

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



DAN DURFEY

Middle school science teacher and coach for the Umatilla School District

When and why did you move to Umatilla?

In 2005. It was hard trying to find property in Umatilla County that you could have horses and 4-H pigs that was affordable. Found some property here for a house, raising kids and animals.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Umatilla?

Acapulco Food Truck.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Raising two awesome kids. I am still involved in the family rodeo business supplying bucking bulls to all of the amateur rodeos in the Pacific Northwest. Fishing, hunting, camping and traveling.

What surprises you about Umatilla?

Small-town feel. I grew up in a town a lot smaller than Umatilla and living here has the same small-town feel.

What was the last book you read?

"The Plague of Swords" by Miles Cameron.

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

Google Chrome.

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

Australia. I visited Sydney in high school and really want to go back because of the people and the sites.

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

Some of the high school players that I coach took a picture of my face and then supersized it into a giant poster cutout, and the players were wearing my face around the Umatilla High School gym during a basketball game.

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

Try to make it through a full school year with students in school the whole year.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My two kids, Trent and Taylor.

HERMISTON HISTORY

First fair queen has history of misspelled name

25 YEARS AGO

Aug. 13, 1996

• CORRECTION: Irene VanPatten, the first Umatilla County Fair Queen in 1933, was misidentified and her name was misspelled in last week's Hermiston History. Her grandson, Kevin Fisher of Hermiston, received numerous phone calls regarding the error. A correction was made the week following the photo and article's original publication on Aug. 13, 1996. However, her name was misspelled again in that correction. Rest assured, we got it right this time!

• The viability of the Hermiston Airport was an issue at last night's city council meeting, drawing almost as much discussion as bicycles on the sidewalk.

The airport advisory committee has been holding meetings recently, weighing the pros and cons of continuing to subsidize the Hermiston Airport.

Countering gossip that the city



Hermiston Herald, File

Draft horse teams, such as this one, performed in August 1971 at the Umatilla County Fair.

Fair. These additions are the second stage of what Cooper claims to be a "five-stage improvement program."

Cooper believes there would be a record number of livestock exhibits and horses. The latter is based on the fact that there are 40 stalls available for 4-H exhibits for the first two days and then rodeo horses the last three.

depot and learn about an area veiled in secrecy since it was built. Approximately 2,000 people attended the picnic that Sunday.

The tour included the magazine and west areas, the second of which having been open to the public for the first time. The visitors also got to see the roughly 3,000 vehicles currently being processed for storage (jeeps, ducks, trucks, and trailers) as well as the warehouses made for small arms and inert components of ammunition items.

The picnic itself was claimed to be one of the most successful ones put on by the employees welfare association, with ice cream, soft drinks, and coffee provided while visitors brought their own lunches. Harry Nelson was the official announcer and the Echo High School Band provided music for all the visitors. Even a baseball game was featured later in the afternoon, in which Ordinance beat Touchet, Washington, 15-14.

100 YEARS AGO

Aug. 11, 1921

The July weather of 1921 was a far cry from the weather we've been dealing with this summer. It showed no outstanding variations in conditions when compared to past records, unlike our record-breaking heat and duration of such high temperatures. Their highest recorded temperature was 100 degrees on July 24 and their lowest was 41 degrees on the 10th, while we suffered 115 degrees and rejoiced in the low 50s. Some common factors: 1921 saw an (0.8) increase in the average max-



Hermiston Herald, File

Dillan Massey of Hermiston tries to hang on during the mutton bustin' event at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo in August 1996.

is closing the airport, Mayor Frank Harkenrider said the city is continuing to support the airport. "It's just being discussed."

According to the advisory committee's minutes, the city wants to privatize the airport. While they agree that a viable airport is good for the area, there is concern of how much money leaves the city coffers. The council aired comments on the airport but no action was taken.

