge over the Umatilla River was opened Friday, March 3. The 250-foot span was erected by the Rogers Construction Co., at a cost of \$110,635.

Completion of the bridge is a big link in the project calling for a 32-foot wide paved highway from the Buttercreek Highway to Interstate 80N (now known as Interstate 84).

## 75 Years Ago

MARCH 12, 1942

John W. Kelly, in his syndicated column written from Washington, D.C.,

this week caused considerable stir hereabouts by his story stating that a \$10 million quartermasters' depot would be established in the Hermiston-Umatilla area. The depot, Kelly explained, would be used to divert supplies to either Puget Sound, which now has one depot, or the Columbia River region as the emergency demands. The story carried no authoritative source. No further news concerning the project has been released in Washington with the army engineers in Portland also denying any knowledge of the depot. A telegram from Rep. Walter Pierce received in Hermiston Sunday also indicated that a warehouse was definitely slated at or near Hermiston. However, to date no definite statement has been made and the entire situation is speculative.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Follett and family a received long-distance telephone call at 8:00 o'clock Monday evening from their son Bob, who is in the army and stationed in the Hawaiian Islands. The Folletts state that his voice was very clear and that is sounded like he was in the same room. Bob said that he was fine and the

islands were grand. Also he mentioned to be sure and tell all of his friends "hello" for him.

A financial statement for the Hermiston Irrigation District has been released by Charles Taylor, district accountant. Any member of the district wishing a certified copy of the financial affairs of the system is asked to call the office in Hermiston. The statement is for the fiscal year December 31, 1940, to December 31, 1941. Cash on hand December 31, 1941, was \$12,363.25, making a total gain for the fiscal year \$2,186.35.

## 100 Years Ago

MARCH 10, 1917

On Tuesday, the board of the Westland Irrigation District held what proved to be a very important meeting. A number of matters relative to the new district were taken up, but the principal item was the selection of a consulting engineer. It is the desire of the directors that everything be checked over and every possible feature of the new work be verified before the bonds are placed and work started. To do this A. Laurgaard

of Portland was selected as consulting engineer of known ability, having been connected with a number of big undertakings, among which are government irrigation works. Mr. Laurgaard will start his work soon and all possible haste will.

Public notice has been issued by the Secretary of the Interior to the effect that water will be available for lands under the sixth unit of the Umatilla irrigation project during the irrigation season of 1917 and thereafter. The lands covered by this opening lie in township 5 north, range 28 east. Homestead entry for the mentioned farm units may be made on and after March 15, 1917 at 9 o'clock a.m. at the La Grande land office. The construction charge is \$70 per acre of irrigable land. When filing is made it must be accompanied by a certificate from the project manager that water right application has been made and water right charges paid. The initial payment is 5 percent

of the construction charge and the remaining 95 percent shall be paid in 15 annual installments, the first of which is due Dec. 1 of the fifth calendar year after the initial installment. The sixth unit lies north of Hermiston in the W.T. Roberts neighborhood. There are but four or five homesteads, the remainder being private lands.

In compliance with a request from the Civic Club the city council has fixed Friday, March 30, as spring clean up day. As in the past, the city will furnish a team and wagon to haul away all rubbish that will not burn. Residents of the city are asked to gather up all rubbish that may have accumulated around their places, in the street and alleys, burning all that will and placing the remainder in boxes or sacks at the alley line. In collecting this rubbish the driver will not stop to help gather it, nor will he bother with it unless it is out where it can be readily seen and in receptacles as requested.

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The family of Dr. Hibbert would like to express their gratitude to the Pendleton community for the privilege of serving you the last 34 years. We received many letters of sympathy after his sudden passing.

We want to give a special thanks to the following dentists who gave generously of their time over the last few months: Dr. Loc Vuu, Dr. Blair Smith, Dr. Robert Pratt, Dr. Edward Dolan, and Dr. Nate Bushman. Their kindness allowed us to continue serving our loyal patients.

Sincerely,

Debbie Hibbert, Jennifer Hibbert, Carley Hibbert,  
Eli Hibbert, Lori Howard, and Eric Hibbert

Hibbert Dental Staff: Heather Gabriel, Sara Kellogg,  
Jennifer Scharf, Carley Towne

