

## HERMISTON HISTORY

# Hermiston overbuilt after 1970s

By SHANNON PAXTON  
OF THE HERMISTON HERALD

## 25 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 29, 1992

Chasing the American Dream of owning your own home is harder these days — by one measure, twice as hard as just two years ago. That one measure is the number of homes on the market. With fewer than half the number of properties listed for sale in the Hermiston area MLS Multiple Listing Service than two years ago, home buyers are facing not just a shorter supply, but rising prices as well. According to Charlotte Dack of ERA Universal Realty, housing prices have been “very depressed over the past several years.” Dack believes the area — Hermiston, Stanfield, Umatilla and even Irrigon and Boardman — has been overbuilt since the growth spurt of the 1970s. That over supply of housing forced prices down for a number of years and recovery is just now taking place.

Memorizing 42 pages of complex drill movements and 10 minutes of music is the common chore of Hermiston High School’s 141 marching band members. “For the younger kids they have to learn harder music than ever before — it has to be memorized, and they have to perform it while remembering the drill” said the band director. “It’s a hard thing to do when judges are watching you.” Marching band members started practice two weeks before school started, with a series of special camps for different sections. There was a week of percussion camp, with Allen Kowen from the University of Oregon, a week of color guard camp and lots of music rehearsal. Students first saw the 42-page drill, written by nationally known drill instructor Ron Maier, during camp.

## 50 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 28, 1967

Hermiston Airport, two miles south of town on the Hermiston-Stanfield Highway and about one-half mile from the highway sign pointing into it, is just small enough that the average passer-by might not notice it unless he happened to see a plane taking off or landing. There are about 30 local operations a day and almost half that many transient planes moving in and out daily. In approximately an hour that a Herald writer was at the airport, three planes landed and took off. And that was just an ordinary day. During Friday and Saturday of Round-up, several out-of-state lanes landed. Wrex Langdon is manager of Hermiston Municipal Airport, owned by the city of Hermiston. He is assisted by his wife, who helps in such things as radio contact calls for advisory information. The three planes mentioned, which



HERALD ARCHIVE

Marching band members performed before an excited home crowd at a game against the Crook County Cowboys. The marching band’s 140-plus members began practice two weeks before school started and have additional practices two nights a week. They were scheduled to join 25 other bands in competition at the Cavalcade of Bands in Pasco.

landed while we were there, each called before arriving for an advisory check and there were some other calls for weather and wing checks from planes in the air.

Hermiston School District 8R residents Monday voted 373 in favor and 335 against contracting a bonded indebtedness of \$1,385,140 for improvements and additions to each of the five schools in the local system. Two ballots were voided, and the total number of ballots cast was 710. Tuesday evening the board of directors met to canvass the ballots and discussed with attorney Rustin Brewer about the sale of the bonds and legal documents to be prepared. It was decided to advertise for sale of the bonds on October 5 and 12 and open the bids on October 23.

## 75 YEARS AGO OCTOBER 1, 1942

Playing their opening game last Friday on their home field, the Hermiston High Bulldogs drubbed the potentially strong Kennewick team, 20 to 6. The local boys scored in every quarter but the first, and managed to count up a safety in the second. The first quarter started off with a bang. The Bulldogs electing to receive, returned a 30-yard kick for 12 yards, and then ran off two first downs before the Kennewick boys could call a time out and rally their defense. The Hermiston fans’ hopes ran high until two plays later when Kennewick took the ball and began a drive which ended in a touchdown. In exactly 9 plays aided by a 15-yard roughness penalty against the locals the mammoth black shirted boys put the ball over on a 12 yard pass into the end zone. The battle then saw sawed back and forth with the ball ending in Hermiston’s hands on her own 40 at quarter time. Score 6 points for Kennewick.

The Hermiston Blacksmith shop, owned by LF Beaver, has been named as official salvage depot for this area, according to Gene Lear, district chairman. Mr. Beaver will buy all scrap steel and cast as

it is brought in and pay for the material in accordance with minimum prices established by the War Production Board. Surveys indicate that there is still a large amount of scrap metal on farms and around homes in this area. It is hoped by the county salvage committee that all this scrap may be brought in during the next two weeks. It is badly needed in the war industry plants. In order to meet the scrap quota for Umatilla County it will be necessary to average 200 pounds of the metal per person. Scrap steel should be separated from scrap cast if 100 pounds or over of each metal is brought in, according to Mr. Lear. The Hermiston Rotary club will sponsor the drive for scrap metals in the city and will announce in the near future a date when a truck will pick up the material about town.

## 100 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 29, 1917

A record kept of the people who have come to this area the past two weeks shows that over one half were here for the purpose of looking at the lands con-

tained herein over with a view to purchasing a farm. These people would no doubt locate at once were it not for the fact that they left their eastern and southern homes with the avowed intention of thoroughly looking over the qualities of the different farming sections in the Pacific Coast states before making any definite selection. Therefore, it is safe to predict that in view of the many people coming here who are home seekers, a large majority of them will eventually settle in this fertile valley. The balance of those of whom a record was kept came to visit relatives and friends, and went away with the feeling that should chance present they would dispose of their possessions elsewhere and come to this county to reside.

Probably the quickest and most thorough piece of work ever done here in the way of clearing, leveling and fluming raw land is that being accomplished by WH Skinner, who on August 28 last began the huge task of preparing and seeding to rye and alfalfa the big tract of land northwest of Hermiston a short distance recently purchased by a party of Tillamook dairymen. How well he has progressed with the undertaking thus far can only be appreciated by a trip to the land, and even when there one can hardly believe that the ground could be transformed from a sagebrush area into a cultivated tract in so short a space of time. But with experience derived from other like conquests and a goodly amount of energy, Mr. Skinner has directed the work of putting in cultivation the vast tract of land in such an able manner that owners will never have cause for complaint, the system of irrigation mapped out being far in the lead of any we have seen thus far on the projects.

## THREE MINUTES WITH ...



## ALEXIS MANSANAREZ

Sports reporter,  
Hermiston Herald and East Oregonian

**When and why did you move to Hermiston?**  
*I moved to Hermiston about a month ago after taking a sports reporter position at the East Oregonian.*

**What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?**  
*I have to say my apartment kitchen. I enjoy cooking very much (and it’s a lot cheaper than eating out).*

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
*Depending on the weather, I enjoy being outside and exploring and on rainy days, I’ll find something to binge watch on Netflix.*

**What surprises you about Hermiston?**  
*I was surprised at just how nice everyone was, and still is. I’m coming from Seattle where people rarely smiled back at you on the street.*

**What was the last book you read, and would you recommend it?**  
*I couldn’t tell you the last book I fully read, but I also enjoy a great sports feature. The most recent that stood out to me was one by Mina Kimes of ESPN on Aaron Rodgers. I highly recommend giving it a read.*

**What app or website do you use most often other than Facebook?**  
*Twitter. Definitely Twitter.*

**If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?**  
*Spain. I have always wanted to visit.*

**What is the funniest thing that’s ever happened to you?**  
*I have had way too many embarrassing moments that I have blocked out of my memory.*



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**Hermiston Herald**  
VOLUME 111 • NUMBER 39



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The Hermiston Herald (USPS 242220, ISSN 8750-4782) is published weekly at Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838, (541) 567-6457.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Delivered by carrier and mail Wednesdays  
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