

2 LIGHTER SIDE

THREE MINUTES WITH...



Alex Cooper
Umatilla

What are your favorite spots in your town (restaurants, parks, etc.)?
Java Junkies, Starbucks, Walmart, lately the Hermiston Athletic Club, Shiki.

What are your hobbies?
I grew up in Cleveland and follow the Browns. I coach basketball and football. I also enjoy writing.

What are your favorite movies and books?
When I taught history, I read about the topics we covered, finding excellent books in the process. I was dragged to weird independent movies as a kid; I still enjoy these, as well as science fiction films.

What is your job?
I am an employee of the InterMountain Education Service District, working as document translator and Migrant Education Program Student Success Coach.

What do you like about your work?
Translating requires a surprising level of creativity and judgment; I enjoy the challenge. As success coach, I support students and families holistically and over multiple school years. I also enjoy working on a school newspaper in Umatilla, Viking Power! I have a great boss and colleagues.

Can you tell me about your family?
Most of my family lives in Los Angeles. I am fortunate to have such a supportive mom, dad, stepmom, brother and sister that are there for me when I need them.

What are your goals?
I want to lose 10 pounds, be more effective in my job, be of better service to others and have fun. More "wish" than "goal" is seeing the Browns win the Super Bowl this year.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Irrigon piano teacher shares her passion for tickling ivories

25 YEARS AGO
JULY 29, 1997

Even at the age of 71, Lavelle Partlow could be found treating locals to some incredible piano playing. Partlow first began her musical journey at 7 years old, singing solos for the local Baptist church. By 10, she was introduced to the piano and it soon became a major part of her life.

"My mom and two sisters, Myrtle and Delpha, and I walked two-and-a-half miles to take lessons from Zepha Warner," she said.

Since 1933, Partlow and her husband, Al Partlow, had called Irrigon their home. During that time, Partlow played the piano for funerals, weddings, church services, at senior centers and more.

Along with all that performing, Partlow also gave piano lessons. They were quite unique and flexible, too, in the sense that the students were allowed to play what they enjoyed, be it popular, classical, country or whatever else. However, she still insisted they learn music theory, chords and to read music, as such skills would be crucial later on.

After nearly 70 years involved in something, one would think it would become tiresome. But Partlow is a prime example that if you find something you truly enjoy, you can do it forever while maintaining the same excitement discovered at the beginning.



Twenty-five years ago, pianist Lavelle Partlow was all smiles as she played the piano during lunch at Strokes Landing Senior Center in Irrigon.

Agency at Joliet, Illinois, for six months, and then transferred to St. Louis to complete his training. Honorably selected for the new UAD assignment, he was transferred a week ago back to his home state.

While his plans to teach history did not necessarily work out, Arthur was still able to enjoy his passion, perhaps more so, by playing a role in his country's history.

90 YEARS AGO
JULY 28, 1932

With Oregon wheat prices and sales rather low, D.H. Nelson, a prominent Pendleton farmer, advised Umatilla County wheat farmers to consider adopting an approach similar to the "Dakota Plan."

Nelson's proposal would call to organize local wheat farmers in their holding techniques, suggesting they utilize public terminals rather than consigning wheat to dealers. The drive behind this was that consigning tended to reduce prices, which does no good for the farmer or economy overall.

Farm leaders shared their optimism towards the plan, as they claimed bankers also supported it. After all, the same amount of wheat sold for 70 cents in the Pacific Northwest was selling for a dollar in the Dakotas. For all those concerned, the general consensus was the current wheat selling price would be ruinous to the entire population.

Nelson discussed his proposal before service club representatives, which turned out to be quite a success, with new committees already forming to work with farming organizations in regard to the organization movement.

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

50 YEARS AGO
JULY 27, 1972

Initially set on a career as an American history teacher, 27-year-old James C. Arthur found himself as the new chief of the data processing division at the Umatilla Army Depot.

Born and raised in Medford, Arthur attended Southern Oregon College in 1967 where he earned a bachelor's degree in social science in secondary education. After funds for a local intern teaching program ran dry, Arthur instead became a substitute teacher and vocal music instructor for the Medford Public Schools System during the 1967-68 school year.

