

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



MEL SWARTZ

Pastor, Oasis Vineyard Church

**When and why did you move to Hermiston?**  
We moved in May of 2017 to take over the church. I moved from Daytona Beach, Florida.

**What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?**  
So far, it depends on the food. I love Tacos y Mas, La Palma, Delish for city food. I like Last Supper Dining — they do a prime rib dip that's amazing.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
I have young children — 8, 6, and 3 — so mostly I spend time with them. We try to do family hikes, but it doesn't always work out. We try to go to the mountains.

**What surprises you about Hermiston?**  
I think what surprised me is that I thought I was moving to a small, rural farming community — and I did — but it's really about business. It's very business-savvy.

**What was the last book you read?**  
Ready Player One, by Ernest Cline. It was good; it's science fiction, if you like that sort of thing.

**What app or website do you use most often other than Facebook or Google?**  
Spotify.

**If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?**  
I love to travel. Lately, I've been wanting to go back to Scotland, I lived there when I was a kid on the Kintyre Peninsula. Paul McCartney wrote a song about it.

**What is the funniest thing that's happened to you?**  
I was supposed to give a speech for a class in college, and I went to the wrong room. The professor wasn't there, but the TA was. They asked me who I was, and I said I was supposed to give a speech. So I stood up to give this persuasive speech, and it was so off-topic — it was a chemistry class or something. I got about 10 minutes in before the TA said, "I think you're in the wrong spot."

**What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?**  
We have a garden at church that we grow produce from and give away. I'd like to expand that garden and have more types of produce. This past year we gave 2,500 pounds of produce, but the previous year we gave 4,000. We give it to people who need it — fresh produce can be hard to find.

**What is your proudest accomplishment?**  
Three children and 13 years of happy marriage.

HERMISTON HISTORY



HH FILE PHOTO

Hermiston students board a school bus during a snowstorm in January 1993.

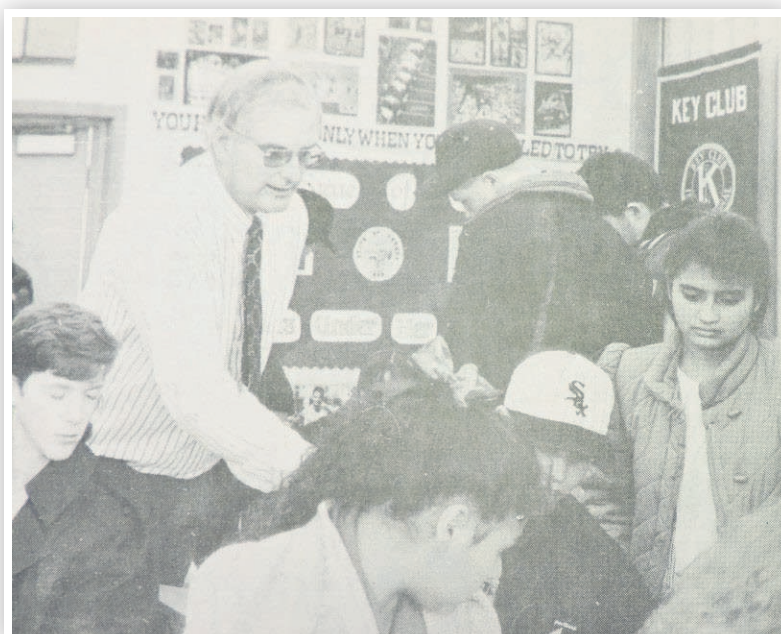
25 YEARS AGO  
JAN. 19, 1993

Because of slick roads and dangerous driving conditions, area school districts have been using up their few "emergency closure" days at an alarming rate. Hermiston School District, which has the luxury of five closure days, has already used half their margin. "Basically we've used up about two and a half days, which is about half our total days," said Hermiston Superintendent Jer Pratten.

