

HERMISTON HISTORY

Wal-Mart celebrates its grand opening 25 years ago

By SHANNON (REED) PAXTON
Hermiston Herald

25 YEARS AGO

JUNE 16, 1992

Local dignitaries are expected to be on hand for the grand opening celebration of Wal-Mart's 73,000 square-foot store, Tuesday, June 30. "We appreciate the warm welcome we have received from the community and are eager to begin serving Hermiston residents," said Phil Konty, Wal-Mart store manager.

Hermiston has received the go-ahead for the construction of a new state office building on property west of the Hermiston airport, commonly known as Village Port.

In a letter to the city last week, the Department of General Services approved the new building saying it would provide the best value for the dollars expended. "Whoopie! This is a great day for the City," said Mayor Frank Harkenrider. The new building will house all of the state agencies located in the Hermiston area, including Employment, Children's Services and Senior and Disabled Services.

The manager of Irrigon's irrigation district was cited by the Oregon State Police on charges of tampering with fish screen at the district's pump on the Umatilla River.

Jerry Franke, operations manager of West Extension Irrigation district in Irrigon, was cited for unlawfully tampering with fish screening devices at an irrigation pump.

Hermiston Spuds opened its season last Wednesday at the new American Legion Baseball field on Diagonal Rd., by splitting a double header with visiting West Valley of Sunnyside. Spuds 1-7 and West Valley 2-4.

50 YEARS AGO

JUNE 15, 1967

Hermiston city police received a report from Betty Thompson on Thursday, June 8, that on the previous night, someone had shot a hole through a window of her home.

Police who investigated found a B-B hole in the left hand corner of the window, but no other sign of damage.

Engine man Third Class David S. Corey, USN, son of Mr Norman V. Corey of Umatilla and Commissary man Seaman Michael R. Snyder, USN, Son of Mr. & Mrs. Sam I.



HERALD ARCHIVES

Hermiston High School graduates blow bubbles during an outdoor commencement ceremony in 1992. The ceremony was the last outdoor ceremony before moving into a gymnasium that was under construction at the time.



Chuy Rome and Tia Conklin walk into the Hermiston stadium during the 1992 graduation ceremony.

Snyder of Irrigon, returned to San Diego, Calif., aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga, after an eight month deployment to the Gulf of Tonkin.

Detachment 12 of the 2705th Air-munitions Wing from Hill Force Base, Utah, has been assigned to Umatilla Army Depot, it was announced by Col. Herman Hoplin, Depot Commander. They will be responsible for stock management of conventional air-munitions and components which are part of the Depot's mission inventory. Assignment of the detachment to the Army post was accomplished in order to bring about closer liaison between elements of the two services in the handling of ordnance for the Air Force. Col. Hoplin stated. The same arrangement recently has been effected at other Army depots.

75 YEARS AGO

JUNE 18, 1942

Prevention rather than cure will be the biggest factor in cutting down Oregon's farm and fire loss, says Art King, extension specialist at Oregon State

"Brick" Esselstyn, secretary. Other mayors present were Frank Sloan of Stanfield and Jeff Stevens of Umatilla.

Formal announcement of President Roosevelt's scrap rubber collection campaign sent Americans searching their attics and basements the first of the week for rubber "to build the planes to bomb Tokyo and Berlin."

The rubber salvage campaign began at 12:01 am Monday and continues through June 30. It was ordered by the president to find out how much scrap there is in the country. Whether there is enough to postpone nationwide gasoline rationing as a rubber conservation measure.

100 YEARS AGO June 16, 1917

What part can the "kiddies," the tender, big hearted little boys and girls do to help win the war? This is one of the questions that has been interesting the leaders in the great Red Cross drive for \$400,000. They believe they have arrived at a solution of it and will attempt to arouse the enthusiasm of the youngsters to a pitch as keen as that of the grownups who are waging the battle for the dollars. The plan is to enlist the assistance of the parents and urge them to instill at this time the patriotic need of exercising self-sacrifice and self-restraint in the smaller things that eat up the pennies and nickels that the "kiddies" spend for "eats" and goodies of all kinds.

The local railroad yards are a center of activity these days and will continue such until well into the winter. Just now everything is hay. The railroad company is doing its best to supply cars as fast as needed and is doing very well. No sooner had the last crop of 1916 hay gone out than shipments of the 1917 crop started. In fact, the two crops filled in so well that the next day after the last car of old hay was taken the car of new was started. Just now shipments of hay alone in car lots amount to four cars per day.

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THREE MINUTES WITH ...

TOM HUXOLL
Owner, Cascade Auto Repair

When and why did you move to Hermiston?
I moved here because my family was living here, in 1980. I'd been here off and on growing up.

What is your favorite place to eat?
I like them all — there's one place, Ixtapa, that we go to a lot. I like their food.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
When I get spare time, I like fishing and golfing — recreational stuff.

What surprises you about Hermiston?
I think the fact that people are from all over the place. Growing up, being an army brat, everyone you met was from everywhere. It's similar to that.

What was the last book you read?
I don't really read books, but I like to read articles. The topic doesn't matter, if I don't know about it, I like to read about it.

What app or website do you use most other than Facebook?
I don't use Facebook, actually. I like pro basketball, so probably NBA.com, I like to know what's going on. I follow the Blazers.

What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?
When a bunch of us guys got together and decided to do a charitable fundraiser. We decided to dress up like hula dancers with grass skirts, up on a stage. It was quite comical, and we did raise quite a bit of money.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
I like Europe. I've been there a few times. If I had time, I'd go there and see some different places. I've been mostly to Germany, lived there.

What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?
To see my grandson. He lives in Nebraska. He'll be a year old this month.

What is your proudest accomplishment?
My family, without a doubt. My wife and kids — great things.

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Honor Flight NETWORK

ATTENTION World War II Veterans & Families

Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon invites WWII Vets to travel at no cost to visit their National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

Veterans who served in the Military between Dec. 7, 1941 and Dec. 31, 1946, have not visited the WWII Memorial, and live in Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains are eligible to travel.

The flight will be Sept. 6-10, 2017. We take able Veterans and those who need and use mobility assistance. Medical personnel travel with the group the entire trip. Each veteran is accompanied by a guardian, and we encourage a family member to be the guardian. The guardian cost for the trip is \$1,250.00 which includes airfare, lodging, meals and transportation within D.C.

Veteran and Guardian applications forms can be downloaded at
<http://honorflightofeasternoregon.org/>

Contact Yvonne Drury: 541.390.4231, email: ydrury47@gmail.com *Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon is a nonprofit 501(c)3*