Then, in August of 1968, he took a civil service entrance examination that altered the direction of his life. In addition to bringing contacts from federal recruiters, Arthur was also offered intern training in the data processing career field. He accepted the offer and entered military service at the Army Procurement and Supply

75 YEARS AGO
JULY 31, 1947

No stranger to the saddle, though new to the throne, Marian Andrews would lead as queen of the 1947 Umatilla County Fair court.

Andrews, 19, had lived on a cattle ranch in Buttercreek all her life. Naturally, she began riding at a very young age and had become quite skilled at the art. Soon she would have the chance to display those skills to a large audience during the Umatilla County Fair and Pendleton Round-Up parades.

Described as "tall in the saddle" and "shapely," with golden brown hair and a "winning" smile, Andrews would ride her trusty dark sorrel, "Sonny," at the head of the parades.

The accompanying members of Andrews' court, as announced by Pete Berg, the head of the Hermiston Boosters Club in charge of the selection, were Norma McCann of Milton-Freewater, Lois Brooks of Ordnance, Frances Stevens of Stanfield and Georgia Snead of Umatilla.

By The Way

Umatilla County Fair website offers discounts, more

As summer heats up, so is preparation for the **Umatilla County Fair**. People are invited to get into the spirit of "Moo-ving Forward Together!" during the **Aug. 10-13** event.

To save a few bucks, purchase carnival wristbands in advance. The presale, said Fair Manager **Angie McNalley**, features \$7 off each one-day unlimited rides wristband.

Don't dally, the discount ends at noon on **Aug. 9** via www.umatilacountyfair.net or the fair office at **Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center**, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston.

In addition, parking passes, fair admission and concert tickets can be purchased online. Also to really be stylin' check out the special UCF swag — hats, T-shirts and hoodies can be ordered on the website.

For up-to-date fair news, search www.facebook.com/umatilla-countyfair. For questions, call **541-567-6121**.

For a melon-sized smile, don't forget that the **Irrigon Watermelon Festival** is **Saturday, July 30**. The family-friendly event features a full day of fun at **Irrigon Marina Park**. There is no admission charge.

And adults are invited to the **Watermelon Festival After Party**. Live music with the **Cory Peterson Band** and the **Wade Aylett Band** is featured during a parking lot beer garden at **Rustic Truck Bar and**

Grill, 100 W. Highway 730, Irrigon. Pre-sale tickets are \$15 or pay \$20 at the gate. For more information, call **541-922-4374** or search www.facebook.com/TheRusticTruck.

Several local communities are offering **Movies in the Park**. The free events feature a family-friendly movie with the flicks starting around dusk. Upcoming events include:

- Thursday, July 28:** "Encanto" at Bard Park, Stanfield.
 - Friday, July 29:** "Beethoven" at Butte Park, Hermiston.
 - Tuesday, Aug. 2:** "The Wizard of Oz" at the Irrigon Event Plaza.
 - Friday, Aug. 5:** "Uncharted" at Umatilla Marina Park.
- People are encouraged to grab some snacks, and bring a blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy a relaxed summer evening.

Free vintage comic books! Now that we have your attention, start making plans to attend the second annual **Library Comic Con**.

After last summer's inaugural comic convention, organizers are gearing up for an even bigger and better event. Comic enthusiasts of all ages are invited to attend **Aug. 6**, 2-4 p.m. at the **Pendleton Public Library**, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. Admission is free. Activities include a costume contest, a green screen photo

booth, crafts and a one-shot roleplaying game. In addition, there will be vendor booths — so bring some cash for a chance to pick up some awesome comics or cool swag.

For more information, visit www.pendleton.or.us/library. To inquire about vendor space, call **Heather Cully**, library assistant, at **541-966-0380**.

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, July 28**, is reuben sandwich, coleslaw, Jello, chips and dessert. The menu for **Tuesday, Aug. 2**, is chicken salad, garlic bread, 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.

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**.

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