

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



**JOSEPH FRANELL**

CEO of Eastern Oregon Telecom

**When and why did you move to Hermiston?**  
*I moved to Hermiston in October of 2009 to work for Eastern Oregon Telecom as their General Manager.*

**Where is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?**  
*Delish Bistro*

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
*Spare time? What's that?*

**What surprises you about Hermiston?**  
*As the son of an Air Force officer, and then as a former Army officer myself, I have lived in and traveled to a lot of places. So, I have a lot to compare Hermiston to. The people of Hermiston are by far the friendliest and most generous I have encountered anywhere.*

**What was the last book you read?**  
*"The Road Not Taken: Edward Lansdale and the American Tragedy in Vietnam," by Max Boot.*

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

**If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?**  
*Back to Ireland, but with my wife this time.*

**What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?**  
*Years ago, I traveled to Chicago as part of a team to meet with the executives of another company who turned out to all be Italian and looked like they were connected to the mob. When I presented my card to the man in charge, he misread my last name. Instead of Franell, he saw Franeli. He responded by stepping forward, grabbing my by both shoulders, and exclaiming in a thick Italian accent, "Franeli! Ah, you FAMALEE!" After which he promptly kissed me on both cheeks. So, for just a few hours, I was Italian and a member of the family. By the way, the meeting went very well.*

**What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?**  
*Much like we just did in Weston, Athena, and Adams, my team hopes to build fiber to the home internet and telephone networks in six to eight more communities in rural Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington.*

**What is your proudest accomplishment?**  
*Without question, my proudest accomplishment is having been and continuing to be a good husband and father.*

HERMISTON HISTORY



HH file photo  
**Evelyn Reece, Pat O'Neil and Doris Corey show off elaborate Easter bonnets at a luncheon sponsored by the Eastern Star Queen's Esther chapter in Hermiston in 1995.**

Taverns closed in honor of president's death

25 YEARS AGO  
 April 18, 1995

The city of Hermiston decided to reject all heating equipment bids for the community center in a special meeting Friday.

The original method the city used to purchase the equipment is the subject of a \$255,000 lawsuit against the city brought by a local heating contractor.

A week ago, the council accepted a \$19,371 bid from Road Runner Sheetmetal for the installation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment. Mull Tin Shop, Inc., came in with a bid of \$30,987.

The lawsuit brought by Mull Tin Shop against the city contends the manner in which the city bought the equipment — five Carrier brand heat pumps valued at \$28,885 — violated state competitive bid statutes.

City attorney Rustin Brewer said the city has already purchased the equipment and completed the transaction.

"The bids cannot be accepted without compounding the situation," he said.

50 YEARS AGO  
 April 16, 1970

The Hermiston City Council passed a resolution Monday night to execute an agreement with the state for improvement of Highway 32 from the north to south city limits.

City Manager Tom Harper said the estimated \$400,000 job would be completed on the same time of agreement with the state as was Hermiston Avenue.

Plans call for a four lane highway, 72 feet in width, portions of which will contain parallel parking, curbs, gutters and sidewalks the length of the project.

The state would pay about 75% of the costs, and abutting property owners would make up 25% of the costs under a local improvement district project

Harper told the council the intersection at Jennie Avenue might have to be signalized, and other intersections would be studied to see if signal



HH file photo  
**A 30-year-old man escaped injury during a rollover crash outside Hermiston in 1995, but was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants. Police could not identify him to the paper because he had no identification and wouldn't reveal his name.**

lights were warranted.

75 YEARS AGO  
 April 19, 1945

This little community was shocked to hear of the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt last Thursday afternoon and flags were flying at half mast soon after the announcement.

All business houses closed voluntarily from noon until 3 o'clock Saturday, with the beer taverns closed from noon Saturday until Monday morning. This is the first time in many years that taverns have closed for an all day period.

2) Stockmen from Morrow and other outside counties ran into difficulty here last Friday when state police rounded up a total of eight cattlemen who had brought stock to the local auction yards without proper inspection brands. The state law reads that stock must be inspected for proper brands before it can be transported over a county line.

Those arrested claimed that they were aware of the law but no facilities were available. They appeared before Justice of the Peace E.P. Dodd.

Special effort is being made to locate a brand inspector in Hermiston or other convenient locality.

100 YEARS AGO  
 April 17, 1920

This community was shocked Tuesday morning upon learning of the sudden death of their esteemed townsman, Col. H.G. Newport.

Death came to him in the early hours of the morning, the discovery of his death not being made until about 6 a.m., when physicians were called and pronounced that death had occurred some hours previous. The cause of death is believed to have been acute indigestion. Mr. Newport was apparently in good health previously and was about town last week looking after his various interests.

Mr. Newport was one of the earliest settlers and a large owner of farm lands under the project until recently when he disposed of his ranch property but retained considerable city holdings.

2) After confessing to Sheriff Til Taylor of Umatilla County and State Fire Warden H. Pomeroy that he had set fire to his grocery store at Boardman, W.M. Haskins was taken to Hepner Tuesday evening.

Mr. Haskins was bound over to the grand jury and released after putting up \$1,000 bail.

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Please contact the editor at 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

Continued from Page A1

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**AgriNorthwest** and **River Point Farms**, in conjunction with **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, are offering free onions and potatoes to area residents on Friday.

The drive-thru distribution will happen at noon at the church's building on 1035 Southeast Ninth Street in Hermiston, for as long as supplies last.

For questions, email justservetc@gmail.com.

•••  
 As "social distancing" can provoke feelings of isolation, Hermiston residents are coming up with creative ways to lift the mood.

**Laura Tucker** of Hermiston is offering her neighbors a different view each day by displaying a different handmade quilt

each day at her home on Sandpiper Avenue.

She said when social distancing guidelines were first put in place, she had a dozen different quilt tops in need of quilting. As she works through them she hangs them up on her porch for her neighbors to see when they head to work in the morning, or chooses one she has completed in the past.

"I thought it would maybe brighten someone's day in the neighborhood," she said.

•••  
 Area businesses and individuals continue to show their support for **Good Shepherd Health Care System**.

This week the hospital thanked **River Point Farms**, especially **Morgan Pedro** and **Traci Jensen**, for donating sandwiches from **USA Subs & Grill** for the hospital's respiratory therapists, critical care unit staff and emergency room staff.



Photo contributed by Laura Tucker  
**A quilt hangs on Laura Tucker's porch. The Hermiston resident is displaying a different quilt every day.**