

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



FREDY VERA

Fabricator at N.W. Metal Fabricators and Irrigon High School baseball coach

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

I've been living in Hermiston for a year and a half. I moved here because it was time for me to get away from living in Irrigon.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

Tacos Y Mas

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Barbecue and hang out with family and friends.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

The amount of people there actually are in this town.

What was the last book you read?

I don't read many books, but I really enjoy reading sports articles.

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

I spend a lot of time on Twitter.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go, and why?

Paris would be a beautiful place to visit. Always been on my bucket list.

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

No idea.

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

Travel some more and win a league title and beyond for baseball.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Giving back to the Irrigon community, and being able to coach baseball at Irrigon High School.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Hermiston rejects invitation to bid on prison

25 YEARS AGO
July 16, 1996

Thanks, but no thanks.

That's Hermiston's answer to an invitation to bid for a prison site in Hermiston.

The Oregon Department of Corrections is looking for additional sites on which to put more prisons and Hermiston, Stanfield and Umatilla were looking at becoming one of those sites. The three towns were testing the community waters to see if it was something that citizens would be interested in pursuing as a sort of west-county project.

The results are in for the city of Hermiston and the answer is a resounding "no."

"Nobody wants it," said Mayor Frank Harkenrider. "He said that about 20 calls had come into city hall and six letters were received Monday, all against having a prison.

50 YEARS AGO
July 15, 1971

The dock strike of several days' duration, which has severely affected Portland shipping terminals, could cause a critical situation to Oregon farmers, in the opinion of Robert Estoup, manager of Feedville.

"From all indications," Estoup said, "the strike could drag on for quite a while and, while we haven't really felt the effects yet in our shipping of grain, it could present a problem."

Umatilla County, which is expected to produce a record crop of grain this year, ships the bulk of its produce to Portland terminals on barges from the Port of Umatilla.

Don Cook, Pendleton, manager of Pendleton Grain Growers, Inc., said, however, that he felt that Umatilla County would not be as severely affected by a prolonged strike as some other areas might.

"We don't like the strike," he said, "but Umatilla County has the advantage of being one of the earliest in the state to harvest, and while there is only one terminal open to unload, they are more or less accepting shipments on a first-come, first-served basis."

75 YEARS AGO
July 11, 1946

The Barbers union with jurisdiction over Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Hermiston and Umatilla voted at a meeting held in Pendleton to raise the prices of haircuts in the four cities to one dollar effective Wednesday.

No increase was voted in the price of shaves, which remain at fifty cents.

In announcing the increase in haircuts, it was stated that most of the other cities in Oregon have been charging \$1 for haircuts for some time.

100 YEARS AGO
July 15, 1921

Lorenzo E. Dole, of Florence, Oregon was sentenced to four months in the Multnomah County jail by the Federal Court here on July 11, for willfully setting out fires in the forest in 1920.

This case has attracted a great deal of attention both on account of



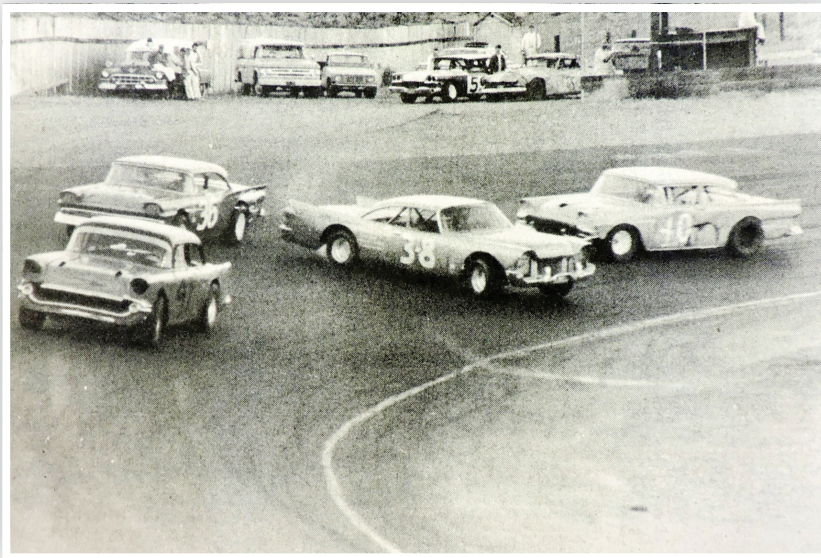
Hermiston Herald, File

Tomlinson's Dari-Mart opens in Hermiston in 1971.