According to a recent report by the Oregon Health Division 1,537 cases of AIDS have been reported in the state. Of that number, 35 are listed here in Umatilla County, reports Sharon Kline, RN, administrator of the Umatilla County Public Health Department. The real problem with that last figure is not that it is so high for a rural county such as Umatilla, but that it is only the tip of the deadly iceberg. Kline explains that for every one reported, statistics show at least 50 cases of the always-fatal disease go undetected. The administrator goes on to warn that while every sexually active individual or IV drug user is at risk, teenagers are especially susceptible to the disease. According to the Oregon Health Division report, over 50 percent of all Oregon teens have reported having sexual intercourse; of those teens, only 25 percent reported using a condom during the last experience.

50 YEARS AGO  
JAN. 18, 1968

Hermiston's first auditorium per se is about to become a reality even though it will be located in the junior high school. With a seating capacity of approximately 300 persons, the auditorium has been included in planned improvements and additions in the Hermiston school system. John Cermak, principal of the junior high school, lauded the board's action saying the auditorium would represent fulfillment of a com-



HH FILE PHOTO

Then-county commissioner Bill Hansell gives Hermiston High School students in Kyle Kennison's senior social studies class a lesson on county government in January 1993.

munity need.

Hermiston area society will be host to literally champion guests on Jan. 19 — a Japanese all-star high school championship wrestling team. The Japanese will wrestle Hermiston and Stanfield boys at the senior high school here that night beginning at 7:30 p.m. and following the competition the Japanese will spend the night at homes of Hermiston families.

75 YEARS AGO  
JAN. 21, 1943

Hermiston dairies are telling their patrons that the "Milk Bottle Loss is Too High." Instructions are given in an advertisement on page 4 as to the proper care of milk bottles and readers are urged to cooperate in this matter. Due to the extreme shortage of bottles and the high cost of replacing them, the matter is quite serious. Samples of damage done by housewives who used too hot water to rinse the bottles can be seen at The Herald office. It is pointed out that it is not necessary to use hot water in washing the bottles because they must be thoroughly washed and disinfected by steam by the dairies before they are refilled.

Oregon again leads the U.S.A. in war bond sales and Umatilla County did its part by

purchasing \$238,862.80 of war bonds during November, the last month for which official figures are available. Total statewide sales are \$10,787,000. Oregon's national record is the largest purchase of war bonds in proportion to income of any state in the union. Oregon has led the nation twice in the last four months, having also been the number one state in August.

100 YEARS AGO  
JAN. 19, 1918

At the close of the old year we mailed to all the subscribers whose subscriptions to this paper were due or overdue a statement, to which many immediately responded. The balance, however, have evidently mislaid and forgotten the statement, and it is to them that

we dedicate these lines, in the hope that it will be the means of a gentle reminder that we need money at this time to pay our obligations. It costs money, moreso now than it ever did, to operate a newspaper, so we would admonish those who do not come across in a reasonable time on subscription not to feel unkindly toward us if their names are dropped from our list of subscribers due to non-payment of dues.

Little did the least three of the city council dream that they would be caught in a web of their own mesh, when, at the last meeting of the city fathers, they passed a resolution instructing the city clerk to enforce the water ordinance and see to it that all who had not paid their monthly rental by the 10th of this month be deprived of the use of the city's domestic fluid. But every lane has a turn, and when the 10th of the month rolled around the shoe was on the other foot, for on turning the faucet at their respective homes and hearing only a gurgle therefrom, Aldermen Carl McNaught, Harry Straw and Frank Woughter quickly came to a realization that they had been caught in a trap of their own making, and it is said that all three forthwith hastened from their homes without breakfast to hunt up City Clerk Jensen to pay their water dues.

Hermiston Herald



VOLUME 112 • NUMBER 3

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The Hermiston Herald (USPS 242220, ISSN 8750-4782) is published weekly at Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838, (541) 567-6457.

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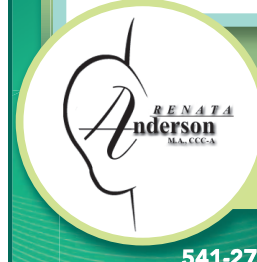
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