

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



MARIA DURON

Communications Officer and Community Relations Specialist, Hermiston School District

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

My parents chose to move to Oregon. I was going to start my freshman year at Umatilla High School. The reason is that my dad was looking for a job, and he landed one in a processing plant.

What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

Walker's Farm Kitchen and Delish.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I don't have spare time, but I do like to spend time with my kids.

What was the last book you read?

I am starting to read, and I picked up Esperanza Viva - "Living Hope." I started reading it because the names of the chapters grabbed my attention. When you lose hope, you lose everything. So I thought, I need to read it.

What app or website do you use most other than Facebook?

The Bible App, and WhatsApp.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

It's not a surprise, but an appreciation. Our community seems to continue to grow, but we still have a small community sense. It's very supportive, which I really appreciate in all aspects. Not just school, but wherever there's a need, the community rallies around.

Where would you travel if you could go anywhere?

Paris, Jerusalem, Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

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

I would be embarrassed to say, but...When we moved to the states, I didn't know a word of English. I was starting the fifth grade, and had to learn the language in a short amount of time. In school, the English language sounded like Japanese to me, it was so fast I couldn't make sense out of it. I had to learn from a book, which had words, pronunciations and at the end of the chapter, it had sentences. But another way I learned was through cartoons and music. I remember Madonna was so big, I would be singing the lyrics to "Like a Virgin," and had no idea what I was saying. I probably made up my own words. It was only later when I could understand, that I knew what I was saying. But those '80s songs helped me learn.

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

Professionally, to try to paint a picture of all the wonderful things happening in our schools, while presenting the needs that we have because of growth.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My (three) kids. I think they're still a work in progress, but being a single mom, having one student graduate with honors who will be starting her sophomore year in college. And the fact that they also love to serve in our local church. That's something I am proud of.

HERMISTON HISTORY

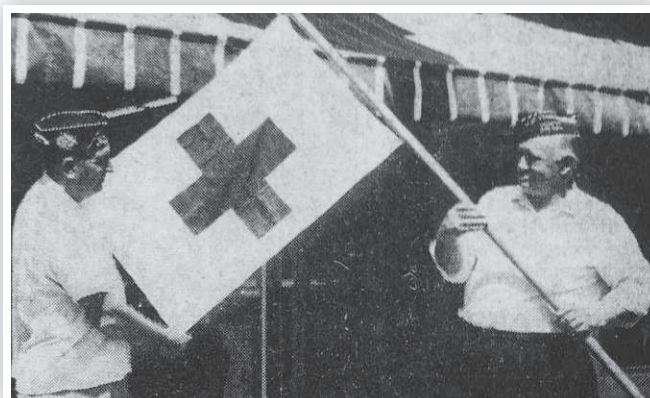
Hermiston melons a welcome sight in Alaska

25 YEARS AGO  
AUGUST 18, 1992

From an editorial: Our hats are off to directors of the Farm-City Pro Rodeo and the Umatilla County Fair for providing the region with a week of great entertainment.

In just five years, the unparalleled standard of rodeo excellence has made Farm-City one of the fastest growing rodeos in the Northwest. The collective decades of rodeo experience from those who organize and present the local rodeo helped to bring Hermiston all the best the sports has to offer. At the same time, those responsible for the Umatilla County Fair have improved entertainment, activities and facilities to make it a great event for the entire family. We're fortunate to have these people, the rodeo sponsors, all the volunteers and a community such as Hermiston as the showplace for these great events.

From a letter to the editor: "I never knew I could be so emotional about watermelons and I want to thank all the local growers, for making the effort to market the world's best melons as far north as Alaska. This is my fourth summer in Wasilla, Alaska, after moving from Hermiston. The area I live in is known as the Mat-su Valley and is famous for giant vegetables. Even surrounded by great summer vegetables and fruit, I could never bring myself to buy a watermelon because the big cardboard box would say 'Imported from Mexico or California.' But then the other day I saw a box that made tears come to my eyes right there in the grocery store. 'They're Here! Genuine Hermiston melons.' I immediately put three melons in my basket and had a smile on my face the whole way home. ... I have no idea if the marketing venture to Alaska is translating into good business for local growers, but I am happy to pay 25, 29 and 35 cents a pound for a Hermiston melon. Please continue to ship melons each summer and they'll continue to be the talk of the town. Thank you for sending up striped sunshine from home." Signed Delia (Dorran) Wallis of Wasilla, Alaska.



