

## COMMUNITY

**BURNS:**

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**MEETING PRESIDENTS**

Burns' contributions to the region got him noticed by not only state officials, who invited him to represent Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler and Grant counties during a special session for the Oregon State Legislature in 1971, but he also became familiar to United States presidents, as well.

Burns' son, Paul Burns, said his father was known as the "go to" person if U.S. presidents were looking for someone to drum up the support and votes of constituents in the region. Through the years, Joe Burns met presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

"He was quite the guy," Paul Burns said. "He was really something."

Paul Burns said that when Reagan was inaugurated, his father was personally invited to the ceremony. On another occasion, he met and shook hands with Reagan at a lunch in Washington, D.C.

He said his father was also part of a contingent of people who picked up either Nixon or Ford from the airport in a limou-

sine when they arrived in Pendleton for an event at Happy Canyon.

"Dad was getting into the limousine when the president said, 'Joe, you sit here by me,'" Paul Burns said. "He got to sit next to the president and talk with him about things that were happening in the region. He was tickled to death about that."

**GROWING HERMISTON**

Former City Manager Tom Harper, who is now 92, recalls that when he first came to Hermiston in the early 1960s, it was obvious Burns was the go-to person for a lot of things in town. Harper worked with Burns on a variety of projects that involved the city and the growth of Hermiston.

"When I first came here, there were hardly any streets paved here," he said. "At that time, in 1961, the population of Hermiston was around 4,000. He helped develop the community so people wanted to live here."

Other friends and colleagues also mentioned Burns' drive to make the community a better place. Hermiston attorney and former City Councilman George Anderson, who is also a member of the Hermiston Development Corporation, said

he came to know Burns through Rotary and then through various other committees and organizations.

Anderson said, if it wasn't for Burns, Hermiston would be a very different place in which to live.

"He was involved in all sorts of things," he said.

Anderson said while Burns served as the Hermiston Development Corporation president for 29 years, he and the other members were instrumental in getting the Marlette Mobile Home Manufacturing Company to come to Hermiston, which was a "big boom" to the area. He and his core group of peers, including Harper and various others, were also a crucial part in getting Walmart to come to Hermiston, which was the company's first store in the Pacific Northwest. The store was then followed years later by the distribution center, which currently supports more than 800 jobs for the region.

Anderson said that as far back as the early 1980s Burns and his fellow group of leaders were also working to move the fairgrounds to a then 75-acre parcel of property near the Hermiston Airport. That concept has become a reality with the Eastern Oregon

Trade and Event Center currently under construction, he said.

"He had that vision more than 30 years ago," Anderson said.

Anderson said Burns' passion for doing great things was contagious, and it has also inspired him to get involved.

"I've known one great man in my time, and it is Joe Burns," he said.

**OTHER RECOGNITION**

Burns was also recognized by the community through the years.

In 1962, Burns was named Education Man of the Year by the Education Association of Hermiston. In 1986, he was honored with the title of Volunteer of the Year for the state of Oregon. Then later, he was named Hermiston Man of the Year in 1988.

**CONTINUING LEGACY**

Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann said Burns' efforts, even to this day, continue to have an impact on the local community and his own leadership in the city.

"I consider Joe one of the fathers of this community," Drotzmann said. "Some of us civic leaders have continued to support the growth of

this community. Without his leadership, I'm not sure where Hermiston would be today."

Drotzmann said Burns was a very engaging, outgoing person who always had a smile on his face and would always shake people's hands and ask how they were doing.

"He will be a tough one to replace," he said. "He is the reason why Hermiston has continued to be as successful as they are."

Drotzmann said city staff is currently drafting a proclamation to honor Burns at the suggestion of Councilman Manuel Gutierrez. During Monday night's council meeting, Gutierrez also suggested staff should honor Burns by asking the governor's office if the city could fly the flag at half staff.

"The council is all very supportive of that," Drotzmann said.

A recitation of the rosary for Burns will take place at 7 p.m. tonight at the Burns Mortuary chapel in Hermiston.

A mass of Christian burial will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church in Hermiston. A burial with military honors will then follow at the Hermiston Cemetery.

To sign the condolence book, people can visit [burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

**CHARTER:**

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which Pet Rescue is already in the process of doing. He also encourages the shelter to better utilize volunteers and to increase its level of online advertising.

Smith said, besides encouraging certain actions, the only other option the city has is to solicit bids for a new contract.

Although the council made no final decisions, members discussed the issue at length and offered suggestions for moving forward.

Councilman Manuel Gutierrez recommended city officials have a conversation with the nonprofit shelter's board of directors.

Councilman John Kirwan said a big part of the problem is the great number of stray animals in the city, which needed to be addressed.

Councilwoman Clara Beas-Fitzgerald said the city's stray animal problem would "take a community effort," but the city could begin by outlining clear expectations for the shelter.

Drotzmann said any additional requirements in the contract to address some of the issues would inevitably cost the city more money, which would cause reductions in other city programs.

