HERMISTON HISTORY

Work to widen Main Street sidewalks began 25 years ago

25 Years Ago

MARCH 17, 1992

• The Hermiston Irrigation District is working on a plan that will negate a Bureau of Reclamation ban on allowing water to be sent outside of the district. Bill Porfily, district manager, said land owners outside of the district would be sent petitions to be added into the district. After land owners return the petitions, and if no one objects, the signers would be considered part of the district. "We're going to cover our ends with those we are currently sending water to," Porfily said. "We hope to have this done by June...." The plan to enlarge the size of the district comes after the bureau announced last month that Hermiston could not send water outside of the district after this year. Currently, 700 acres outside of the district receive water. "It's not right," said John Keys, bureau regional director. "Some of those lands don't have water rights. (They're having) a regional impact on the Umatilla Basin Project." Keys said water that goes outside of the district is not coming back in, something that the bureau and several other groups object to. Keys said full enforcement of the boundaries would be delayed until next year. He said the bureau is willing to consider changes to the boundary once the basin project is underway. "If they have surface rights, they're pretty safe," Keys said. He also said if land owners don't get into the district, they'll "have to use wells if they have them, or get water elsewhere."

• Union Pacific Railroad is spending nearly $2 million in the local area to provide a smoother ride for trains coming into Hinkle from the east. Over the next few months Union Pacific will spend $1.8 million on track improvements from Hinkle to Mission, said Mark Davis, director of Union Pacific public relations. "The improvements include the removal and replacement of 21,000 cross-ties, the replacement of material in 61 road crossings, the spreading of 33,100 tons of rock ballast and the surfacing and lining of over 32 miles of track," Davis said. More that 20 pieces of equipment and hundreds of men will be used in the work force.

• A Main Street improvement project has begun with a loud bang on the downtown street. Workers from Blue Mountain Paving Co. began digging up the street and prepared to remove sidewalks. In what has been described as a "war zone,' the project promises to make downtown look better than ever. It calls for sidewalks to be widened, brick inlaid for crosswalks and more than 60 trees to be put in to line the sidewalks. The general consensus up and down Main Street is that things are generally too noisy and messy. "We hope they get done soon," said Vel Ysaguirre, from Ohngren's Office Products. The project will continue until at least the first part of June, and some improvements may take longer. Many people said it was too early to tell if business would be hurt by the construction work. As one person from The Village put it. " Mondays are usually a slow day anyway. We'll know more later in the week." City Engineer Pat Napolitano has advised business owners to recommend their customers use rear entrances as much as possible.

HERALD ARCHIVES

Workers began tearing up the asphalt along Main Street 25 years ago and prepared sidewalks for removal and replacement The project lasted several months, widened the sidewalks and included planter boxes for trees in the wider sidewalks, which are still in place today.

50 Years Ago

MARCH 16, 1967

• The Boardman City Council approved the extending water and sewage service to the First Addition west of Boardman. A representative from the Sullivan Sanitary Service was present to discuss his proposal for a franchise to collect the garbage here. Mayor Dewey West stated that anyone else that is interested in a garbage franchise proposal should present his proposal at the next meeting of the council April 4, at City Hall.

• The third time is the charm, they say, but it might not be for one fellow, because the police are getting on to his method of operation. Police Chief James Pollard relates that a guy went into Stewart's Market, took off his old shoes, tried on a new pair of cowboy boots, put his old shoes in the new shoe box, and walked off in the new boots.

That happened Monday, March 13, and it was the third time it happened. The principal clue is that the police have is that the fellow wears a size 8-1/4 size boot.

• Umatilla's newly organized athletic club held a meeting and have given themselves a name. The Viking Booster Club. Twelve people were present for the lunch meeting. Election of officers was held. Elected were: Dwayne Huddleston, president. Charles Hale, vice president; Ursal Hiatt, secretary/treausrer. In other business the decision was made on meeting dates of the club. They will be held each week on Mondays. They will be luncheon meetings at 11:30 a.m. in one of the city's cafes each week. The location will be announced at the end of each meeting.

