

THREE MINUTES WITH ...

HERMISTON HISTORY

LILLY ALARCON-STRONG

City Recorder and Executive Assistant to the City Manager and City Council



When and why did you move to Hermiston?

I was born in this great city, baby! Lol ;-). And, I've never had the desire to leave. I love it here!

What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

My mom's house. After that it's a tie between La Palma and Golden Palace.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Read, play board games and cuddle with my boys, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy the great outdoors.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

We're growing rapidly but we still have such a strong sense of community and togetherness.

What was the last book you read?

The Trouble with Twelfth Grave. It's a series of 13 books by Darynda Jones. The 13th comes out next year (2019) and I'm itching to get my hands on it.

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

Pinterest. I have all of these amazing things "pinned" to my board that I want to do or make ... but I know I'll probably only get to like 10 percent of them. Hey, it's the thought that counts, right?!

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

Hmmm ... I've got to say, as long as I'm traveling with amazing people and learning new things, I don't really care where I go. But, my entire family is planning a trip to Florida next year. We have lots of family in that area and I love it when we're all together. So, Florida it is!

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

Well, I'm a naturally happy person who loves to laugh and have fun. But the funniest (which means embarrassing) thing that's happened to me is ... If someone is vomiting and I hear it, smell it, or see it, then I'm usually (unwillingly) joining them.

My boyfriend (now husband), my two nieces and I were driving to my mom's house when my nieces BOTH got sick in the back seat. My boyfriend was unable to pull over and in the panic had locked the windows so I wasn't able to roll down the windows to get fresh air in the car while the girls were having their puke-fest. While I was trying to comfort my nieces and tell him to unlock the windows I also started throwing up ... all over myself, the floor of the car, EVERYWHERE!!! He was finally able to pull over, but by that time it was too late. The entire car and my nieces and I were covered in vomit.

This obviously wasn't a deal breaker because we eventually married and have two incredible boys together! But still, talk about embarrassing. It's something we completely laugh about now when we're reminiscing about "the good old days"!

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

I'm very close to earning my Certified Municipal Clerk Certification (CMC). It's about a three (+/-) year process and I hope to have that completed by year end. I also want to teach my boys Spanish.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Besides the obvious, my family, my boys Preston and Pierce; I am proud to be living the American Dream! I am a first-generation American. My parents came to this county with nothing, not knowing the language or the way of life, etc. They showed us, by example, specifically my remarkable mother, Francisca Alarcon, that hard work, perseverance and love can accomplish anything you want in life. I am so proud and lucky to be an American! Thanks, Momamita! xoxo

25 YEARS AGO

AUGUST 31, 1993

The Port of Morrow will earn about \$1 million per year in fees from the Coyote Springs electric generation plant, according to Port officials. The Port signed an agreement with Portland General Electric last week to build the 220-megawatt electric plant, which will take two years to complete. The project could begin as soon as January if the permitting process is complete. A plant expansion, which will double the size of the facility, is planned for the year 2000. The Port will lease the land to PGE for 50 years with the options to renew them for five 10-year periods.

According to the agreement, the Port will also receive a percentage from the sale of the steam generated from the plant. The project, one of the largest in port history, is expected to increase the county's tax base by about 50 percent once the planned expansion is complete. The contract to build the plant has been granted to EBASCO, an engineering and construction company in California.

50 YEARS AGO

AUGUST 29, 1968

Talk about physical fitness ... Mrs. Claude (Marion) Corder of Umatilla has that to spare ... She dove in from the Oregon side of the Columbia River, just above McNary Dam at 10:20 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27, and in just one hour landed on the Washington side. And as though that wasn't enough, she immediately dove back in and swam back ... landing at reservoir Beach at 12:25... Total time for the whole trip was two hours and five minutes. Following Marion in Charlie Kik's boat were the Kik family, house guests of the Kiks' from California, and Claude and Claudette Corder, husband and daughter of the long distance swimmer. The other member of the family, son Craig, was not along during the swim. Marion, aged 46, uses the "Trudgeon Crawl" in her swimming and says this style fits her best for distance and helps her to avoid cramping during the long swims.

75 YEARS AGO

SEPTEMBER 2, 1943

The annual Umatilla County Four-H fair will be held in Hermiston Saturday, September 25. The date was set last Friday night at a meeting of the fair board in the office of the assistant county agent, Frank Hackler. Also present was Mrs. Myrtle Carter, home demonstration agent of Pendleton. Due to the busy war times, it was voted at the meeting to curtail this year's show to one day instead of the usual two. It was thought that better cooperation would be available with this arrangement. Prizes will be generally higher than last year with the same number of divisions as heretofore. Final arrangements for the fair will be made soon. Judges and superintendents will be announced next week. Mr. Hackler will be in general charge of the show.



HH FILE PHOTO

A group of kindergarteners in Barbara Torris' class took a tour of Rocky Heights Elementary on the first day of school in 1993. They stopped to visit with the new principal, Phil Starkey.



HH FILE PHOTO

Dave Bradley of Umatilla coaches his daughter Sonja, 3, on some fishing techniques in 1993. The two were participating in a kids' fishing tournament on the Columbia River.

100 YEARS AGO

AUGUST 31, 1918

The fifth annual field day at the Experiment Farm will be on Saturday, Sept. 7 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. A number of brief talks on vital subjects is the project farmers have arranged. R.W. Allen, demonstration agriculturist, will talk on "Observation on Land Development" touching on the problems he has met this summer and the points to be considered in future development. "What the Future Has in Store for Hermiston from the Dairy Standpoint and

how to Attain It," is the subject M.S. Shrock, county agricultural agent, has chosen. Professor of Irrigation W. L. Powers, from Corvallis, will discuss "Irrigation Investigation and Practices." The balance of the afternoon will be used in going over the field experiments, taking up their plans and results to date. The experiments

which will receive special attention are border and frequency irrigation, corn variety, alfalfa variety, and pasture grass tests, lysimeter investigations, and orchard cultural treatment. If you are interested in these subjects you cannot afford to miss this opportunity to secure the information that will be given upon them.

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