75 YEARS AGO

Aug. 15, 1946

At some point, we've all wanted to explore, open, or experience the top-secret or off-limits; and we go all-in when we finally get the

50 YEARS AGO

Aug. 12, 1971

This fair hosted quite a few new attractions, additions, and firsts: the first Umatilla County Fair horse-pulling contest, redecorated grounds, record livestock exhibits, and more.

After two years of planning and preparations, the first ever horse-pulling contest was finally coming to the Umatilla County Fair. The horses performed in teams of two on Wednesday night, weighing from 3,600 to 6,000 pounds. According to fair manager Bob Cooper, the fair board had been waiting for the ten draft horse teams — which were sponsored by Washington State Horse Pullers Association (Bellingham, Washington).

A new fence for the horses, as well as new lights on the midway and the displaying of animals by breed, were also added to the Umatilla County



Hermiston Herald, File

Umatilla County Fair Court — Princess Joan Howard, Princess Karen Cramer, Queen Doneva Shockman and Princess Cheri Smith — and Hermiston Mayor L. P. Gray encouraged all to attend the 1971 Umatilla County Fair.

chance. The Eastern Oregonians of 1946 didn't react differently when the Umatilla Ordnance Depot was finally open to the public during the annual UOD Employees Picnic held on its grounds. Though a good amount of the people had worked there, many were excited to tour the

imum temperature, as well as a (0.02 inches) lower rainfall than the July averages.

McKenzie Rose, a sophomore at Echo High School, searched Hermiston Herald archives to compile these article summaries.

BY THE WAY

Red Cross still needs blood donors

The American Red Cross recently reported it has been distributing about 12% more blood products to hospitals across the United States compared to this time last year. To meet demands and to end the severe shortage, the Red Cross has been giving incentives for people to donate.

To thank donors, all who come to give blood in August will receive a free four-month subscription offer to Apple Music by email (new subscribers only). Upcoming blood drives in Hermiston and Pendleton:

• Monday, Aug. 16, from 12:45-5:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

• Tuesday, Aug. 17, from 12:30-5:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 1221 S.E. Court Place, Pendleton.

• Tuesday, Aug. 31, from noon to 5:30 at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate.

For more information, to schedule a donation time or to find other blood drives

in the region, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

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The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is seeking a recreational vehicle owner and a representative of a county parks department to serve on the County Opportunity Grant Program Advisory Committee. The seven-member committee allocates funding to county projects that involve recreational vehicle camping.

The group's main function is to read, assess and score grant applications submitted to the program, and attend a one-day grant application presentation meeting, typically held in Salem each November. (The meeting may be virtual, depending on the status of the pandemic.)

For more about the responsibilities, visit www.oregon.gov/oprd and click on the menu for Commissions & Advisory Committees, click on the link to County Parks Assistance Advisory Committee and under

"Grant Advisory Committee" open the link to Committee Roster and Application Information to access a "Committee Interest Form," or go directly to www.oregon.gov/oprd/GRA/pages/GRA-cogp.aspx. The form is due by Wednesday, Sept. 15.

For questions, contact Mark Cowan, grant program coordinator, at 503-951-1317 or mark.cowan@oregon.gov.

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The SAGE Center in Boardman urges people to "save the date" for the Morrow County Harvest Festival. In its eighth year, the event will be held exclusively outdoors on Saturday, Oct. 2.

The festival will feature a variety of vendors with high-quality, regionally produced agricultural goods and handmade artisan crafts. In addition, Threemile Canyon Farms will provide an opportunity for attendees to "fill-a-bag" full of locally grown produce with "Harvest Bounty for Youth in Agriculture."

Many other fun activities are planned during the event. For more information, visit www.visitsage.com or call 541-481-7243.

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The Harkenrider Senior Activity Center menu for Thursday, Aug. 12, is pulled pork sandwich, macaroni salad and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, Aug. 17, is ham, scalloped potatoes, pea salad and dessert. (In-house meals will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m. People planning to dine in are asked to call by 11 a.m.)

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 \$5 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.