

## THREE MINUTES WITH ...



## MELISSA PURSWELL

### Armand Larive Middle School Educator of the Year

**When and why did you move to Hermiston?**  
*I met my husband at the University of Oregon and we moved back to his "hometown" of Hermiston in 1998.*

**What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?**  
*My kitchen table! My family LOVES to cook.*

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
*Volunteer — whether with my students in the Kindness Club or serving lunch at Open Table with my boys, anywhere really! I think it's so important to GIVE BACK to a community that GIVES SO MUCH!*

**What surprises you about Hermiston?**  
*It's not a surprise, but it's what I LOVE the most is this community has the BIGGEST heartbeat when it comes to kids and for that I am forever grateful.*

**What was the last book you read?**  
*"Rising Strong" by Brene Brown*

**What website or app do you use most other than Facebook?**  
*Pinterest! There are all sorts of GREAT ideas for recipes, art projects, anchor charts and inspirational quotes.*

**If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?**  
*Italy*

**What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?**  
*Last year I was (hit by a pie) in the face by my two boys at a school wide assembly. It was THE BEST!*

**What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?**  
*Listen more than I talk and write more handwritten notes to people I appreciate and love.*

**What is your proudest accomplishment?**  
*My family and the life we've built together here in Hermiston.*

## HERMISTON HISTORY



HH file photo  
**Bryan Wolfe, left, and Bob Hawkins, right, share a laugh with Oregon State University president John Byrne in 1995 during his visit to Hermiston.**

# Vandals smash school windows

25 YEARS AGO  
March 7, 1995

The city of Hermiston will interview seven candidates this week, one of which will become Hermiston's new police chief.

The seven finalists are from a field of 88 that applied for the position.

Three of the candidates come from within the Hermiston Police Department, and, as such, were automatically included in the final round.

The seven candidates are: Alan Anderson, Ernst "Curt" Curtsinger, Michael Marcum, Jack Maxwell, William P. Reeves, Panfilo Rios and Jerry Roberts.

2) The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will open its Wildhorse Gaming Resort with a 10-day kick-off beginning Friday.

The resort opens at 3 p.m. Friday and will never close, said Debra Crosswell, public affairs coordinator for the Confederated Tribes.

Construction crews are working double shifts seven days a week to prepare the 35,000-plus square foot building for the grand opening, Crosswell said.

50 YEARS AGO  
March 5, 1970

Vandals took rocks in hand last Wednesday night and proceeded to break a dozen windows in Hermiston businesses and schools.

The hardest hit was Rocky Heights Elementary where seven windows were broken. Three of the windows at that school were large picture type windows.

West Park Elementary received two broken windows of the smaller variety and the Kiddie Korner, near West Park, had one window broken.

Large plate glass windows were broken at East Side Auto Parts and Hermiston Cycle Shop.

2) A group of persons representing the Youth Center attended the Umatilla City Council meeting Monday requesting protection from vandals at the center.

The center has been the object of extensive vandalism in the last few weeks, including the most recent, a broken plate glass window Sunday.

Several weeks ago the center was broken into and money taken from the amusement machines.

75 YEARS AGO  
March 8, 1945



HH file photo  
**Echo Cougars head girls basketball coach David Rohrman comforts Jessie Fisher and Kelly Brown while cheerleader Tammy Rolfe looks into the distance after a loss at the state basketball tournament against Powans High School in 1995.**

boys attempted to escape by foot, lugging two suitcases, into the sagebrush country southeast of Boardman. Pursuing officers were forced to fire at them before they could be stopped about one mile from the scene of the accident. Following their arrest, their loot revealed much stolen property, including clothing, liquor, money, a 2-pound size cocoa can full of gasoline, rationing stamps and other articles.

100 YEARS AGO  
March 6, 1920

The acreage of prunes on the Umatilla project will be materially increased this year by the planting of several new orchards. C.M. Jensen is one who will put out five acres to Italian prunes this coming fall, while Jack White is now having his land prepared for five acres of the same, with strawberries between the tree rows.

2) The Hermiston Auto Co. this week received notification of a general advance in the prices of Ford cars, effective from the date of receipt of the telegram bearing the information. Accordingly, the touring car has gone up \$80, the runabout \$75, the coupe \$25, the sedan \$25, the truck \$85 and the Fordson tractor \$100.

A dream of many years' standing was realized last Friday when President Roosevelt signed the rivers and harbors bill which includes authorization for the Umatilla Rapids (McNary) dam a short distance up the river from Umatilla and the Snake river dams, and open channel improvement for purposes of providing slack water navigation and irrigation. Old timers in this area in particular were cheered by the news as many of them have been pulling for the dam for many years.

2) State police literally hit the jackpot Tuesday when they apprehended three youths from Grand Island, Neb. with a stolen automobile near Boardman. The boys brought about their own downfall when they suddenly stopped their machine near the intersection just east of Boardman and were struck by an auto driven by Fayette Stout of Boardman.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Stout, also an occupant, were seriously injured and brought to Hermiston General Hospital by ambulance. It is expected that the injuries will require several weeks of hospitalization.

Following the accident the three

ers Coastal Maine.

For more information, call **Pat Moncrief**, chairperson for Collette Tours, at 541-571-3770.

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It's time to put your teachers to the test during a **McFundraiser** to benefit **McNary Heights Elementary School**. The special **McTeacher's Night** is Tuesday, March 10 from 4:45-7:15 p.m. at **McDonald's** 1320 N. First St., Hermiston. Personnel from the Umatilla school will be manning the counter and a portion of the sales will be donated to the school.

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**Cleary Building Corp.** branch manager **Randall George** was recently recognized for outstanding sales performance in 2019 by the company.

George, who won the Excellence in Sales award, works in the company's Hermiston branch office.

According to a news release, the award "is given to top Cleary sales performers for exhibiting a highly professional sales personality, energy, drive and motivation leading to dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of sales."

The menu for the **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** for Thursday is pork chops, baked potato casserole, veggies and dessert. Friday is pizza, green salad, pudding and cookie.

Monday is ham and cheese sandwich, potato salad and dessert. Tuesday is porcupine balls, scalloped potatoes, carrots and peas and dessert. Next Wednesday is BLT sandwich, macaroni salad and dessert.

— You can submit items for our weekly *By The Way* column by emailing your tips to [editor@hermistonherald.com](mailto:editor@hermistonherald.com).

# Hermiston Herald

VOLUME 114 • NUMBER 10



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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.

## CORRECTIONS

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](mailto:editor@hermistonherald.com) or call (541) 564-4533 with issues about this policy or to report errors.

## SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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. Anonymous letters will not be printed. 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.

## BTW

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Several upcoming vacations offered through **Collette Tours** will serve as a fundraiser for the **Good Shepherd Medical Center Auxiliary**. In addition to a fun trip, people will support the auxiliary's fundraiser, which provides medical scholarships for local people pursuing careers in the healthcare field and needed medical equipment at the Hermiston hospital.

Destinations include: Bluegrass Country & The Smoky Mountains, with the tour (Sept. 17-25) beginning in Louisville, Kentucky, and ending at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina; and Colors of New England (Oct. 11-18) which begins in Boston, Massachusetts, and cov-