

# GOOD OL' DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN



A car passes through the cones re-routing traffic near city hall.

STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

**D**owntown Hermiston is a mess right now — there's no denying it.

The maze of traffic cones that has spilled over onto Main Street and Gladys Avenue is enough to turn a less daring driver away. Combined with the unrelated senior center construction site on Ridgeway Avenue marked by a foreboding "Closed to Thru Traffic" sign and it might seem you're not welcome downtown.



**Daniel Wattenburger**  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

It's nothing personal. And if you're willing to brave the labyrinth you'll find city services and businesses are more or less running as usual.

But that's the cost of change. The city has undertaken two major projects in the immediate area around city hall that have the potential to transform the area.

It's the correct priority for the city. For all the added jobs and residents and new homes, the town's core hasn't seen the kind of attention it deserves. There are some great cornerstone businesses downtown, but other storefronts have been revolving doors, unable to attract enough foot traffic to stay viable.

Any town can expect some

*For all the added jobs and residents and new homes, the town's core hasn't seen the kind of attention it deserves ... a walkable, shop-able, diverse Main Street would be a huge asset to Hermiston."*

churn, but a walkable, shop-able, diverse Main Street would be a huge asset to Hermiston.

A festival street and a senior center — which will be opened for broader public use in five years — are good ways to increase that foot traffic. A healthy revival of the Union Club on the corner of Main and Second Street is another way.

The city's long-term decisions in regards to city hall and the recently rebranded community center just a few blocks to the north will also factor in, as will development along the nearby train tracks. As city leaders plot and entrepreneurs plan, it's not hard to imagine a corridor stretching along Second Street from Highway 395 to the

Harkenrider Center and library.

Highway 395 is an unfortunate barrier in the long term, creating a disconnect between assets like McKenzie Park and Hermiston High School and Main Street, but that's a problem for another day.

It takes a town like Hermiston to make a 35-year-old feel like an old-timer. Out with my 6-year-old daughter at Lawan's Thai Garden, I was reminiscing about the old Armand Larive Middle School, the site of many of the athletic activities of my youth, now marked only by an archway. Out the other window of the restaurant is the new Holiday Inn Express, new enough that she vaguely remembers watching its construction. We talked about the old pool at the high school and the new one by the Butte.

I also told her that when I was growing up here, there was no Thai food in town (at least that I was aware of).

She was as shocked by that as anything, as living in a city with no Thai food is unthinkable to her palate.

Of course she thinks I'm an old-timer. But I'm glad she's getting a front row seat to a growing town in the same way I did.

*Daniel Wattenburger is a contributing editor to the Hermiston Herald.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Hermiston's water is the best

In our travels throughout many countries, we have found the City of Hermiston's drinking water to be the very best. We all should appreciate this very important need. Thank you. So "bottoms up."

LAURA AND MIEL CASPER  
HERMISTON

### Habitats are being destroyed

How much is enough? Regarding the newly-cleared area upstream from Riverfront Park and under the West Highland bridge: there was plenty of room, near the bridge, for entering the small area that used to belong to Oregon Fish & Wildlife, for parking, and for a new path to extend under the bridge west into the downstream park areas; even already in place, a put-in/take-out area for rafters. Who decided to slash and burn the entire area upstream to the boundary? Such a small area that could have been left wild!

Public parks need the wild areas too. Clearing and burning that small upstream area changed it forever. You destroyed a red fox den with kits due soon. You cleared out and burned a number of California quail shelters, burned and cleared grazing areas for herds of mule deer and white-tails. You destroyed nesting sites along the banks that dozens of mergansers and wood ducks used for longer than any of us can remember. I know, because the neighbors along Quick Road have watched all that activity and protected it from human encroachment for at least 80 years! Just how much is enough?

JANET BOYD  
HERMISTON

### Thank you Umatilla County

What a humbling experience the past two decades have been for my family and myself. As my participation on the Umatilla County Fair Board came to an end, the ability to say thank you to the whole of Umatilla County is lost in the magnitude of emotions. Development of unmatched success recognized throughout the state and region, the Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo are living and evolving monuments to the generosity of community and heart.

Sponsors in every corner of the county have stepped up and delivered not only finances, but time and material with pride. Donors have come through annually and never hesitate to find a way to fulfill last minute requests.

Volunteers. Volunteers from throughout Umatilla County contribute and produce the Umatilla County Fair from January 1 through December 31, from setting up pens to picking up trash, from mowing lawns to setting up the stage, from organizing RVs, from hauling straw/chips to cleaning tables, from arranging entertainment to coordinating with the Farm-City Pro Rodeo. UCF is one of the largest five-day fairs in the Pacific NW. It is not a professionally produced event, it is managed by the Umatilla County Fair Board with administrative support of the Umatilla County Commissioners (liaison, Larry Givens) and staff. This is a unique and extremely successful relationship that allows the Umatilla County Fair Board to offer a product to our community above the expectations of communities of much larger populations and financially stronger. It is the volunteers.

What a humbling experience. Thank you to the Umatilla County community, Umatilla County Fair Board and the Umatilla County Commissioners for letting my family and myself participate.

DAN DORRAN  
HERMISTON

**LETTERS POLICY:** Letters to the Editor is a forum for the Hermiston Herald readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters should be kept to 300 words.

