

## THREE MINUTES WITH ...



## MARGARET WETTERLING

Hermiston

### How long have you lived in Hermiston?

*Most of my life, except for a while in Umatilla. I graduated in 1966, so I go way back.*

### What do you feel being around the students today, accompanying them in jazz choir?

*I adore being around the kids. I had a little girl the other day, a freshman, who asked if she could call me grandma. All the kids call me by my first name and they clap when I come in the room. It's very ego-boosting.*

### It must be very satisfying to pass down your learning and your love of music, right?

*Yes, it is. I had a girl who came to me the other day. She's taking piano lesson, and she's working on a complicated piece. She asked me how to do it, and I was able to show her.*

### What do you think of their work ethic?

*They work hard. If you ever come to one of our concerts, you'll see that. Some of them, especially Man Choir, are very bombastic, but they work hard. They sing, and give it all they got. We have one choir that's all girls, Electra. Another that's all boys, and that's Man Choir. And then there's jazz choir and chamber choir.*

### Do you have any other hobbies or interests?

*No. I just play piano here and at church. I go to the Umatilla Assembly of God, and I play the piano there.*

### Which do you prefer — your congregation or your students?

*I like both, because they're totally different things.*

### What do you like about performing at church?

*Singing songs about Jesus, who I love so much. That's important to me, as a Christian.*

### Can you tell me about your faith?

*I accepted Jesus Christ as my savior as a little girl, and I've been serving him ever since. I go to church regularly, and my husband and I have gone on four summer mission trips to Namibia and Botswana. He built things, and I cataloged the library.*

### Did you have experience in library work?

*I worked for 25 years at McNary Heights Elementary School. The last 15 years were in the library, so I knew how to do that. I also taught music classes to pastoral students there.*

### What do you get out of your mission work?

*I get to help people. We see how much we have in America and how little they have, but how joyful they are. They don't let not living in a big, fancy house hold them back. It was just amazing, and I'm still friends with them on Facebook.*

### So what's the next place you want to go?

*Hawaii. I already have plans. It'll be my 50th state to go to.*

## HERMISTON HISTORY

# Protesters show up at prison groundbreaking 25 years ago

25 YEARS AGO  
April 8, 1997

The scene was an interesting one for the groundbreaking ceremony of Oregon's newest prison. Dave Cook, Oregon Department of Corrections director, was at the podium giving an address while protestors upset with Measure 17 made up the background.

Measure 17, which was passed by Oregon voters in 1994, required state prison inmates to work or train for 40 hours a week. The theory was that this will give them necessary skills for when their sentences ended. However, some people believed these inmates would be taking away jobs from highly qualified candidates and not stimulating the economy since they are without an outlet to spend the money.

According to George Gritz, president of Laborer's International Local 121 for Central and Eastern Oregon, there would be approximately 300 to 500 people working on the new prison during the construction peak, 140 of whom will be inmates.

"This will go into a statewide protest — the entire construction industry will be involved," Gritz said. However, more than two-thirds of Oregon voters supported Measure 17, so there was popular appeal.

50 YEARS AGO  
April 6, 1972

Yes, we can have students read the books. Or, we can give them the opportunity to learn by doing. Charles Cruikshank, director of the Ag Department, prefers the latter.

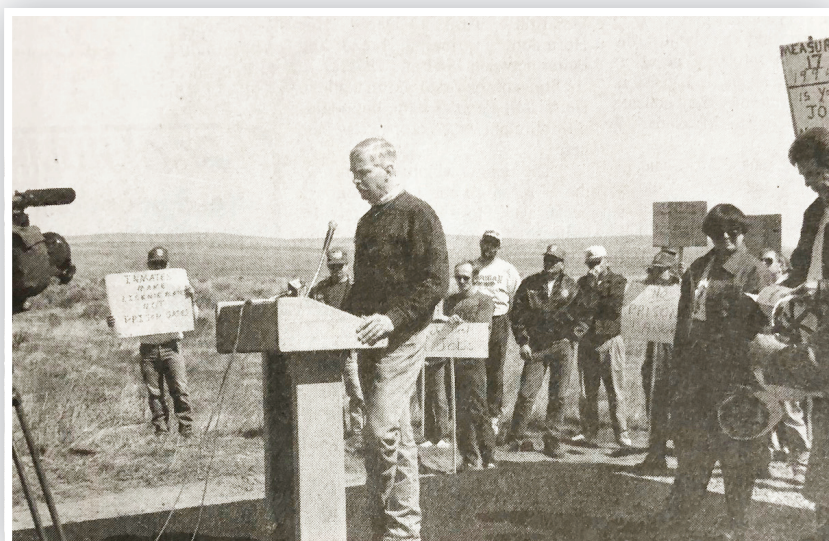
This year, the Hermiston Vocational Agriculture class had many opportunities to learn by doing. For starters, they constructed a greenhouse, the first greenhouse this class has had the privilege to use. This has enabled students to learn about construction methods, how to care for plants within a controlled environment, the different characteristics and growing processes of numerous plant varieties and much more.

In addition, students had been working on the 19-acre lot of land behind Rocky Heights to prepare it for pasture. Barley was planned to be planted in a portion of the area to prevent soil erosion, which offered another prime teaching opportunity. This Vocational Agriculture class had seen so much success and growth in its students that the Agricultural Department hoped to involve all students in this area to create well-rounded individuals.

