

## THREE MINUTES WITH ...



## JONATHAN E. LOPEZ

Pastor/CEO of  
Einstein Learning Center

### When did you move to Hermiston?

January 9, 2018

### What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

Shiki Hibachi Sushi

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

What is spare time? Just kidding, when and if I do, I like to cook and watch sports.

### What surprises you about Hermiston?

How much it reminds me of how my hometown was 15 years ago (Harrisonburg, VA).

### What was the last book you read?

"Leadership with Purpose" by Rick Warren

### What app or website do you use most often?

Instagram

### If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

Anywhere in Europe with amazing food (I live to eat and eat to live).

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

I would say the funniest thing that happened to me is when I walked around Seattle all day without realizing my pants were ripped pretty wide and you could see my boxers underneath. Who knows how long or how many folks saw.

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

One of my goals is to make an impact and a difference to my community by being involved and serving its residents in any way possible.

### What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment has been helping a young boy with autism and social anxiety overcome his struggles. He was homeschooled and in special programs most of his life due to those difficulties, and we were able to work through those difficulties, and he can attend college and be in classes with other students of his age and needs.

## HERMISTON HISTORY



HH file photo

Judy Graybeal, communications specialist for Westinghouse Hanford, brings Hermiston Fire Chief Jim Stearns and some of his department up to speed on how a nuclear shipment is safeguarded in 1994.

## 25 YEARS AGO

Jan. 18, 1994

An odd-looking truck transporting high-level radioactive materials to Hanford will be coming within a few miles of Hermiston.

The truck is the only one of its kind in the nation. It is approved to carry capsules of Cesium-137 from a medical sterilization facility near Denver to the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility at Hanford.

Officials from both the Oregon Department of Energy and Westinghouse Hanford said the shipping is being conducted in a safe manner.

Judy Graybeal, of Westinghouse Hanford, said the 15-ton, double-walled cask that protects the capsules is practically impervious to accidents.

"That thing could run down a cliff, and nothing would happen to it," she said.

2) The Port of Umatilla named Kim Puzey as the new manager of the port last week. He will start on Feb. 1.

Puzey brings with him more than 15 years of experience in the field of economic development, most recently for Roosevelt County, N.M.

Port Commission President Woody Starrett said Puzey's enthusiasm and his track record in development — particularly his dominant role in the introduction of Midland Dairies to New Mexico — impressed him and other commissioners.

## 50 YEARS AGO

Jan. 16, 1969

The Hermiston Neighborhood Center faces possible closure as a result of action being taken by the regional Office of Economic Opportunity in San Francisco, Calif. last week.

The OEO officials are unhappy with the way the Blue Mountain Economic Development Council has failed to comply with OEO regulations in administering the local two-county (Morrow and Umatilla) program.

OEO has specifically accused the BMEDC of not only failing to turn in an audit and an outside evaluation of the group's activities during December, but is also failing to comply with Rep. Edith Green's legisla-



HH file photo

Jennie Lewis illustrates the cover of a book she wrote for a school project at Echo Elementary School in 1994.

tive amendment to the Eastern Oregon program which, in part, specifies that major committees must appoint one-third of their governing boards from local officials who are elected and one-third from members of the community who are themselves poor.

2) Hermiston city manager Tom Harper advised the *Herald* that Hermiston's official census, based on figures compiled annually by the Center for Population Research and Census at Portland State College, now credits the city with a population of 5,300 ... an increase from 5,100 this past year.

## 75 YEARS AGO

Jan. 20, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hamm were greatly relieved this week to receive word from their son, Pfc. David Hamm, who is with the Marine Raiders, Commando group. His attachment was among the first to land on Bouganville, about Nov. 1.

He writes that he now knows what the jack rabbits around here felt like when "David" was on the loose with his trusty .22.

Since Christmas the boys have been receiving one hot meal a day. They have been experiencing earthquakes quite regularly at Bouganville, the largest in the Solomon Island group, which has several active volcanoes.

He states that Garth Clark, Guy Clark and Bud McCourt, all of Stanfield, are near him on Bouganville and

that all are in fine shape. He asked his parents not to worry. A radio broadcast heard since the arrival of the letter indicated that the marines who originally landed on Bouganville have been taken to a rest camp.

## 100 YEARS AGO

Jan. 18, 1919

Temporarily unbalanced from an attack of the flu, George Parsons, a bachelor rancher south of town, loomed up on the streets of Hermiston early Sunday morning all decked out in battle array. He was first discovered by early risers pacing back and forth with a rifle in each hand and a fearsome look in his eyes.

A citizen induced him to part with his rifles, and afterwards got him to go into the Hotel Oregon to get warm, he apparently being half frozen from an all night vigil looking for an imaginary enemy, whom he accused of shooting at him and his horses at his place the night before.

Later he was taken from his home and given medical treatment, and Monday he was moved downtown in order to be close and receive proper treatment. Since then he has begun to show signs of regaining his normal condition.

2) The United States is now a dry nation, the necessary thirty-six states to ratify the federal constitutional amendment for prohibition having been secured by Nebraska voting for it Thursday.

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It is the policy of the Hermiston Herald to correct errors as soon as they are discovered. Incorrect information will be corrected on Page 2A. Errors committed on the Opinion page will be corrected on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories. Please contact the editor at editor@hermistonherald.com or call (541) 564-4533 with issues about this policy or to report errors.

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Letters Policy: Letters to the Editor is a forum for the Hermiston Herald readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters should be kept to 250 words. No personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person. The Hermiston Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length and for content. Letters must be original and signed by the writer or writers. Writers should include a telephone number so they can be reached for questions. Only the letter writer's name and city of residence will be published.

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## BTW

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have the opportunity to meet the finalists in a variety of forums sometime in mid-February. Names of the semifinalists are confidential, but will be released prior to their visits to the college.

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The City of Hermiston has been stepping up its social media presence lately. City departments now share regular posts on the city's official Facebook page providing information about city services, from the number of miles of road within city limits (180) to the number of vehicles that come through the intersection of Highway 395 and Elm Avenue every day (19,300).

•••  
There's still time to provide help to the Hermiston Warming Station. Members of Altrusa International of Hermiston are wrapping up a donation



Photo contributed by Phil Hamm

Steve Meyers, member services administrator for Umatilla Electric Cooperative, receives a check from Phillip Spicerkuhn, Hermiston Lions Club president.

drive for the nonprofit organization through the end of the month.

Items requested include household cleaning and paper products, beverages, laundry and dishwashing soap, foot powder, socks and hand/foot warmers. For a complete list, call the warming station at 541-289-2150 or search Facebook.

Items can be placed in collection boxes at Shipping Solutions, Dance Unlimited, Old West Fed-

eral Credit Union, Banner Bank and the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce. In addition, donations can be dropped off at the Hermiston Warming Station Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 1-3 p.m. at 1075 S. Highway 395.

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The Hermiston Lions Club recently provided an extra charge for Umatilla Electric Cooperative's summer Hydromania Sci-

## ence Camp.

The local service club provided a \$5,000 donation for the camp, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this past summer. Hydromania offers area fourth and fifth graders an opportunity to learn more about science, water, energy and the environment.

Youths participate in hands on experiments and activities, go on field trips and meet other kids. Lions Club member Phil Hamm said it makes for an unforgettable experience.

For more information about the Hermiston Lions Club, call Hamm at 541-561-4724.

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Are you starting a new business? A new club? Did you receive a big award? Do you have a question about something interesting you noticed around town? We want to hear from you this year for our "By the Way" column. Send in your information, or questions you're hoping we'll answer, to editor@hermistonherald.com.