

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



MARTHA TORRES

First grade teacher at
Sunset Elementary

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

My parents lived here before I was born. They went to visit my grandparents in Mexico, which is where I was born, and I've lived here ever since. When I went to Eastern Oregon University, we moved out there for a little bit.

What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

La casa de mi abuelita — or my grandmother's house. That's my favorite place. She cooks everything, her salsa verde is the best. Anything she puts her hands on is amazing.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm married and I have three kids. They keep us busy, so I spend a lot of time with my family.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

Something that doesn't surprise me, but that I'm proud of, which is the educational support for all students in Hermiston. I'm proud of how we are supporting all student as diversity in Eastern Oregon increases.

What was the last book you read?

I love reading, and I have a lot of favorites. One recent one that I loved was "Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah; it's his memoir. I like fiction, but I like memoirs too.

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

Probably Instagram or Pinterest.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

I would travel all over South America. Anywhere with a rainforest and that kind of climate. I want to know more about that area. I don't travel much but that would be amazing.

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

When I was in high school, our neighbor's kid would sometimes wander into our house through the kitchen door. One time I was hanging out in the kitchen doing dishes and my little sister, who was two at the time, was hugging on my leg and pulled down my pants. Little did I know our neighbor was just about to come through the kitchen door, and I had to yell at him to go away! My sister didn't mean to do that, but we still talk about it today.

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

Probably to start my master's program this year. I would like to focus on educational leadership or trauma. Right now, I'm doing a lot of research. I am interested in trauma-informed teaching and I want there to be teachers that look like me.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

I'm so proud of my children. I have an 11-year-old and a 14-year-old at Armand Larive, and my oldest is going to turn 16 in two weeks.

HERMISTON HISTORY

25 YEARS AGO
NOV. 29, 1994

After years of haggling between the City of Hermiston and the state, Hermiston is getting an Oregon National Guard armory.

"It takes a while for some of these things to come to fruition, but we've finally got it done," said guard spokesman Col. Mike Caldwell.

Congress has authorized \$1.5 million for the new facility. The state is kicking in another \$685,000.

For that price, Hermiston will get a 20,000 square foot building on city-owned property on Columbia Drive near Blue Mountain Community College's west campus.

2) Only about 300 people attended the annual Thanksgiving Day Community Fellowship Dinner at the Hermiston Senior Center Thursday.

Organizer Laurie Ball said she suspected the number was down from almost 500 last year because of better weather for traveling and a higher employment rate.

50 YEARS AGO
NOV. 27, 1969

In this fast-moving age of jets — even moon trips — time still rates as a limited resource, judging from a study of young homemakers recently completed by the Department of Home Management at Oregon State University.

Maybe it's because space-age developments haven't filtered down to the level of daily homemaking chores.

Mrs. Melionee Echols, while enrolled in the OSU Graduate School, conducted research designed to identify young homemakers' management problems. She interviewed 50 women who had married in their teens. They ranged in age from 17 to 22, and had been married from six months to three years.

When Mrs. Echols asked the young wives about specific homemaking jobs, those that gave them trouble were more often related to lack of time than any other resource. Insufficient time was blamed for their difficulties in planning meals, preparing food, sewing and caring for the house.

75 YEARS AGO
NOV. 30, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. McKenzie this week received a letter from Thomas S. Wagley, Capt., Co. K, 322 Inf., Commanding, telling of the manner in which Pvt. Francis McKenzie met his death. The letter follows:

"Your son, Francis, who was a member of my command, died of wounds received in action on the afternoon of 1 October 1944 at Angaur Island.

"You have the deepest sympathy of the officers and men of this organization in your bereavement. Francis was held in high regard by all members of this command. He was a splendid soldier and of outstanding character, and his display of great courage and fearlessness under enemy fire was a great inspiration to every one of us. It is regrettable that men of his caliber must have to pay the supreme sacrifice, but he gave his life fighting for the great cause in which we all believe. His loss will be deeply felt by his many friends.

"Francis was killed when his squad moved in to take an enemy strong point which had held the Company up for a number of hours. I wish to express my own personal sympathy for your loss."



HH file photo

Kindergarteners Logan Rock, left, and Corey Kelly enjoy a Thanksgiving meal in their classroom in 1994.



HH file photo

Debbie Pedro arranges ribbon on a tree for Victorian Gardens in 1994.

