

**RUNNER SOUL
XC FEST DRAWS
HUNDREDS TO
SANDSTONE
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
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Hermiston Herald



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BIGGER BILL?

The Hermiston city council is considering raising water and sewer rates.

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GOING UP

Hermiston School District's enrollment numbers continued to trend upward.

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BROKEN

Riding High Ministries uses horse breaking to teach Two Rivers Correctional Institution inmates about humility.

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BY THE WAY

Airport under new management

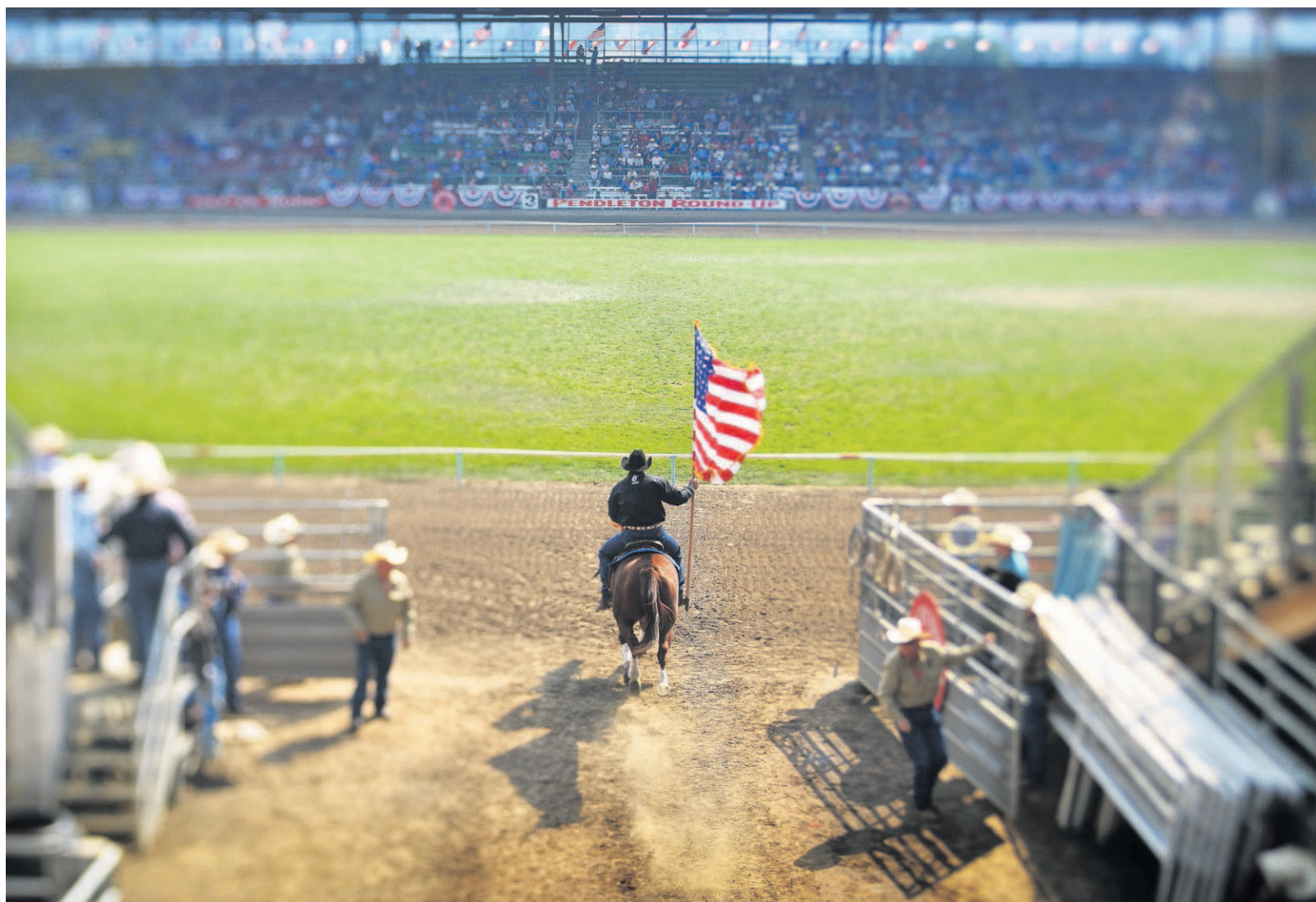
The **Hermiston Municipal Airport** is under new management.

