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Two boaters lost their lives on the Columbia River on Saturday.

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NEW COACH

Hermiston High School welcomes Maloree Moss as its new girls basketball coach.

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BY THE WAY

Anniversary concert premieres new work

Tickets are still available for the 20th anniversary reunion concert of the **Inland Northwest Musicians**.

The event features the world premiere of **"Life of Water,"** written by **Larry Nash Groupe**. The composer has an impressive musical resume in film and TV as well as the concert stage. He has four Emmy awards and also has composed music for a variety of features that have been screened at the Sundance, Berlin and Toronto film festivals.

The concert is Sunday at 4 p.m. at the **Hermiston Community Center**, 415 S. Highway 395. Although there is no admission charge, people need seat reservations and donations are appreciated.

The concert also features a number of pieces performed by the combined ensembles of the **Inland Northwest Orchestra**, **Inland Northwest Chorale** and members of the **Willow Creek Symphony**. The program includes **"Carmen Suite No. 1"** by **Georges Bizet**, **"Overture Festivo for Symphonic Orchestra"** by **D. Shostakovich** and **"Alleluia"** by **Randall Thompson**.

For more information

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THE LEGACY OF Greenwood Luster



Jackie Linton, center, poses for a photo with neighborhood children and family at Greenwood Park, which was named after Linton's grandfather.

Hermiston's smallest park gets new life

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

When Greenwood Luster helped create Hermiston's smallest park across from his home, he had no idea it would someday be renamed in his honor.

The half-acre park is tucked away on Beech Avenue, on a dead-end street behind Pizza Hut traveled almost exclusively by the neighborhood's residents. For most of its life it didn't have an official name — some called it Jaycee Park after the youth organization that helped Luster create the park, while others called it North Park or the Northside Playground.

It was well-loved by neighborhood children, but over the years fell into disrepair. By 2015 the restroom had long since stopped working and the landscaping had been reduced to nothing but bare dirt. The metal merry-go-round, slide and swing set were worn out and presented a safety hazard.

Many of the city's most involved residents didn't even know the park existed.

"I didn't even know about it until a friend said, 'North Park needs some help,' and I was like, 'Where's North Park?'" mayor David Drotzmann said.

The city reached out to neighborhood residents and put together a committee to discuss a complete redesign of the park in 2015. Last Thursday the new park was unveiled.



Jackie Linton shows off a photo of her grandfather, Greenwood Luster, who spearheaded the original park on Beech Avenue. The city renamed the park from North Park to Greenwood Park Thursday during a celebration of the park's remodel.

"This was a park that needed a little care, needed a little love and care, and I'm proud of the community for stepping up," Drotzmann said at the ribbon cutting.

The celebration was attended by various neighborhood children and descendants of

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Lamb Weston cuts ribbon on \$250 million expansion

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

More french fries than ever will come out of Hermiston after Lamb Weston cut the ribbon on a \$250 million expansion of its processing plant.

The 300,000-square-foot expansion increases the facility's capacity and adds 150 full-time jobs to what was already Hermiston's largest employer.

Chief Executive Officer Tom Werner told the audience at Thursday's celebration that the facility was a very important part of Lamb Weston's operations around the world, and represented one of many investments the company is making toward its future.

"It's an exciting time to be with

Lamb Weston," he said.

According to a news release, the company is the "leading global supplier of frozen French fries and other potato products to restaurant customers around the world." It employs more than 7,000 people at 25 manufacturing facilities in North America, China and Europe. At the Hermiston plant, 570 employees make approximately 750 million pounds of potato products per year. Other Hermiston residents commute to the company's Boardman or Tri-Cities sites.

Rick Martin, chief supply chain officer for Lamb Weston, told the *East Oregonian* that the company looked at a mix of factors, including the availability of raw product and

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Lamb Weston CEO Tom Werner, center, and other employees prepare to cut the ribbon on the company's new \$250 million expansion of its Hermiston plant.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell