

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



AUSTIN HENDERSON

Touring Musician

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

My mother and I moved along with my grandparents to the area when I was around 1 years old. My grandpa transferred jobs to the Walmart Distribution Center here in Hermiston.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

La Palma, hands down.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Prior to the lock down, I was touring across the states to play shows with my band and other groups, but recently I've been getting into photography.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

How modern yet still rural it is as a "small town" that continues to grow daily.

What was the last book you read?

I think it was the last book in the Pendragon series, but I honestly spend way more time consuming media through the internet to learn and pass time.

What website or app do you use the most?

Twitter and YouTube

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

I'd love to visit New York City, Germany and Japan the most!

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

Probably becoming a local legend during my time working at our local Taco Bell. #TeamFire

What is one of your goals in the next 12 years?

Performing at a packed show in New York City is definitely a goal!

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Accomplishing my original dream of touring around the Pacific Northwest area so young into my life.

HERMISTON HISTORY

National Guard breaks ground on armory

25 YEARS AGO

June 27, 1995

Peter Evans just can't seem to get away from Hermiston.

After spending four years getting the Hermiston Generating Project off the ground, Evans may be starting over again with another U.S. Generating power plant.

The Maryland-based electricity producer filed a notice of intent to apply for a site certificate with the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council.

The application would be for the Umatilla Generating Project, a 500-megawatt combined cycle cogeneration plant to be built across Westland Road from the Hermiston Generating plant.

2) Hermiston's 30-year quest for an Oregon National Guard Armory is exactly one year away from being over.

The guard officially broke ground Saturday on a new half-acre armory complex on Columbia Drive. The armory will be the home of the Bravo Company 3rd Battalion 116th Calvary when it is completed next June.

50 YEARS AGO

June 25, 1970

A reduction of 46 civilian employees will be made at Umatilla Army Depot effective July 24, Colonel Charles R. Norris, Commanding Officer, has announced.

The colonel said a downward trend in workload over the past several months with no foreseeable significant upswing has forced the action. The Depot now employs 720 civilians.

2) Using manpower from Hermiston's civic organizations, the city will conduct its own census in the near future in an attempt to check the validity of 1970 federal census preliminary figures released recently.

City Manager Tom Harper brought the suggestion of seeking help from civic clubs before the council at its regular session Monday night. He said the city administration doesn't have enough manpower to adequately conduct the census.

The Federal Census Bureau released preliminary figures earlier this month estimating Hermiston's population at about 4,800. That's about 500 less than the 1969 estimate and 200 less than a state certified county of 5,009 in 1966.

If the federal figure is finalized at 4,800, the city stands to lose about \$10,000 in revenue from the state.

75 YEARS AGO

June 28, 1945

Construction of a new modern sales yard in Hermiston has been started this week and priorities have been obtained for all lumber and material, it is announced by H.C. Dykstra. He formerly owned the Grandview Packing Company and was represented here for 10 years by the late B.I. Whilney and is owner of the new company. He states his pur-



HH file photo
Kelli King and Melissa Wallwork of Stanfield count money at a fireworks stand in 1995.



HH file photo
Rescuers work to free a man trapped in a car after a crash outside Hermiston in 1970.

pose is to give Hermiston a dependable market for livestock.

2) Umatilla Project Farm Bureau will sponsor a Fourth of July picnic for their members and families. Members of the county locals, Pilot Rock, Echo, Pendleton and Milton-Freewater have also been extended an invitation.

Each family is expected to furnish their own basket lunch together with the service, also please bring your own sugar. The locals will furnish the coffee. Some difficulty has developed in obtaining ice cream, but the Farm Bureau is still hoping it can be obtained and ice cream will be served along with the coffee.

A committee has been working on a program which is expected to take up most of the afternoon.