On Monday the city council approved a contract for **Gorge Aviation Services** to become the new manager of the airport.

Assistant city manager **Mark Morgan** said **Hermiston Aviation Services** has always done an excellent job for the city but they are ready to get out of the business. Gorge Aviation was managing the airport for The Dalles (located across the river in Dallesport, Wash.) until a recent split in the company. Morgan said they were the only ones to respond to the city's request for proposals but the airport committee was excited about what they are bringing to the table. He said they have a reputation for good customer service and increasing fuel sales for airports. They recently brought their airplane repair shop to Hermiston and Morgan said that has already resulted in a

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ONE LAST RIDE



STAFF PHOTOS BY E.J. HARRIS

TOP: Will Jons of Hermiston rides into the arena carrying the U.S. flag during the opening ceremony Wednesday, Sept., 13, 2017, at the Pendleton Round-Up.

CENTER: Flag bearer Will Jons of Hermiston screams at the crowd while carrying the U.S. flag during the grand entry Friday, Sept. 16, 2016, at the Pendleton Round-Up.

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITER

Though its name carries a lot of hometown pride, the Pendleton Round-Up draws visitors and volunteers from towns near and far. Hermiston resident and police officer Will Jons has been one such die-hard, bearing the American flag at the Round-Up opening ceremony for the last 25 years.

This Saturday, Jons will complete what may be the most special ride of his Round-Up career, carrying the flag in for the 100th, and last, time.

For Jons, this tradition started before he was a police officer. He was working as a cowboy, and he was a volunteer at the Round-Up. Two weeks before the rodeo, someone asked him if he could carry a flag.

"I said 'you bet, let's try it out,'" Jons said.

He hasn't missed a Grand Entry since.

One of five flag bearers that "run at the rail" each day of the rodeo, Jons rides a horse, which jumps into the Round-Up arena. Jons carries a large American flag, and rides a lap around the arena, waving the flag. At the end of the lap, he stands on the field for the National Anthem.

Jons said he decided that this year will be his last time as one of the flag bearers.

"One hundred grand entries — nobody's ever done that," he said. "My biggest fear is being the guy who stays too long."

But others seem to think he's leaving too soon.

"I seem to be the only one that thinks this is a good idea,"

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Hermiston celebrates opening of Harkenrider Center

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

The sun was shining and the mood was festive as about 200 people gathered Saturday to celebrate the opening of the Harkenrider Senior Activity Center.

"This is what Eastern Oregon life is all about," Mayor David Drotzmann said.

Behind him was the new 7,000-square-foot senior center built on Ridgeway Avenue downtown. Its features include a large gathering area, breakout rooms, offices, gas fireplace, deck, unfinished basement and a commercial kitchen stocked with \$100,000 of equipment.

The center was named after Frank Harkenrider, who served as city

councilor or mayor of Hermiston for a total of 50 years. His wife Beverly Harkenrider noted that he was excited to be there to turn over the first shovelful of dirt for the groundbreaking, but did not live to see the building to completion.

"He would be thrilled to see everyone here today," she said.

Both she and Drotzmann noted Harkenrider's deep love of Hermiston that earned him the nickname of Hermiston's biggest cheerleader. Drotzmann gave a "Go Bulldogs!" and congratulated the Hermiston High School football team for winning its game against the Richland Bombers the night before.

"He wouldn't have let me get

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STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

A few of the people involved in the project cut the ribbon at the Harkenrider Senior Activity Center.



**PENDLETON ROUND-UP
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