LYONS PHOTO

Commander Harvey A Myers, left, and past Commander Clarence Martin of VFW Post 4750 show off one of the two-dozen Red Cross flags they will put up along Main Street to remind people of the blood drawing at the CRC building in 1967. The flags were used to indicate days for Red Cross blood drawings.



HERALD ARCHIVES

Phil DeFilippis (far left), chairman of the Northeast Oregon Homebuilders Association's committee for fire instruction for response and escape, turns over a mobile training unit in 1992 to Fire Chief Jim Stearns (center) and Pat Ward, fire marshal. Also pictured are Rita Larson (second from left), fire department secretary, and Lt. Scott Cahill. The mobile training unit, built by the Home Builders Association and volunteers, is designed to teach young people how to escape a burning house.

50 YEARS AGO  
AUGUST 17, 1967

Hermiston volunteer fireman were called to several small fires last week, beginning with the troublesome one at the city dump north of Hermiston. Charles Kik, who lives nearby, called the firemen to keep the flames from spreading to his own property. According to assistant fire chief Ed Lynch, some burning material was apparently dumped the day before and allowed to smolder overnight, creating the smoky underground fire. The department was recalled to the scene at 7:15 pm the same day when flames broke out again from the smoldering trash.

The winner of the championship carcass beef drawing that was held Saturday evening at the Junior Rodeo Arena was RW Bo-

litho of Milton-Freewater. Fair Manager Bob Cooper said that 100,000 tickets for the drawing has been given out by merchants all over Umatilla County, and since it was necessary to be present to win, there were over 3,000 present at the arena for the drawing.

Cooper added that attendance was good at all the fair functions with 2,500 at the Fair Follies, 2,000 each two nights at the Junior Rodeo, 800 attending the 4-H Style Revue, and 500 teenagers at the Saturday night dance in the new 4-H building. Cooper also said that \$6,000 in open class premiums were given out this year, compared to last year's total of \$5,000.

75 YEARS AGO  
AUGUST 13, 1942

The office of the Umatilla County Agricultural Conservation association

has received notice that the price of feed wheat is to be 90 cents per bushel during this month of August, increasing 1/2 cent per bushel each month thereafter. Any feeder of poultry or livestock who wishes to purchase feed wheat should contact his office. All deliveries must be reduced in the very near future is the warning received Tuesday night by those attending a meeting of the office of defense transportation in Pendleton. Herman Sites of the Portland office was the principal speaker and he stressed time and again the deliveries must be reduced. Quite a delegation was present from Hermiston. Only one delivery per day is now allowed. Other concerns must cut down deliveries as much as 25 percent.

100 Years Ago  
AUGUST 18, 1917

Robert Crooks and OM Warner were up from Boardman the latter part of last week. The gentlemen were interviewed on the condition of the road between here and Boardman by a Herald reporter, and they said the reported bad condition of the highway was inaccurate, as they had no trouble on the trip, having to change gears from high to low only in a few places.

In our Herald display window this week was exhibited a plate of tomatoes plucked from the vines in the garden of Mrs. L Reeder in this city. Not overly large, but symmetrical as to shape and beautiful in color were these vegetables, that were taken from a patch of ground surrounding the home of the lady literally covered with a luxuriant growth. The achievement of Mrs. Reeder in growing tomatoes in the home garden lot will be a criterion for other housewives to follow, especially when they learn that from the 10 cents worth of seed bought she has received about \$6 through the sale of tomato plants, besides having a big crop of the vegetable left, sufficient in fact for canning for family use besides quite a marketable supply — which will add a few more dollars to her pin-money purse.

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Wednesday, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> Reptile Man & Kid Zone Scarecrow Contest  
Thursday, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> Reptile Man & Kid Zone Old Time Fiddlers Talent Show 4-H/FFA Conformation Murray's Wine Tasting  
Friday, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> Reptile Man & Kid Zone 4-H/FFA Showmanship Ballet Performance 4-7 yrs. Master Showmanship Adult Showmanship Greased Pig Contest OTPR/NPRA Rodeo Music by: Dan Burns 3D Productions  
Saturday, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> Reptile Man & Kid Zone Parade FFA Awards Buyers Luncheon Livestock Auction OTPR/NPRA Rodeo Music by: Dan Burns 3D Productions  
Sunday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> All Exhibits Released Morrow County Rodeo  
Fair Admission: Ages 8 & Up \$4 daily or \$10 week 7 & under FREE (must be with Adult)  
Rodeo Admission: 13 & up \$10 7-12 yrs. \$6 6 & under FREE

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