100 YEARS AGO

June 26, 1920

A fire in the rear of Phelps' grocery store was the cause of some excitement Thursday morning. It is believed to have been started by sparks flying from the creamery chimney and catching fire to the rub-

bish in the rear of the grocery, where a large coal oil tank, nearly full of oil, was stored.

Mr. Phelps and several others who happened to be near carried water and tried to down the flames until the fire department arrived. The boys made a quick run across the track and had a line strung and water on the fire in less time than it takes to tell it.

The loss is estimated at \$100 for stock and \$25 on the building, which is fully covered by insurance.

2) Wednesday evening the boys of the fire department turned out and cleaned up around the department buildings in the city and left them looking like a city outfit. They have needed it for some little time and the work makes quite an improvement in the appearance of the city buildings.

If some of the rest of us would stir around, clean up our alleys and hoe the weeds down around our places of business, the city might make a better impression on visitors.

Let's get it together and have it done before the Congressional Committee arrives.

BY THE WAY

School district conducts survey on reopening

Hermiston School District is asking parents, staff and students to give feedback as the district works to plan for the 2020-21 school year in light of rules set by the Oregon Department of Education to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The survey is available until July 2 at www.surveymonkey.com/r/7J3MXNM.

It asks how comfortable parents are with their students returning to school in the fall, what the survey-taker's primary concerns are regarding holding school in person, and the level of internet access in their home.

Support groups, online meetings available for people suffering domestic violence

Domestic Violence Services continues to operate during the pandemic as an essential service.

The nonprofit is offering support groups and one on one meetings with an advocate through online video chat. To participate in a Zoom support group, call 541-276-3322. To set up a call with an advocate, email advocate@dvs-or.org. The 24-hour crisis line remains 800-833-1161.

Local journalists offer podcasts

The **East Oregonian** has started a weekly podcast known as "In the Newsroom."

The podcast features discussions between local journalists in Hermiston, Pendleton and La Grande about

one of the week's top stories. Recent topics include surging cases of COVID-19 in Eastern Oregon, what Phase 2 reopening looks like and the local Black Lives Matter protests.

The podcasts are available through iTunes, Google Play or at eastoregonian.com/multimedia/podcasts.

Pool set to open with new regulations

The **Hermiston Family Aquatic Center** is opening for the summer on Wednesday, June 24.

Due to social distancing regulations, the pool is operating differently this year. Groups must make paid reservations for an hour and a half slot of time before arriving, and groups are capped at six people. Individuals can also reserve a lane for lap swimming.

Hours run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. To make a reservation, call 541-667-5018 or visit bit.ly/hermistonaquatics online.

The splash park in Butte Park is already open and does not need a reservation.

Deadline extended for flood recovery assistance

The deadline to apply for flood recovery assistance from the area's severe flooding in February has been moved to July 2.

FEMA Individual Assistance and other federal recovery funding has put more than \$3 million in the hands of Umatilla County residents and residents of the Uma-

tilla Indian Reservation so far this year, according to a news release from the **Federal Emergency Management Agency**. Payouts have included assistance with rent for residents, who were displaced by floodwater and disaster recovery loans from the **Small Business Administration**.

Call the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or register online at www.disasterassistance.gov to apply.

The deadline is also nearing for small businesses impacted by COVID-19 to apply for a Paycheck Protection Program loan from the SBA.

June 30 is the last day lenders can approve one of the loans, according to the SBA, and more than \$128 million remains available.

Takeout meals for seniors this week include roast beef, chef salad

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** continues to be closed to the public during the COVID-19 outbreak, but the senior center is still providing meals by delivery or takeout to senior citizens every Tuesday and Thursday.

The menu for Thursday, June 25 is roast beef, baked potato, veggies, salad and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, June 30, is chef salad and fruit.

For a **Meals on Wheels** delivery, call 541-567-3582 before 10 a.m. to place an order. To pick up a meal from the center at 255 Northeast Second St., call the same number before 11 a.m. Meals are \$4 and can be picked up between noon and 12:50 p.m.