



Rose Johnsongale/Contributed Photo

Veteran Cliff "Mike" McMichael, pictured seated, is presented a Quilt of Valor at an American Legion Post 37 gathering, as honor guard members David Mull, left, and Robert Daniel watch.

American Legion hosts Quilt of Valor, poppy campaign

By JADE MCDOWELL and TAMMY MALGESINI
STAFF WRITERS

Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

Poppy sales planned

American Legion Post 37 and the Auxiliary recently hosted a Quilt of Valor ceremony at its spring potluck, honoring 94-year-old Clifford J. "Mike" McMichael of Hermiston.

The Quilt of Valor is a handmade quilt presented to a veteran, considered a "civilian award" to the soldier for their bravery in service.

According to the biography put together by American Legion, McMichael was a 17-year-old farm boy in Curtis, Nebraska, when he was inspired by accounts of D-Day in newsreels and on the radio. Three months later he joined the Army and was trained as a combat engineer. He was shipped across the Atlantic to England in a troop ship and crossed the English Channel to a newly liberated France. He made his way through Europe clearing landmines until Germany's surrender.

He returned home to farming and started working at an Army depot there before eventually transferring to work at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. He has lived in Hermiston ever since and been a member of the American Legion post there for more than 70 years.

McMichael's military awards include two Bronze Stars for meritorious service, an American Theater Ribbon, a ribbon for his service in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater, a Good Conduct

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Hermiston Unit 37, are distributing poppies leading up to Memorial Day.

The bright, red, paper poppies will be available at small countertop displays throughout Hermiston and Umatilla, including Harvest Columbia Foods in Umatilla and the Hermiston Safeway store. Auxiliary members will be at those locations Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The flowers are free but donations are accepted. All money received will be used to help veterans. The purpose of the annual outreach, which was canceled last year, is to honor the fallen and support the living, said Cathy Stolz, president of Hermiston's American Legion Auxiliary Unit 37.

Stolz shared that following World War II, fields of red poppies appeared throughout France. The blood-soaked fields provided beneficial conditions for the bright red flowers to flourish. Thereafter, the poppy became associated with the sacrifices of veterans.

"We would love to see people wearing them throughout our area as we remember the sacrifices of U.S. veterans around the world," Stolz said. "Wearing a poppy is the easiest way to say thank you to veterans for their sacrifices for our freedoms."

For more information, text/call an auxiliary member at 541-571-5816.

Free walking program improves health

HERMISTON HERALD

11th St., Hermiston.

Good Shepherd Health Care System announces the Walk With Ease program.

Regardless if you need relief from arthritis pain or just want to be active, the Arthritis Foundation's six-week Walk With Ease program can teach people how to safely make physical activity part of their everyday life. The free local program kicks off Monday, June 7, from 9-10 a.m. at Good Shepherd, 610 N.W.

The program runs three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) for six weeks and features low-intensity walking. Walk With Ease reduces the pain and discomfort of arthritis, increases balance and strength, builds confidence in your ability to be physically active and improves overall health.

For more information or to pre-register, visit www.eventbrite.com. For questions, call 541-667-3509.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Umatilla Museum moves to new building



Hermiston Herald, File

High school rodeo athletes pose for a picture while Hermiston hosted the state high school rodeo finals in 1970.

25 YEARS AGO

May 28, 1996

The map Irving Bochert was looking at last week showed a very different Umatilla County. Where Stanfield is, the map calls Foster. Where Hermiston is, the map refers to as Maxwell. That's because the map is from 1893.

Another map, from somewhere around the 1920s and '30s, puts Umatilla County's population at 3,084. Both of these are at the Umatilla Museum. But the Umatilla Museum is housed someplace new.

The museum is now located at 911 Sixth Street. This site once served as the city hall and jail for Umatilla and later served as the jail and a meeting facility for the city council.

2) It's time to hit the bricks for renovations. The city of Echo is in the final stages of raising the \$360,000 necessary to prepare the 80-year-old building to function as a community center and expanded library.

Currently, the building at 20 S. Bonanza St. houses the city hall and a library, but for the building's size, both facilities are small. The library takes up one room downstairs.

50 YEARS AGO

May 27, 1971

Refusal of some property owners on Oregon Highway 32 to sign easements for the City of Hermiston to improve the highway is leading to the first ever condemnation suit to be filed by the city.