Hermiston Herald, File

West Umatilla County Mosquito Control District staff work in 1996.



Hermiston Herald, File

Cars race at the Umatilla Speedway in 1971.

the unusual conditions of the case as well as the unusual character of the defendant. On May 17, 1921, a federal jury sitting at Portland brought in a verdict of guilty against Dole for maliciously setting a fire within the Suislaw National Forest on May 16, 1920.

According to statements of forest officers, Dole had long been suspected of setting forest fires and efforts had been made year after year to secure evidence against him without success.

From the statement of witnesses, Dole's method of work was original and only an unusual combina-

tion of circumstances brought about his conviction. It seems that by long practice he could flip a burning match into brush along a road or trail, even from horseback.

Forest officers say that he tried this once too often, for on May 16, 1920, as brought out in the evidence, once of the witnesses was that day trying out a new telescope by casually watching through the glass occasional passers-by on a road some few hundred yards distant, and happened to see Dole deliberately strike matches and flip them while still burning into the dry ferns and brush along the roadside.

BY THE WAY

Fire calls continue increasing at record pace

Umatilla County Fire District #1 sets another monthly record with a total of 529 calls for the month of June. For the fiscal year of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, the district ran a record 5,372 calls for service.

On Sunday, July 4, 2021, it ran 27 calls with seven of them fire responses. Several calls on the Fourth of July were fire calls with some being started with fireworks.

Some tips for protecting your home:

- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained.
- Keep natural grasses mowed down around your property.
- Remove dead vegetation from under your deck and within 10 feet of your house.
- If you have trees, prune so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks.

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The Farm-City Pro Rodeo has two contests for all Hermiston businesses. One is a window painting contest and the other is for billboards and banners. Local businesses can participate in the 2021 "We're Back" window decorating contest. Painted windows must be completed by July 29 and a picture sent to office@hermistonchamber.com by July 30. The winning business will get a full box seat for Friday night of the rodeo.

The reader board/banner contest must be completed by July 22. Business will take a picture of the board/banner and send it to office@hermistonchamber.com by July

22. The winning entry gets a full box seat for Thursday's rodeo.

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While donors across the country have rolled up a sleeve to give this summer, the need for blood and platelets remains crucial for patients relying on lifesaving transfusions. The American Red Cross continues to experience a severe blood shortage and donors of all blood types, especially type O and those giving platelets.

The Red Cross needs to collect more than 1,000 additional blood donations each day to meet current demand as hospitals respond to an unusually high number of traumas and emergency room visits, organ transplants and elective surgeries.

To thank donors who help refuel the blood and platelet supply this month, all who come to give July 7-31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card via email and will also receive automatic entry for a chance to win gas for a year (a \$5,000 value). More information and details are available at rcblood.org/fuel. Also, all those who come to donate throughout the entire month of July will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for four to Cedar Point or Knott's Berry Farm.

Hermiston blood drives listed on the American Red Cross website include:

- Monday, July 19, from 12:45-5:30 p.m. at **Good Shepherd Medical Center.**
- Thursday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at **Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.**

• Friday, Aug. 6, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at **First Christian Church.**

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Oregon gas prices have risen 3.2 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.65 per gallon as of Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 1,307 stations in Oregon. Gas prices in Oregon are 23.8 cents higher than a month ago and stand \$1.05 higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Oregon is priced at \$3.23 while the most expensive is \$4.04, a difference of 81 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 0.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.13. The national average is up five cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 93.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

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The Harkenrider Senior Activity Center menu for Thursday, July 15, is pork loin, stuffing, veggie and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, July 20, is biscuits and gravy, sausage patty and fruit.

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 11:30 a.m. and noon.

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