Several more community members complained about the treatment of the animals and people who came into the shelter, and Pet Rescue Executive Director Beau Putnam said he was tired of being slandered and encouraged the council to make an immediate decision rather than draw out the process.

Drotzmann told Putnam the public process takes time, especially when it concerns the expenditure of public funds, and it is important for the council to consider concerns voiced by community members. He encouraged Putnam and Pet Rescue to be involved in the process as the city diligently tries to come up with solutions to its animal control problems.

**FCCLA:**

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and depression, as well as higher grade point averages and self esteem. Studies also show that conversation is "a more potent vocabulary-booster than reading," and eating meals as a family also lowers the rates of obesity and eating disorders in children and adolescents.

Unlike many of her peers, Alanis said she and her family sit down for a meal togeth-

er every night. She said she can tell she and her family share a connection and bond many others don't.

"We make dinner every night," she said. "It might be something small, but we always have dinner together. Monday through Saturday, it is usually just the family that lives in our house, but on Sundays, my brother's girlfriend may come or other family members."

Alanis said her family has made an emphasis of sitting down together and, as a re-

sult, have great communication with other another.

"I really enjoy it," she said.

Junior FCCLA member Hannah Reese said while she and her family sit down for meals at least a few times a week, sometimes that is hard because everyone follows different schedules. Because of the FCCLA project, however, she said she and her peers would make a conscious effort to have meals with their families and encourage oth-

ers to do so, as well.

Cobb said the group's efforts to promote eating meals with families doesn't stop with the lunch this week. She said in her foods classes, students read articles on the importance of eating meals with their families. Then, at the end of the semester, students will cook a meal for their families.

Their lunch this week, she said, was part of National FCCLA week. The HHS organization will be conducting a number of

activities all week to promote FCCLA, as well as raise awareness about human and child development issues. At Friday's basketball game, the group will auction off a quilt made by HHS lead custodian Dezi Matthews. The quilt is made of recycled HHS T-shirts, and tickets will be sold until the drawing at the game. For more information about how to purchase tickets, contact Cobb at [susie.cobb@hermiston.k12.or.us](mailto:susie.cobb@hermiston.k12.or.us).

**AGREEMENT:**

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for conflict," he said. "The City Council will vote on the land purchase at their next scheduled meeting and then intends to explore zoning of the newly acquired parcels and the creation of a buffer between any industrial or commercial development and the residential land and golf course to the west of those lots. This will answer concerns that have been expressed by adjacent property owners in the past."

Franel said the officials on both sides of the disagreement should be commended for working together to find a solution to the dispute.

"Their strong leadership has resulted in not just a healthy relationship between the parties, but also a real hope for the future of economic development in the area," he said. "The city's purchase of land in the port area is tangible evidence of the restored relationship between the city and the port."

Port General Manager Kim Puzey said he hopes the agreement will be a positive step moving forward.

"We've been working for a long time on (the agreement), and it's something that everybody finds amenable," he said.

The dispute originated when the port's application for a \$1.5 million grant-funded industrial warehouse was denied by

the Umatilla Planning Commission last spring. Although city maps indicated the site was in an industrial zone, city officials claimed an error during the map's creation years ago led to an inadvertent change from residential to industrial without following the proper procedure. The port appealed the decision to the City Council and subsequently the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals after the council upheld the denial.

With the agreement, the port would withdraw its LUBA appeal, but Puzey said he was unsure, at this point, what the fate of the grant-funded warehouse would be.

"As soon as we have culminated the agreement, I can then see if we still have those funds available. We've been monitoring this, and as far as I know, we do," he said.

Umatilla City Manager Bob Ward said, if the agreement is approved by the City Council, it is unlikely the warehouse would be allowed at the originally planned site, but the Planning Commission will eventually begin the public process to determine what the property should be zoned. He said, because of other current projects, he hoped that process could begin within the next year.

"I think it's a good deal," Ward said of the agreement. "We now have the opportunity to work with all of the affected property owners — the port, the adjoining

property owners and the residents of Umatilla — in determining how we want to see those lots on Bud Draper Road developed in the future. I think it's a great opportunity, and I'm glad we're going to avoid having this settled for us by LUBA."

Ward said he believes the City Council will approve

the agreement, and he is pleased with the progress.

"We've been working on this either against each other or with each other for a year, so I'm glad that we've got a settlement here," he said. "Being property owners in the port, we are now partners with the port. I think that is really going to enhance both the city's

economic development program as well as working in cooperation with the port on other economic development programs."

Ward said the \$176,000 would be paid in four annual payments of \$44,000 beginning July 1, and the city also plans to buy the lot north of the Aramark building from Hammer

Properties for an additional \$44,000. He said the only lot on the west side of Bud Draper Road that the city would not own is the one containing Aramark, which was not annexed into the city with the others.

The City Council discussion of the agreement begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Umatilla City Hall.

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