100 YEARS AGO
NOV. 29, 1919

The awful murder of J. N. Burgess, recently appointed state highway commissioner, and George E. Perringer, retired wheat rancher, both of Pendleton, during a holdup of Claremont tavern on the Linnton Road near Portland on Friday night of last week, stirred the people of Umatilla County into a frenzy, as both men were identified with affairs that had much to do with the future welfare of this county and were prominent in all matters having to do with the onward progress of Eastern Oregon.

On that fateful evening Burgess and Perringer were taking dinner at the tavern as guests of E. P. Marshall, another Pendleton man, when holdup of the place occurred.

On entering the room in which the three were seated, the robber told them to throw up their hands, and it was probably because of a none-too-quick compliance with the order that the highwayman became nervous and began shooting. Mr.

Burgess was killed instantly, as was Mr. Perringer, Mr. Marshall escaping injury from a shot fired at him.

Quick work was made in the capture of the murderer and the other highwaymen that took part in the holdup, and it gave Sheriff T. D. Taylor, close friend of the dead men, who was on his way home from Salem, real pleasure to be one of the several officers that hunted the assassins to their lair and arrested them.

The prisoners taken were James Ogle, an ex-convict from Deer Lodge, Mont. Penitentiary; Walter Banaster, a cook, 23 years old; and David Smith, a machinist, 23 years old. Shortly after the arrest Ogle made a confession to the deputy district attorney, in which he said he had, while intoxicated, agreed to the holdup, and had been held practically a prisoner by the other two from that moment until the arrest.

All this was changed Wednesday, however, when the three pleaded guilty to the murder indictment and were given life sentences by the judge sitting on the case.

Recovery mentors reach out to community

HERMISTON HERALD

The Mental Health & Addiction Certification Board of Oregon recently highlighted the leadership of Amy Ashton-Williams, the director of Human Services in Umatilla County, and her team of Certified Recovery Mentors.

According to a statement from the certification board, Ashton-Williams has worked diligently to integrate recovery mentors in the agency's intensive alcohol and drug outpatient program over the last four years. Clients who have recovery mentors, Ashton-Williams said, have a higher retention in treatment, are more likely to stay clean and sober, and have less recidivism.

The team includes Tiffany Thomas, the peer men-



Contributed photo

Amy Ashton-Williams, director of Human Services in Umatilla County, and her team of Certified Recovery Mentors, including Timmy Clark, Megan Torres, Marvella Ugarte, June Kilgore and Tiffany Thomas, peer mentor supervisor.

tor supervisor, who also offers free group supervision for peers working at local mental health agencies, outpatient substance use disorder facilities and residential facilities. The county provides assistance to the local agencies as a

way to coordinate services and build a strong peer community.

Recovery mentors include Timmy Clark and Megan Torres, who have been working in this capacity during traditional work hours. With the addition of

more grant funding, Ashton-Williams said peer mentors could be available during evening hours as well.

Also, in collaboration with the State Opioid Response Grant, recovery mentors are available at emergency rooms. They are able to provide brief interventions with individuals who are experiencing consequences from their use. Ashton-Williams and Thomas said that the addition of June Kilgore and Marvella Ugarte has improved the county's ability to connect with and provide support to community members during and after an emergency room visit.

For more information, contact Ashton-Williams at amy.ashton-williams@umatillacounty.net or 541-278-6330.

Hermiston Herald



VOLUME 113 • NUMBER 48

Chris Rush | Publisher • crush@eomediagroup.com • 541-278-2669

Jade McDowell | News Editor • jmcowell@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4536

Jessica Pollard | Reporter • jpollard@eastoregonian.com, 541-564-4534

Tammy Malgesini | Community Editor • tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4539

Annie Fowler | Sports Editor • afowler@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4542

Jeanne Jewett | Multi-Media consultant • jjewett@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4531

Audra Workman | Multi-Media consultant • aworkman@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4538

Dawn Hendricks | Circulation assistant • dhendricks@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4530

To contact the Hermiston Herald for news, advertising or subscription information:
• call 541-567-6457
• e-mail info@hermistonherald.com
• stop by our offices at 333 E. Main St.
• visit us online at: hermistonherald.com

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Periodical postage paid at Hermiston, OR.
Postmaster, send address changes to
Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St.,
Hermiston, OR 97838.

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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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