

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



LARRY FETTER

Director, Hermiston Parks and Recreation

When and why did you move to Hermiston?
I moved here in 2011, for the job. I like smaller communities and we've got family in the area. I came from the Seattle area and the quality of life here [is] much nicer.

What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?
We really try to get around and see different places. We go to Nookie's most often.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Well, I've got a degree in recreation. My wife and I love riding around town. We have road and dirt bikes. We've been going down to the farmer's market. They're really doing a nice job. We usually listen to the music and eat there.

What surprises you about Hermiston?
What surprises me most is how interested — genuinely interested — people are in building a community. They care about decisions being made. It's very noticeable here.

What was the last book you read?
"Baja: The Island," a historical book about when explorers first were exploring and mapping Mexico and Baja, they thought that Baja was an island.

What website or app do you use most other than Facebook?
I use Powerpoint a lot; it's effective.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
We already have booked a two week tour of Germany, Austria area. We'll be there for Oktoberfest in Munich.

What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?
This actually happened during the New Year's Eve party on the downtown festival street here in Hermiston... It was a pretty cold night, and we had fireworks planned...we rigged a 6 foot paper mache watermelon filled with confetti and balloons inside it that were supposed to burst. In practice it worked fine. But when we did the big countdown, it didn't work fine because it was too cold. The balloons popped before we did anything. We had this huge watermelon hoisted up on a thirty foot crane and at the big countdown nothing happened. That was my unfortunate but very funny New Year's Eve celebration this year.

What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?
We have a lot of park things planned [at Parks and Recreation]. The teen adventure park, the new skateboard facility. Another fun one is the new dog park, which is scheduled to be installed this fall. The goals are continuing to create new recreational opportunities.

What is your proudest accomplishment?
Working with the senior citizens to build the new senior center. We got a two million dollar grant to do that. We built a super cool new building.

Summer concert series tunes up weekly

Music in the Parks flows into Morrow County

By TAMMY MALGESINI
 COMMUNITY EDITOR

A variety of musical genres are featured during the coming weeks as Morrow County continues its annual outdoor summer concert series.

Music in the Parks alternates weekly between Boardman and Irrigon marina parks through Aug. 12. The free concerts are each Monday at 7 p.m.

The Latino group Azetatos will perform June 24 at Boardman Marina Park. The experienced musicians, who are united by friendship, formed in 2018.

Azetatos recently played at Burnt Field Brewing in Boardman and a private event in Pasco. They also have upcoming shows in Kennewick and Yakima. They play a variety of music, including rock, pop and ballads — with their setlist also including covers of familiar tunes.

The July 1 performance at Irrigon Marina Park features 98% Angels. Featuring Marie Rose and Renate Meakins, the duo first met and began singing together in 1998 with the Blue Jazz Choir Ensemble at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

Since that time, they've



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
TOP: Performing as 98% Angels, local duo Marie Rose and Renate Meakins are featured during the July 1 Music in the Parks at Irrigon Marina Park. **BOTTOM:** Azetatos, a Latino rock band, will perform during the June 24 Music in the Parks at Boardman Marina Park.

continued to take the stage together at area festivals. In addition, they volunteer their time singing at

local assisted living facilities. They offer a mixed bag with everything from hits of the '50s and '60s and

Big Band swing music to 1930s standards and popular contemporary and country tunes.

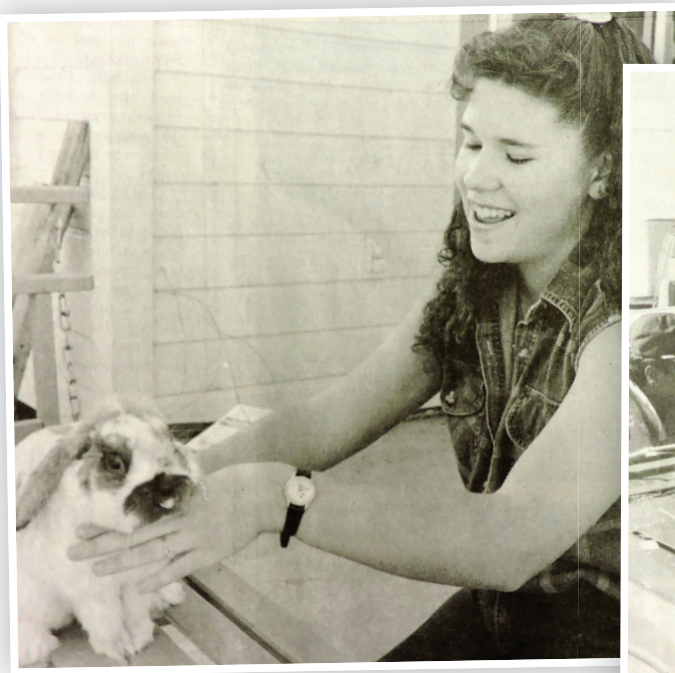
Additional performers for the season include Brady Goss (July 8, Boardman), Martin Gerschwitz (July 15, Irrigon), Cruise Control (July 22, Boardman), Fonozis (July 29, Irrigon), Cosmo's Dream (Aug. 5, Boardman) and Cale Moon (Aug. 12, Irrigon).

