

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



KRISTINA OLIVAS

Hermiston Chamber CEO

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

I was born and raised in Hermiston. My parents both immigrated here for work, my mom from north Washington and my dad from Mexico.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

It depends on the meal. I would say I like Delish Bistro, and for Mexican food I like Ixtapa.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm a mom of three really busy children, one in high school, one in middle school and one in elementary school. I love the Pacific Northwest. We've just starting exploring the Columbia Gorge and hiking some of the waterfalls. I love the coast too.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

Its capacity for growth shows no borders. I don't see how it's ever going to stop.

What was the last book you read?

"The world needs who you were made to be," by Joanna Gaines

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

Google. I Google everything.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

I have never been to a warm beach, just the Oregon coast, so anywhere with a warm beach.

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

My first day of work at my last job, I got lost at the Walmart DC and could not find my way to the front door. I kept hearing my name paged, because I was still being trained, but I couldn't figure out how to get back, for the better part of 30 minutes.

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

One of my goals is to come out of the pandemic, and help Hermiston spring forward, out of our hibernation we've been in. I think Hermiston is ready to move forward and I am so excited to be a face of that.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

I have beautiful kids. They're kind, caring people. I love thinking that I created these amazing human beings that are going to go out into the world and do great things.

Environmental group holds webinar

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is hosting a live webinar for members Thursday, April 15, at 6 p.m. to discuss action by local leaders on climate change, ongoing efforts to safeguard communities from "irresponsible fossil fuel transport and development," and the

broader impact of energy consumption changes.

To register for the free, live event over Zoom, visit <https://gorgefriends.org/news-events/events/2021-04-15/a-climate-of-change.html> and a link to the webinar will be sent to the email address provided.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Local Safeway workers go on strike

25 YEARS AGO

April 9, 1996

After August, the City of Hermiston will no longer operate the Community Recreation Center.

City councilors Monday approved a lease for the building with the ARC of Umatilla County. The lease will run on a yearly basis for the fee of \$1 each year, beginning in August. The organization will pay for all utility and maintenance costs of the structure.

2) With the business sections of Hermiston spreading like wildfire, another motel complex rented its first room Friday.

Best Western Hermiston Inn offers guests an indoor heated pool, plus a continental breakfast served on the premises.

Owned by Choice Realty, Best Western Hermiston Inn opened their 34-room facility one month later than their original March 1 completion date, according to manager Vijay Narain.

They began the motel construction project, their second in Oregon, October 1995.

50 YEARS AGO

April 8, 1971

No progress appears to have been made in the dispute between the Hermiston Safeway store and striking members of Retail Clerks Local 1612.

The strike began April 1 in Hermiston and Pendleton and has spread to Baker, La Grande and Enterprise.

Burton Sivey, business agent for the union in Pendleton, said grocery store clerks are protesting their wages, said to be 40 to 50 cents lower than those of Safeway employees in the Tri-Cities, Wash., and the absence of plans for health and welfare, dental care and prescription drugs, all of which Safeway stores in the Tri-Cities reportedly have.

Lockouts have resulted in other grocery stores in the Hermiston area. Hermiston IGA Foodliner, Stewart's in Hermiston and Mead's Thriftway in Umatilla have locked out union clerks.

Management is being represented by Portland attorney Mike Hudson, who was unavailable for comment as *The Herald* went to press.

75 YEARS AGO

April 11, 1946

Hermiston Rod & Gun Club has been formed with the following officers: president, Hugh Frasier; vice president, A.H. Cable; secretary-treasurer, E.H. Hanby.

Magpie hunters, the contest is now on. Get busy and earn yourself a prize by bagging some of the following predatory animals and birds. The program will be handled on this system: Old coyote 50 points, young coyote 25, old skunks 15, young skunks 10, old weasels 25, young weasels 15. Old magpies, crows, ravens and hawks are 5 points; young magpies, crows, ravens, hawks and eggs, 1 point each.

Number and kind of prizes will be published in the near future.

100 YEARS AGO

April 8, 1921

The High School will give an entertainment in the Play House Friday night, April 8th, as a fitting climax to a hard day's work for our volunteers who will clean up the city.

The children have prepared an excellent program consisting of a two act farce, vaudeville numbers and instrumental, and a good quartette. The evening's entertainment will be well worth the price of admission and the funds are going to



Hermiston Herald, File

Wendy Dyer, 10, and Carol Morris, 8, of Girl Scouts of America sell Girl Scout cookies in Hermiston in 1996.



Hermiston Herald, File

An employee of Pacific Power & Light Co. installs a new mercury vapor street lamp in Hermiston in 1971.



Hermiston Herald, File

A worker puts up the sign at the new Best Western in Hermiston in 1996.

help the student body get out of debt. Come on along and help the children clear up their debts and see a good evening's entertainment as well. Show starts at 8:00 sharp.

2) Postmaster Skinner is quite elated over the showing the Hermiston post office has made during the last year. The growth of the office here has been a steady one, and is a good indication of the prosperity of the community and shows the steady increase in trade

and growth of the town.

Mr. Skinner says that if the next two years show as good a growth as 1920 did, the office will automatically be put in second class.

Some comparisons for 1919 and 1920 are as follows: Money orders issued from April 1919 to April 1920 numbered 4,700; from April 1920 to April 1921, 5,738 money orders were issued, a gain of 1,038. These were all domestic money orders.

BY THE WAY

McNary Dam to use lasers, sounds to scare away birds

Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District have resumed use of bird-detering lasers, and will be testing a long-range acoustic device to prevent birds from preying on endangered juvenile salmon passing through McNary Dam near Umatilla.

In a change from last year, the two lasers will be used simultaneously, according to a news release. One laser will be positioned on the navigational lock wing wall on the downstream side and will provide coverage of the fish outfall pipe and surrounding waters and facilities, including the dam itself. The other laser will be positioned directly on the outfall pipe and cover the water directly below it.

The lasers, which will run from dawn to dusk daily, went into operation on Thursday, April 1, and will be in operation until approximately November. They emit a

bright green light that creates a large dot programmed to move in random patterns.

The long-range acoustic device is scheduled to begin usage in late August.

A small device, resembling a common speaker, is currently programmed with two audio tracks. The first is a computer-generated male voice that announces it is a long-range acoustic device and performs a countdown. The second closely matches the noise emitted by a standard car alarm.

When active, it will be audible throughout the McNary Dam and Lake Wallua area.

The long-range acoustic device will run intermittently throughout the day from late August through October. This period will serve as a trial run for the device. If the trial is deemed successful, the device will resume operations in 2022.

Senior meals include burgers, tacos

The Harkenrider Senior Activity Center menu for Thursday, April 8, is hamburgers, salad, tater tots and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, April 13, is hard shell tacos, Spanish rice, beans 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.