**SHOP ONLINE 24/7 FORDCOUNTRY.COM**

*Tom Denchel's* **FORDCOUNTRY.COM**

**YOUR LOCAL TRUCK HEADQUARTERS**

<p><b>NEW 2017 FORD FUSION SE</b> EcoBoost, Auto, SE Tech/ SYNC<sup>3</sup>, Pwr Moonroof</p> <p><b>SAVE \$7,768 off MSRP</b></p> <p>MSRP.....\$27,560 Combined Factory Rebate.....-\$5,000 Fordcountry.com Discount.....-\$2,768</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$19,792*</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">STK# H7802</p>	<p><b>NEW 2017 FORD ESCAPE S</b> Auto, Air, Cruise, Tilt, PL, PW, Rear View Camera, Keyless Entry</p> <p><b>SAVE \$5,301 off MSRP</b></p> <p>MSRP.....\$24,845 Combined Factory Rebate.....-\$3,000 Fordcountry.com Discount.....-\$2,301</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$19,544*</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">STK# H8048</p>	<p><b>NEW 2017 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XLT 4X4</b> V8, NAV, Sport Appearance Pkg, Rearview Camera, Remote Start</p> <p><b>SAVE \$11,926 off MSRP</b></p> <p>MSRP.....\$52,200 Combined Factory Rebate.....-\$4,750 Fordcountry.com Discount.....-\$5,826</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$41,624*</b></p> <p>Ford Credit Cash.....-\$1,250***</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$40,374*</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">STK# H7963</p>
--	--	---

**OVER 600 NEW AND USED VEHICLES**

<p><b>2008 CHEVY SILVERADO</b> After Market Wheels &amp; Tires</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$6,999</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H5828P</p>	<p><b>2009 GMC YUKON AWD</b> Leather, 3rd Seat</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$7,999</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H5780PA</p>	<p><b>2005 FORD EXPEDITION 4X4</b> Leather, 3rd Seat</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$7,999</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H8076C</p>	<p><b>2015 DODGE DART SE</b> 4 Cyl, Auto, 27k Miles</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$11,824</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H5807PA</p>
<p><b>2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GT</b> 4 Cyl, Auto, 25k Miles</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$13,499</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H5817P</p>	<p><b>2005 FORD RANGER</b> Ext. Cab, 68k Miles</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$14,924</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">HC3186</p>	<p><b>2013 HYUNDAI TUSCON</b> 55k Miles</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$14,888</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H5383PC</p>	<p><b>2007 JEEP WRANGLER 4X4</b> Hard Top, V6, Manual</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$15,944</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H7962B</p>
<p><b>2000 FORD EXCURSION 4X4</b> 3rd Seat, Fully Equipped!</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$15,944</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H7840C</p>	<p><b>2005 GMC SIERRA HD 4X4</b> 6.0L V-8</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$15,999</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H5560PC</p>	<p><b>2008 FORD F550 4X4</b> Diesel, Auto, Flatbed</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$16,924</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H6004TA</p>	<p><b>2017 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER AWD</b> 16k Miles</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red;"><b>\$17,492</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">H5826P</p>

**(541) 701-3476** Mon.-Sat. 8am-7pm | Sun. 11am-5pm  
555 US Hwy 395, Hermiston, OR

**"WE ARE YOUR NO PROBLEM SALES & SERVICE DEALER"**

\*Only one at this price. HURRY! Rebates subject to change without notice. \*\*Requires trade of '95 or newer vehicle. \*\*\*Must finance with Ford Credit, OAC. Some rules apply, see dealer for details. All photos are for illustrative purposes only. All prices plus license, title and up to \$150 doc fee. Full VIN ID number available from dealer upon request. Offers expire 2/9/18.

# Get Your Finances In Shape!

You Don't Have To Do All The Heavy Lifting!

**Our Win-Win CD now has even more prize money to help your savings grow.\***

**Open with as little as \$25!**

**Monthly Drawings for \$200**

**Annual Drawing for \$2,500!**

**Community BANK**  
Local Money Working For Local People

\*We can not help your muscles grow, that's all you.

MONTHLY DRAWINGS: One (1) entry for every \$25 balance increase as of the last business day of each calendar month. Drawing limited to one (1) monthly winner of \$200 (funds can be deposited into CD or taken as customer wishes). (Account Opening deposit counts as 1 entry). Each \$25 increment added to the CD is another entry, limit of 8 entries (\$200) through the last business day of each calendar month. Drawing to take place within the first 5 business days after the end of each calendar month. ANNUAL DRAWING: One (1) Annual Winner of \$2,500 (funds can be deposited into CD or taken as customer wishes). To earn 1 entry, \$25 must be added to the CD in 1 month, each additional month that a deposit of at least \$25 was made, another entry is earned - limit of 12 entries for the year. (Account Opening deposit counts as 1 month). Annual Drawing to take place each December, following the last business day of the month.

\$25 Minimum deposit and balance required to obtain prize entry. Open to consumers only, exclusions apply. Limit one (1) Win-Win CD per primary Tax ID number. Must be at least 18 years of age to open. Open to residents in the following Oregon, Washington, and Idaho counties. Oregon: Walla, Union, Baker, Umatilla, Morrow, Wasco and Hood River; Washington: Walla Walla and Asotin; Idaho: Nez Perce. Account must be open at time of drawing to be eligible. Winners are responsible for the payment of all taxes on prizes. Where required by law, form 1099 will be filed with the IRS to reflect prize winnings over \$600 issued to winner for the calendar year.

Member FDIC  
www.communitybanknet.com  
800-472-4292