

Airport predictions yet to come true

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

As the city of Hermiston prepares to begin a \$3.3 million capital improvement project at the Hermiston Municipal Airport, a look back at the Hermiston Herald archives shows that the project continues a long history of city efforts to boost economic development through improvements to the airport.

The Sept. 4, 1975 edition of the Herald included a package of stories on the newly-created airport master plan. A front-page story titled "Runway lengthening recommended" said the new 20-year master plan, completed by consultant Stevens, Thompson & Runyon Inc., called for adding new hangars and lengthening the airport runway from 2,600 feet to 4,800 feet to accommodate growth.

"During the next 20 years, Hermiston Airport will grow from a small general aviation facility with less than 20,000 annual operations to a large general aviation field with operations approaching 50,000 a year," the report concluded.

Hindsight is 20/20, of course, but the report is a good reminder that predictions by consultants hired with taxpayer money sometimes fall short. Forty years down the road from the 50,000-a-year prediction, Hermiston Municipal airport sees about 30,000 operations a year.

The city was able to finance some of the recommendations made in the 20-year master plan, however. Pavement and lighting upgrades were incorporated, more hangars were added and today the

runway is 4,500 feet long. One of the bigger sources of traffic for today's longer runway are the larger corporate planes the airport was unable to accommodate in 1975.

From the 1975 article:

The 112-page master plan points out that a major goal for the airport is to "expand and improve aviation facilities to attract and accommodate business and aviation growth."

"In this connection, community leaders have been striving to develop a broad economic base of clean industries. To attract such industries to this area a safe, efficient airport with adequate length must be offered. Runway length can be the determining factor in the choice of a rural location."

Although Hermiston is the fastest growing city in Eastern Oregon and is the center of an expanding agricultural area drawing national attention, its airport has only grown slightly since the first plane used its airstrip on Jan. 9, 1946.

Noting the then "present rundown, deteriorated appearance of the terminal area structures, the inability to accommodate all the aircraft presently desiring to utilize the facility because of obstructions and a structurally deteriorated runway of insufficient length, the existence of gravel parking and apron facilities resulting in damaged propellers, local industrial growth resulting in increased business aviation demand (corporate type jet aircraft) and desirability of maintaining continuity in facility improvement and compatibility with land use and other development plans" STR recommended adoption of a three phase development program costing about

\$1.3 million.

The city would pick up about \$627,110 of the tab with the Federal Aviation Agency picking up the balance. If the state agrees to participate, the city's cost would be one-half of the \$627,110.

Hermiston History will be a regular feature in the Hermiston Herald. If you have something to share about the history of the

greater Hermiston area, send your submission to editor@hermistonherald.com with "Hermiston History" in the subject line. If you have a question about the area's history you would like the Herald staff to look into, you can send your questions to the same email address with "Hermiston History question" in the subject line.



HISTORY

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Hermiston, Oregon
541-289-4774

Echo Community Church
21 N Bonanza Street
Echo, OR
Phone: (541) 376-8108
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Worship.....10:45 am
Children's Church.....11:15 am
Potluck & Communion ~
First Sunday of the Month

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Saturdays
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Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
Allan Payne, Pastor
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The Full Gospel Home Church
235 SW 3rd
Phone 567-7678
Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker
Sunday: Sunday School.....10:00 am
Worship.....11:00 am
Evening Service.....7:00 pm
Wednesday Service.....7:00 pm
"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
1 Pet. 5:7

First United Methodist Church Of Hermiston
Rev. Dr. James T. Pierce, Pastor
Open Hearts, Open minds, Open doors
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Sunday Worship at 11am
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No Sunday School
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Fr. Dan Ledard, Priest. PH: 567-6672

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DAILY MASS: Monday-Friday
.....English 7:00 am
THURSDAY.....Spanish 6:00 pm
SATURDAY.....English 5:00 pm
.....Spanish 7:00 pm
SUNDAY.....English 9:00 am
.....Bilingual 11:00 am
.....Spanish 1:00 pm
OFFICE.....567-5812

Grace Baptist Church
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Nursery provided for all services
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Worship - 10:45 AM
6:00 pm
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM
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Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study...6:00pm
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To share your worship times
call Amanda Jacobs
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why aren't gas prices falling in Hermiston?

Why are the gas prices in Hermiston so high when they are dropping everywhere else? Is this price gouging by the distributor

and why is this not being looked into by the City Council or are they getting kickbacks to ignore what's going on? The price of gas at Pilot (truck stop) is 20 cents cheaper than Hermiston. This is ridiculous!

GARY ALLEN
HERMISTON

Letters Policy

The Hermiston Herald welcomes original letters for publication on public issues and public policies. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. Phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be mailed to the Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main, Hermiston, OR, 97838; or emailed to editor@hermistonherald.com

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

2	3	7	4	8	5	1	9	6
5	6	4	1	2	9	7	3	8
1	8	9	3	7	6	4	2	5
4	7	1	8	5	3	9	6	2
3	9	2	6	1	7	8	5	4
8	5	6	2	9	4	3	1	7
9	4	5	7	3	2	6	8	1
6	1	3	5	4	8	2	7	9
7	2	8	9	6	1	5	4	3



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO HOMES?

HINT: IT HAS TO DO WITH SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY.

Though two homes may look alike, energy-efficiency upgrades can make a big difference in terms of maximizing comfort and reducing energy use and cost.

Energy Trust of Oregon can help you find a trade ally contractor and provide cash incentives that help offset the cost of qualifying energy improvements. With upgrades to your water heater, appliances and lighting, you could save up to 20 percent on your home energy costs while not having to scale back on comfort.

Start getting more from your energy today. Visit www.energytrust.org/homes or call us at 1.866.368.7878.

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