

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



ERICK PETERSON

Editor/senior reporter of the Hermiston Herald

When and why did you move to Hermiston?

I met a wonderful Hermiston woman and her amazing sons. They welcomed me into their family.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?

I enjoy going to the Pod, where I can order from food trucks and then eat outdoors. It can sometimes be difficult to choose between hot dogs and burritos, though.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I haven't been lifting weights lately, but that is something I enjoy. I have an excellent trainer over at Club 24 who is working with me. Also, I like to read and watch movies. Nothing beats a good horror movie.

What surprises you about Hermiston?

There is always something to keep me busy. Sometimes, a big event at Butte Park captures my interest. Other times, it is a small activity provided at the Hermiston Public Library. This town always has something fun for me.

What was the last book you read?

I just read "I Am Malala." In it, Malala Yousafzai, a girl from Pakistan, tells about her life and activism under the Taliban. It's a harrowing story and unfortunately relevant.

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

I check in with TikTok often for jokes and funny dance videos.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

Tokyo.

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

I don't know if it's the funniest, but I recently (and mistakenly) used coffee creamer instead of milk to make a creamy potato dish for my family. It tasted awful, and I don't think they will ever let me forget it.

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

I was just hired as the editor for the Hermiston Herald. My goal is to do a good job for this community.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My family loves me. Gaining their affection and their trust means more to me than anything.

HERMISTON HISTORY

DEQ to accept comments about weapons disposal

25 YEARS AGO
Aug. 20, 1996

With World War II and the Cold War well over, the Umatilla Army Depot had a tough problem to figure out: how to safely and efficiently dispose of its stockpile of chemical weapons.

The Army had long determined that incineration was the "safest and fastest" way to get rid of the chemical weapons stored at eight sites throughout the country (the Umatilla Army Depot being one of them), but the method still causes concern among health officials. To destroy the hazardous materials, they planned to build an incineration facility consisting of five furnaces.

But first, the Army had to convince Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality and its governing body, the Environmental Quality Commission, that their method was safe. In addition, they will be considering public comments and opinions — with draft and water and air permits being issued to the public, comments will be accepted from April 5 to Nov. 15. Other technologies and alternative solutions to dispose of the chemical weapons had been brought up, and two upcoming meetings will discuss those options, both of which will be open to the public.

50 YEARS AGO
Aug. 26, 1971

The turnout and excitement expectations were blown out of the water as Hermiston began its annual



Hermiston Herald, File

First graders Hanna Cortez and Rosie Waterhouse enjoy lunch on the first day of school Monday, Aug. 26, 1996, at Highland Hills Elementary School in Hermiston.

Sidewalk Sale. "The crowd was waiting when we were ready to go at nine," Jack Sobotta of Hermiston Drug noted. In fact, participating merchants claimed it to be "the biggest Sidewalk Sale yet" with over half of the customers coming from areas out of town, like Pendleton, Arlington and Heppner.

Bruce Giddons of Burnham's estimated a 22% increase in sales while Phil Hector of Hector's Family Shoes is already planning for next year's sale, saying, "We've got to, we sold out of everything we had. It was a major merchandising event."

The Sidewalk Sale occurs annually during Fair Week and is spon-

sored by the Hermiston Hustlers, the merchants committee of the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce. Prizes were awarded to personnel from participating stores for funniest costumes, with Diane Morris getting first, Garnett McLaughlin was second, and Mrs. Robert Rothermel garnered third.

75 YEARS AGO
Aug. 29, 1946

As school continues to draw nearer, it's rather interesting to look back and see what school was like in the 1940s. For Hermiston, each student had to pay only \$3 to cover costs of typing paper, workbooks and laboratory materials. The rental fee for books was 40 cents a term, with any unused portions being refunded at the end of school.

At a Tuesday meeting, Associated Student Body officials planned activities and decided to leave the price of the student body ticket at \$2.50 for the year. Mrs. Hibbard was still in charge of the lunch room, with the lunch prices being the same as the prior year.

A late resignation caused an unexpected vacancy and at the time, Hermiston School was still looking for someone to fill the position — teaching ninth grade and two hours a day of upper elementary grades.