It was revealed at a special city council meeting May 20 that A.F. Rohrman, owner of Rohrman Motor Co. on the highway, and a leader to the opposition to the improvement of the highway, is refusing to sign.

2) Four West End high schools held commencement exercises last weekend, graduation a total of 271 students. Stanfield, with 25 graduating seniors, will hold commencement exercises Friday, May 28 at 8 p.m. in the high school gym.

Hermiston Senior High held commencement ceremonies Sunday evening in the football stadium, with near-perfect weather prevailing for the event. A crowd watched diplomas awarded to 200 seniors.

75 YEARS AGO

May 30, 1946

Diesel engine units used to drive General Sherman tanks across the battlefields of Europe are being rushed to Oregon for various critical power needs, according to the Portland office of War Assets administration. Each unit is composed of two



Hermiston Herald, File

Echo City Hall is pictured in 1996, as residents worked to raise money to renovate it.



Hermiston Herald, File

Children walk along a new trail near Highland Hills Elementary School after its dedication in 1996.

engines with a combined normal rating of 260 horsepower, but, due to larger fuel jets used by the army, this has been increased by 375 horsepower. They sell for \$2,800 per unit in New York.

2) After occupying the corner of First and Main in Hermiston for more than 30 years, the frame building of the Hermiston Hotel is being moved this week to the rear of the lots to face First Street. Mrs. Walter Smith, owner, states that a two-story fire-proof building is to occupy the front of the lots from the corner to the Moore and Ripley Drug Store as soon as removal of the old building is completed.

100 YEARS AGO

May 27, 1921

The largest eighth grade class in

the history of the school successfully passed the state examinations at the close of this year. Under the instructions of A.E. Bensel, thirty out of thirty-three were granted diplomas which makes full fledged high schoolers of them and they are anxiously awaiting the ringing of the bell next fall when they can take their places in the assembly room with the other students.

The young people of the outgoing eighth grade planned one more happy day together, picnicking on the banks of the river Friday afternoon. They met at the school house in the morning and enjoyed a regular picnic dinner at noon. The afternoon was happily spent swimming, playing games and just frolicking like ordinary kids once more before taking up the dignified title of "freshman."

BY THE WAY

Memorial Day services planned for May 31

The Avenue of Flags is returning to the Hermiston Cemetery for Memorial Day weekend. The display, featuring hundreds of flags, will be erected Friday and remain through Memorial Day — Monday, May 31. The cemetery is open from daylight to dusk.

In addition, a Memorial Day ceremony is planned Monday at 10 a.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery. The program includes American Legion Post 37, the Oregon National Guard and music provided by the Hermiston High School band and choral groups.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to bring a lawn chair, as seating is not provided. In addition, COVID-19 guidelines are suggested.

Hermiston School District is providing a free summer program to enrolled students in grades kindergarten through fourth grade this summer.

The program will take place June 21 to July 31 (except July 5), Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m.

to 7 p.m.

According to an announcement from the school district, the academic portion of the day will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. with math, literacy and science activities, plus field trips and swimming lessons.

Afterward students will have the option of participating in sports, attending the Champions daycare or going home for the day. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided free on site and transportation to and from the program is also available.

Registration is May 24-28. Visit the Hermiston School District Facebook page or hermiston.k12.or.us to register.

People are invited for an evening of casual card play, try out new decks, trade cards and meet new friends during **Magic: The Gathering**.

The event is Saturday, June 5, from 7-10 p.m. at **Infinity Watch Collectibles**, 1300 Sixth St., Umatilla.

There is no entry fee. The event also will feature a movie, and free snacks and drinks. All ages are welcome.

For more information, contact 541-571-6693 or visit www.facebook.com/InfinityWatchCollects.

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for Thursday, May 27, is baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables and dessert. The menu for Friday, June 1, is hamburgers, macaroni salad, baked beans and dessert.

For a **Meals on Wheels** delivery in Hermiston, call 541-567-3582 before 10 a.m. to place an order.

To pick up a meal from the center at 255 N.E. Second St., call the same number before 11 a.m. Meals are \$4 and can be picked up between 11:30 a.m. and noon.

The **Boardman Senior Center** is now providing meal delivery. Meals are \$4 paid upon delivery. Call 541-481-3257 to order.