People are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the outdoor shows. In addition, those attending are invited to bring a picnic to enjoy while basking in the beauty of the Columbia River. During the Boardman concerts, concessions will be available for purchase as a fundraiser for the Boardman Little League.

In case of inclement weather, the Boardman performances will be held at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, and the Irrigon shows will be moved to Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane.

Thanks to sponsorship by the North Morrow Community Foundation, Music in the Parks is funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District and Portland General Electric. For more information, contact Jackie McCauley at 541-720-1289 or utility.clerk@cityofboardman.com.

HERMISTON HISTORY



LEFT: Cari Bakker postures her Holland-lop rabbit to train it for competition at the Umatilla County Fair in 1994. RIGHT: Stanfield and Hermiston fire and ambulance personnel work to free someone trapped in a vehicle after a crash on South Edwards Road in 1994.

25 YEARS AGO
 JUNE 21, 1994

A 10-year-old Hermiston boy who received one of his mother's kidneys in a transplant operation in March is showing excellent progress.

Tyler Lemmon is in the top 10 percent in terms of how he is adjusting to his new kidney, doctors told his mother, Kristie Lemmon.

"Usually, they'll say they'll have some sort of rejection in the first four to six weeks, but so far he hasn't had any," his mother said.

His weight is up and he has gotten his color back, she said.

Both of Tyler's kidneys were irreparably injured when he was struck by a falling tree last October.

50 YEARS AGO
 JUNE 19, 1969

An excerpt from a published statement by the Hermiston School District regarding a controversial decision not to renew the contracts of several head coaches:

The deciding factors which led to the board's decision to terminate the coaching assignments are for the most part public knowledge. But those reasons are here restated to clear up any misconceptions that may have developed.

The high school athletic program has been in a rapidly declining condition for the last three years. Participation has been less than satisfactory and student support has dropped to an unacceptable level. Home game attendance has been exceptionally poor.

Repetitious statements by members of the coaching staff to the effect that Hermiston doesn't have any "athletic horses" and the best that could

be hoped for was to try to "hold the opponent's score down" have been met with wide public disapproval.

The board has been under steadily mounting pressure to take remedial action before a defeatist attitude permeates the entire school system.

Last winter a committee composed of highly respected professional, civic and business leaders representing a large cross section of the community recommended to the board that coaching changes be made before the situation entirely collapsed. The group was deeply concerned that the continuing public ridicule of the program here at home and around the conference could result in long-lasting degradation of our total academic system.

75 YEARS AGO
 JUNE 22, 1944

Fear that some of the citizens of Hermiston will go cold next winter, unless they order and take delivery of their firewood and coal for the year immediately, was expressed by Mayor F.C. McKenzie.

"Information reaching me from the Northwest Solid Fuels Rationing Branch of the Office of Price Administration indicates that while strenuous efforts are being made to avert any firewood or coal shortage, federal authorities charged with the responsibility of keeping Pacific Northwest homes supplied with fuel are gravely worried as to whether a critical shortage of these two fuels can be averted," he said.

"Increased use of mill waste as raw material in manufacturing and increased distance of sawmills from fuel markets has cut down the supply of firewood."

"Between two-thirds and three-

fourths of coal used here is shipped in from Rocky Mountain states. The railways are crowded and with increased intensity of the Pacific War will be more so. Mines are short-handed."

100 YEARS AGO
 JUNE 21, 1919

The visit last week of Leslie L. Matlock of Heppner to attend the funeral of his cousin, Wesley N. Matlock, brings to mind that he was the one who sounded a warning that saved the lives of hundreds of people in the disastrous cloudburst that poured its waters through Heppner 16 years ago last Saturday.

It was on that day, June 14, 1903, that without hardly any warning hundreds of people living in Heppner and Willow Creek were swept to their death in the raging waters.

Nearly 300 bodies of victims were recovered after the flood had subsided, 150 having been found a few hours after the cloudburst. That hundreds more in Willow Creek Valley were not swept to their grave is due to the wild and heroic ride of Mr. Matlock down the valley warning the people of the lower valley towns of the coming flood, after all other communication had been cut off. Hundreds reached safety in the hills just in time to see their homes and fields destroyed by the raging waters.

2) Statistics reveal that while during the 19 months of war there were 56,227 Americans killed and 200,000 injured in the war, here in the United States of America in peaceful occupations during that same time period in factories, manufacturing plants, on the streets, in buildings, on railroads, etc. there were 126,654 men, women and children killed and two million injured.

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