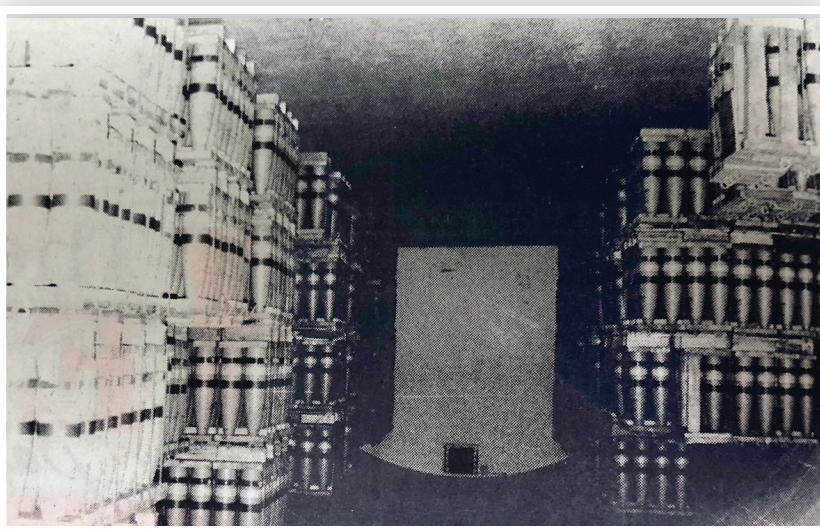
100 YEARS AGO
Aug. 25, 1921

The girl's club contests seem very similar to fair exhibits, but with a chance to win a trip to the Oregon State Fair in Salem. The local contest will be held before the county one, and the winning team of each category at the county contest will receive a trip to the fair in Salem.

The county contest of the girl's club will take place at Pendleton High School on Thursday, September 22, during the Grain and Hay Show at Pendleton. The judge of the bread baking contest will be E.O. Matherson, while Mrs. I. M. Schannepp will judge the canning contest.

Individual prizes for the best members of the boy's and girl's clubs will also be awarded, with the recipients earning a trip to the State Fair as well. The individual prizes for the best loaf of bread baked by a Umatilla County girl ages 9-18 are: \$10 for first place, \$7.50 for second, \$5 for third and \$2.50 for fourth.

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



Hermiston Herald, File

Incineration alternatives were being considered in August 1996 by the Environmental Commission regarding the chemical weapons stockpiled at the Umatilla Depot.



Hermiston Herald, File

Hermiston Hustler's Chairman Phil Hector announces Diane Morris as the first-place winner of the Kraziest Costume contest held during the August 1971 annual downtown Sidewalk Sale.

BY THE WAY

United Way announces grant awards

The **United Way of the Blue Mountains**, which includes Umatilla and Morrow counties, recently announced grants awarded for fall 2020 and spring 2021.

Area organizations that benefited from the United Way's recent disbursements include: **Youth for Christ Blue Mountain-Hermiston Campus Life**, SMART reading programs in Umatilla and Morrow counties, **The Salvation Army-Pendleton Corps and Walla Walla YMCA Summer Enrichment Program** in Athena.

The United Way brings together community resources to focus on key problems and issues families face and invests in solutions to those problems. Through partnerships, the United Way connects the community to ensure people find the help they need.

For more information, contact **Monica Boyle** at moncia@uwbluemt.org, 509-529-1183 or visit www.uwbluemt.org.

The artwork of **Amy Fuentes** will be on display during the month of September at the **Hermiston Public Library**, 235 E. Gladys Ave. A local artist, she started painting in 2018 when she was 19 years old. However, she has been an artist as far back as she can remember.

Fuentes' current artwork is a reflection of one of the many

things she enjoys, which is music. Her paintings include re-creations of rap album covers and portraits of the musical artists. Follow Fuentes on her art journey on **Instagram** via **@amyfuentesartistry**.

Members of the **Hermiston Chamber of Commerce** can be featured during a 30-minute spot on **KOHU The Q** during the **Hermiston Business Connection**. The show runs Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. on KOHU 1360 AM.

For more information, call Val at the chamber at 541-567-6151.

Join Hermiston area residents in learning to better understand local government and tackle community needs.

The nonprofit **Rural Development Initiatives** is holding trainings on how to make local government work for you. This 5-session training will help you learn to connect to elected officials, navigate government processes, organize issue and candidate campaigns, and define issues and action plans.

Sessions will be in person in Hermiston **4-7 p.m. on Thursdays from Sept. 30 through Oct. 28**.

Rural Development Initiatives is providing the training,

thanks to support from the **Ford Family Foundation** and the **city of Hermiston**.

RDI stated it will comply with state and federal guidelines related to mask-wearing and social distancing to ensure the health and safety of its staff and rural communities.

Register at bit.ly/3xQ6nuu. For questions, contact **Jennifer Groth**, RDI, at jgroth@rdiinc.org or 458-215-8396 ext. 3.

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, Aug. 26**, is beef stroganoff, vegetables, fruit and dessert. The menu for **Tuesday, Aug. 31**, is barbecued chicken, pasta 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 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.