75 Years Ago

MARCH 19, 1942

• The Umatilla County Selective Service board announced Wednesday that Blanchard Joseph Celler (441) of Hermiston was the first number drawn in the Tuesday lottery affecting anyone in Umatilla County, Other Hermiston men listed in the first 30 in Umatilla County are as follows: Jerry Dolling (1103), LaVerne Stanfield Burrell (968), Edwin Clyde Hal (1218), Walter N. Jackson (1291), Logan C. Todd (1638) and Joseph William Rice (131).

• The Hermiston Laundry & Dry Cleaners is now a member of the Laundry and Dry Cleaners Workers Union, according to Alvin Elkins, owner. Arrangements were completed recently while Mr. and Mrs. Elkins were on a business trip to Portland. According to Mr. Elkins his concern is now one of the very few union shops in Eastern Oregon and the only one in this region.

100 Years Ago

MARCH 17, 1917

• The American steamship Algonquin has been sunk without warning by a German submarine. The crew was saved. J.G. Stephens, American consul at Plymouth, has first reported that the Algonquin had been torpedoed, but in a later report he said the captain of the Algonquin had stated that his ship was sunk by shell fire without warning. The Algonquin was sunk at 6 o'clock on the morning of March 12. The submarine refused assistance, according to the report of the consul at Plymouth. Twenty-seven men have been landed. According to later advices from Plymouth, the German submarine opened fire upon the Algonquin from a distance of 4,000 yards, firing about 20 shells. These were not sufficient to sink the steamer, so she boarded by men from the submarine, who placed bombs, and the Algonquin was then blown up. The crew was given plenty of time to leave the vessel. The Algonquin, a freighter, was one of the first American vessels to sail from the United States after Germany announced her submarine campaign of unrestricted warfare. There were 10 Americans, including the captain, on the Algonquin, the owners announced. She carried about 2,000 tons of cargo and commanded by Captain A. Nordberg, a naturalized American of Norwegian birth.

• E.E. Graham and son, W.B. Graham, of Puyallup, Washington, came Saturday last to make their home here, Mr. Graham having purchased land from J.W. Craik. Mr. Graham and son will put up a temporary house at once and then Mrs. Graham will join them. The other children will not come until school is out. As son as the building is up, work on the farm will start as Mr. Graham is anxious to get the land into alfalfa as quickly as possible.

Compiled by Shannon Paxton

THREE MINUTES WITH ...

JORDAN BEMROSE-RUST

Choir teacher

1. When and why did you move to Hermiston?
I moved to Eastern Oregon for my first teaching job in Ione in 2010. My husband, daughter and I moved to Hermiston this past December.

2. What's your favorite place to eat?
Lawan's Thai Garden. Yum!

3. What is your favorite activity in your free time?
Spending time with my daughter.

4. What's the last book you read?
The Hunger Games series.

5. What app or website do you use most often, other than Facebook?
My Starbucks app.

6. What surprises you about Hermiston?
How supportive and hardworking this community is!

7. If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
I have traveled all over the world performing music. Next on my list would be Japan.

8. Describe the funniest thing that's ever happened to you.
When I was in high school, I was talking to a very cute boy while walking and ran full speed and full force into a giant pillar in the cafeteria. So embarrassing.

9. Name one of your goals for the next 12 months.
Get completely unpacked and organized from moving.

10. What is your proudest accomplishment?
Being able to spread my love of music to my students.

BECAUSE THIS CARD CAN PROVIDE FREE IN-HOME CARE

If you have this valuable card issued by the U.S. Department of Labor you may qualify for free in-home care now or in the future.

Professional Case Management Offers:

- ***Customized care*** *– From occasional visits to 24/7 care*
- ***Ease and convenience*** *– Vitals monitoring and medication management in the comfort of your home*
- ***Increased quality of life*** *– Spend time with your family instead of depending on them for care*
- ***Peace of mind*** *– Expert, skilled care helps decrease medication errors, infections and hospital visits*

Contact Us Today for a FREE Eligibility Review.

*Specializing in **FREE** in-home care for former **HANFORD** workers*

PCM

Professional Case Management

Helping Nuclear Workers Live at Home

541.728.0706

procasemanagement.com

PCM-088-1612

PASCO GUN SHOW
TRAC EXPO HALL
Guns, Antiques, Flea Mkt
Mar. 25-26
Sat. 9-5 • Sun. 9-3
LIKE US!
facebook.com/scishows
www.SCIShows.com
(406) 633-9333