75 YEARS AGO  
April 10, 1947

Hollywood sensation Janis Paige was on her way to Hermiston to add a little pizzazz to the McNary Dam Completion Celebration.

Paige graduated from Stadium High School in Tacoma, Washington, and went straight to Hollywood to pursue her dreams of stardom. She got her first chance as a substitute singer at the Canteen,



Hermiston Herald, File

In 1997, Measure 17 protestors made up the background of Department of Corrections Director Dave Cook's prison opening ceremony address.



Hermiston Herald, File

In 1997, Armand Larive eighth-grader Brandy Tompkins won this \$400-valued duck for guessing how many jelly beans were in this jar at Flowers by the Petal Pusher: she guessed 7,643 and there were 7,971.



Hermiston Herald, File

Mrs. Genevieve Templeton shows the large collection of Native American artifacts she and her husband found along the Columbia River to Rocky Heights students in 1972.

and then her career soared after her talent was discovered. Paige performed in numerous Warner Brothers musicals and dramas, including "Of Human Bondage." The previous winter, she appeared at the Strand Theater in New York as headliner with the Vincent Lopez orchestra.

Paige is even being featured in the Salute Magazine article "312 Nights with Soldiers," where the story of her entertaining soldiers, sailors and marines with over 1,600 songs for 312 days will be told.

To add the icing to this wonderful cake of accomplishments and fame, Paige would be crowned "Miss Damsite" at the McNary Dam ball and festivities to be held at the Hermiston High School Monday night.

90 YEARS AGO  
April 7 1932

While we all thought distanced learning was a recent development, they were apparently learning outside the classroom back in 1932.

At the Oregon State College, KOAC started a new program in the field of educational radio broadcasting by placing a microphone in one of the lecture rooms. In this case, the room belonged to Dr. E.H. Moor, professor of sociology. At 11 a.m. each Tuesday morning, listeners could tune into the radio and listen to the lecture.

Arrangements had even been made for listeners to follow the course more closely, as they could enroll for home study and would then be provided additional materials. Examinations would be given for the radio class and certificates issued to those who "passed," though there would not be college credit given.

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

## BY THE WAY

## Umatilla County commissioner forum coming to Hermiston

To learn more about those running for Umatilla County commissioner, be sure to head to a candidate's forum in Hermiston or Milton-Freewater. They are:

- Thursday, April 7, 6 p.m. at the Oregon National Guard Armory, 900 S.E. Columbia Drive., Hermiston.
- Friday, April 8, 6 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Community Building, 109 N.E. Fifth St.

For questions about the Hermiston forum, email [valerie.bradley@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.bradley@gmail.com) or [josiahbarron.pcp@protonmail.com](mailto:josiahbarron.pcp@protonmail.com). For the other event, contact Suni Danforth, Central Committee chair, at 541-215-9389 or [ucrpchair@gmail.com](mailto:ucrpchair@gmail.com).

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You still have time to get your act in gear for the Community Talent Show. Organized by the Hermiston High School Band Boosters, all ages and any and all forms of talent are welcome.

Open auditions are April 12-13, 6-9 p.m. in the HHS band room, 600 S. First St. People do not have to register in advance. The performance is April 23, 6 p.m. in the school's fine arts auditorium.

The show will serve as a fundraiser for the HHS Band Boosters. The top three acts will receive prizes.

For more information, email Mike Kellison at [michael.kellison@hermiston.org](mailto:michael.kellison@hermiston.org) or search/send a message via [www.facebook.com/hermistonbandboosters](https://www.facebook.com/hermistonbandboosters).

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Oregon School Employee Association Chapter 10 of Hermiston is offering two scholarships worth \$500 each to help those planning to continue their education through an

accredited college or university.

One of the scholarships will be awarded to a classified employee of the Hermiston School District who is an OSEA member in good standing. The other is being offered to a graduating high school senior residing within the United States who is related to a current OSEA Chapter 10 member.

Scholarship applications are available at the Hermiston High School counselor's office or by contacting Michelle Kane, Chapter 10's scholarship chair. Completed applications and accompanying materials need to be turned in at Desert View Elementary School by April 20 at 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Kane at [michelle.kane@hermiston.org](mailto:michelle.kane@hermiston.org).

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Stop by the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., April 15, 1:30-4:30 p.m., make a craft, participate in an Easter puzzle hunt and collect a goody bag. This event is for kids from preschool to fifth grade. Items are available while supplies last.

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Are you in need of a book recommendation? Or, perhaps, you would like a new group of literate and friendly new chums. The Bookminders book club, has chosen "The Healing of Natalie Curtis," as its book of the month. The book is available at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.

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Did you miss Craft Night at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.? If so, do not fret. April 6,

the library will be doing some spring cleaning. Library staff will set out bags of crafts for you to do at home.

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In-person Story Time at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., is back. Join the storyteller every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

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Blue Mountain Community College recently announced its winter term 2021-22 honor roll, with more than 200 students who made the President's List with a GPA of 3.75 to 4.0 and more than 100 are on the Vice President's List, earning a 3.5 to 3.74 GPA. To view a list of the students, visit [www.hermistonherald.com](http://www.hermistonherald.com).

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The Harkenrider Senior Activity Center menu for Thursday, April 7, is turkey noodles, salad, green beans and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, April 12, is barbecue pork, pea salad, fruit 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.

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The Boardman Senior Center is open for dine-in lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon at 100 Tatone St. Meals are \$4 for seniors and \$5 for others. Take-out lunches are available by calling 541-481-3257.