

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



XOCHILT JUAREZ

Teacher at Rocky Heights Elementary

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

I moved to Hermiston about 20 years ago because my parents wanted us to have more opportunities.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

My favorite place to eat at currently is La Palma. (I enjoy Mexican food!)

What do you like to do in your spare time?

During my spare time I like to spend it with my family or at home with my dog.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

What surprises me about Hermiston is how much the population has grown and how diverse it has become.

What was the last book you read?

The last book I read was "Tuesdays with Morrie," by Mitch Albom.

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

It is between Pinterest or Instagram. Pinterest is one I use now that I am a teacher. I can find ideas for my class or inspirational quotes to get me through the week. On Instagram, I like seeing everyone's updates — friends having babies, graduating, what my family who live far away have been up to, etc.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

If I could travel anywhere around the world I would have to say Europe. I would love to try the food in Europe, visit the most beautiful destinations and just create new memories.

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

The funniest thing that has ever happened to me (well, embarrassing) would probably be falling in front of a lot of people and pretending I was looking for something.

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

One of my goals for the next 12 months is to go back to school for my master's degree.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment is being the first in my family to graduate with a bachelor's degree and being a teacher today.

COVID-19 numbers updated

Umatilla County saw 48 new cases of COVID-19 confirmed from March 10-16 and no new deaths, according to the regional dashboard maintained by Umatilla County Public Health.

The dashboard shows only two new cases announced for Morrow County in the past week and no new deaths. Umatilla County

remains in the state's high risk category for COVID-19 spread, while Morrow County has dropped down to low risk.

Umatilla County Public Health updated the look of its website in the past week, with more prominent sections for COVID-19 information and vaccine information. For more information, visit www.ucohealth.net.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Boardman farmer uses field to propose



Hermiston Herald, File

Stephanie Fialka, Cari Ann Bakker and Crystal Bevan were selected to the 1996 Umatilla County Fair Court.

25 YEARS AGO

March 12, 1996

Deciding just how to ask for someone's hand in marriage is no easy task. When is the right time? Do you get down on one knee?

Joseph Taylor of Boardman had no problem finding a unique way. He used his field.

Cheryl Hausinger didn't know what she was in for when Taylor asked her to accompany him to fly over the field. Since farmers routinely fly over the crop circles located at Three Mile Canyon, Hausinger thought nothing of it when Taylor invited her along.

"I just thought we were going to look at the circles," she said.

As the plane went over Taylor's field, the pilot slanted the plane for the two to get a good view.

"At first I didn't want to look," said Hausinger. "But he (Taylor) was pushing me to look out the window."

Upon finding the courage to look, Hausinger saw more than just Taylor's field. Taking up roughly 12 acres, and written in script was the message, "Cheryl will you marry me?"

Taylor gave her the ring up in the air and she accepted the proposal.

50 YEARS AGO

March 18, 1971

The question of a kindergarten for Hermiston School District 8R has been raised again.

Superintendent Armand O. Larive said at the meeting of the school board Monday that if the first grade enrollment is down sharply next year as anticipated there could be enough teachers and classroom space for the district to establish a kindergarten with little added cost other than for extra busing and additional equipment.

With 100 kindergarten pupils, Larive said, the district would need two classrooms and two teachers, each one to handle a class of 25 in the morning and a class of 25 in the afternoon.

With normal enrollment, he said, the total cost of initiating the program would be about \$15,000. The superintendent said it is "the first time I have seen that Hermiston could start a kindergarten program."

75 YEARS AGO

March 14, 1946

Two boys, 11 and 12 years old, staged a minor crime wave in Hermiston last Thursday night when they



Hermiston Herald, File

First responders work on rescues after a 12-car pileup on Interstate 84 near Arlington in 1996.



Hermiston Herald, File

A Hermiston High School track athlete practices hurdles in 1996.

broke into four business establishments and removed a number of articles from at least three places.

May's Associated Station, operated by Louis May, was entered by breaking a small hole in a window on the west side of the building and unlatching it. They took a box filled with cigarettes, candy, pop, pennies from the cash register and other small items. Most of these things were discovered by two boys Friday afternoon while playing near the irrigation water outlet in back of the American Legion building. The box had been placed inside the outlet and some of the candy bars shoved into the pipe.

The boys were caught by the local police but disposition of their case will not be made until later.

100 YEARS AGO

March 18, 1921

The Socialists held a very successful meeting last Friday when

R. Snow of Chicago was the principal speaker of the evening. The attendance was not as large as was expected, but those who attended were well repaid, for Mr. Snow gave a very creditable lecture on the subject "Shall the Things We Use in Common be Owned in Common." Mr. Snow is a very capable orator, and impressed his audience with the earnestness in which he handled his subject.

2) A treat is in store for the theatrical goers next Monday night when Jack London's great novel, "The Sea Wolf," which is acknowledged the best picturization of all of London's works, will be shown under the auspices of the Library at the Play House.

Novel vaudeville stunts will also be given which will make an evening's entertainment seldom seen in Hermiston. There will only be one show, commencing at 8 p.m. sharp, so be on hand early and get a good seat.

BY THE WAY

Tribal official Chuck Sams tapped for role on state council

A longtime administrator with the **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation** has been tapped for a job with broad influence over regional energy and environmental conservation. But an even bigger job could be in store for him.

The CTUIR announced on Monday, March 8, that **Chuck Sams** was leaving his role as the interim executive director of the Tribes to fill a seat on the **Northwest Power and Conservation Council**.

Gov. Kate Brown appointed him to the council, but she's also backing him for another appointment: a job in the Biden administration as the director of the **National Parks Service**.

Dog training classes offered

Hermiston Parks and Recreation has brought back dog and puppy training courses.

According to the department, residents can join an

instructor from **Paws Off Obedience** for a six-week course "to create an obedient, loving companion." The first session will be April 17.

Registration is available at bit.ly/hermistonrecreation. A free preview of the class will also be available on March 26, when the city holds a grand opening for the new **Bark Park** dog area at **Butte Park**.

Check the Hermiston Parks and Recreation Facebook page for announcements about other spring recreation classes, including line dancing and youth sports.

County fair prep begins

The **Umatilla County Fair** is already gearing up for the 2021 fair, and held a steer weigh-in on Saturday, March 13, at the **Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center**.

According to the schedule posted online, future weigh-ins for sheep, goats and hogs will be held

in Hermiston at EOTEC on June 6. Locations will also be available in Pendleton, Athena and Milton-Freewater.

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Senior meals include meat loaf

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for Thursday, March 18, is meat loaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, March 23, is ham and yams, peas and carrots, Jell-O and dessert.

For a **Meals on Wheels** delivery in Hermiston, call 541-567-3582 before 10 a.m. to place an order. To pick up a meal from the center at 255 N.E. Second St., call the same number before 11 a.m.

Meals are \$4 and can be picked up between 11:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

The **Boardman Senior Center** is now providing meal delivery. Meals are \$4 paid upon delivery. Call 541-481-3257 to order.