

Hermiston HERALD OPINION & READER'S FORUM

Founded in 1906

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022

A4

OUR VIEW

Herald archives to be saved before more issues are lost

Soon, the University of Oregon Libraries' Oregon Digital Newspaper Program will begin digitizing past issues of the Hermiston Herald. This project will preserve the bulk of our archives, which have not already been put into digital format, and will make them more accessible to the public.

For years, the Hermiston Herald has saved its newspapers and has bound them in tomes that have been stored in our building. The oldest of these thick, heavy books dates back to 1917, more than 10 years after our first issue on Sept. 29, 1906.

The Jan. 6, 1917, issue tells a variety of stories. We learn of issues related to business, agriculture and more. Each of these stories involves the newsmakers of the time, from high-profile governmental leaders to average people.

Our bound collections end in 2014. Around a century after the first



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald
A bound collection of 2014 Hermiston Herald newspaper sits on a table Thursday, March 24, 2022. It is saved with other newspapers, dating back more than a century. A new project will digitize as many of the papers as can be found.

collection, the 2014 papers continue the tradition of covering many different types of subjects, involving local people. The difference, of course, the faces and names in these more recent papers are more familiar to us.

The smiling face of Ed Brookshier, Hermiston city manager, appears in the July 2, 2014, issue. Also, there

are photos of grandmothers, Girl Scouts, fireworks, sports and an accident in which a vehicle ran into a building. Accompanying stories tell us what happened in each photo.

Herald stories, whether they occurred more than a hundred years ago or today, document the history of our region. We cover the people of Hermiston, Umatilla, Boardman, Stanfield, Irrigon and Echo not just for readers today; we are writing for people in the future.

Every week, McKenzie Rose writes Hermiston History, a section of the paper that summarizes our papers from the past. Her work has been entertaining and educational. Learning our past, as we read Hermiston History, gives us context for things happening now. Reading about the creations of McNary Dam and Two Rivers Correctional Institution, for example, helps us better understand them today.

Unfortunately, we have lost many of our papers. Readers of Hermiston History may have noticed that we switched from reporting on events from 100 years ago to now retelling the stories from 90 years ago. This is because we are missing newspapers from 1922. As mentioned, we also are lacking papers from our first decade. There are others that are not in our archives, too.

We hope to track down those lost papers, but it is possible that they simply do not exist anymore — in which case, part of our history has vanished forever.

The creation of a digitized archive will help prevent further losses. It also should bring the paper and your history to you. This cannot happen soon enough, and we are grateful to Mark Rose, library director, and everyone else who will make this digitization happen.

We will help in any way we can.

COLUMN

Technology is great, when it works



TAMMY MALGESINI
INSIDE MY SHOES

Technology baffles me. It's not that I really even want to understand it. I just want it to work right.

In the late fall of 2021, my work computer began having problems. I started receiving warnings that random websites that I often visit for work were unsafe. Initially thinking the problem was the website, I contacted several local agencies to let them know they might

want to investigate.

Hopefully, they didn't waste too much time trying to figure out what the problem was. Because as time went on, I came to realize it was my computer and not their website.

I grew up in an analog world — during a time before everyone had cell phones. I learned to type on a manual typewriter. Yeah, yeah, I'm old. My point is, sure technology makes things easier but back in the day when my typewriter didn't work, I merely had to change the ribbon.

However, in this day and age, I have to sufficiently explain what I'm experiencing, so the tech guy can figure out what the problem is (and hopefully fix it) — just saying

my computer isn't working right isn't enough. I learned that taking/sending screenshots that show the problem can be helpful.

Well, after my computer limped along for a couple of months, I finally got a new one. Audra Workman, our office manager, took the time to work with our tech guy to set things up for me.

And it was working great — the key is "was." I think the computer lulled me into a false sense of security and then decided to attack — time to mess with Tammy.

Audra seems to know when I'm having computer problems. I guess it's not that hard to figure out. She says I have a certain "ringtone."

"%@#*\$! I don't know what to do #\$(%#5E& I don't even know why I try %\$#@&."

And then magically, Audra is there with a calm voice of reason asking what's going on. I think she figures that I'm one computer glitch away from going off the deep end. And either she's there to rescue me or take what she wants from my desk area.

Rather than the computer "messing with me" Audra believes the problems started when my second monitor was attached. Well, that finally got fixed with a new cord.

All was going well with my work computer. Next, my personal laptop decided to develop a glitch.

My solution was to rip the battery out of it (Audra wasn't at my house to save the day) and then reboot. Luckily, that worked. And then, a couple of hours later, my cellphone wouldn't let me respond to a text message. Again, I did a reboot and that solved the problem.

I wish all of life's problems were that simple — merely go to sleep and when you wake up, everything is fine.

Tammy Malgesini, the Hermiston Herald community writer, enjoys spending time with her husband and two German shepherds, as well as entertaining herself with random musings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why we left Idaho for Oregon

There are several reasons we left Idaho. Both my husband and I grew up in north Idaho and as children, it was idyllic.

Once we became adults and parents, we realized that Idaho was not for us. With a sales tax on everything and an income tax, we were left with budget issues. The schools were substandard and the roads were impossible once you were off the interstate. Part of Highway 200 in Bonner County actually has cliffs that ice over and the ice hangs over the westbound lane. Once it starts to melt, there are huge ice chunks to dodge and several people have died by going into the Clark Fork River.

The rallying cry during our lives in Idaho was, "let's break away from Idaho and form a new state with eastern Washington and western Montana." It was apparent the Legislature in Boise often forgot there was a northern Idaho, or central-western Idaho or eastern Idaho as the new laws pertained to the Boise-metro area and other southern Idaho counties.

If anyone wishes to become Idaho citizens by seceding from Oregon, we suggest they talk to rural Idahoans and listen to their concerns about being in Idaho. I doubt if anything would be different from what is here except you would have to pay a sales tax on all you purchase and your roads would disintegrate even further.

As for the schools, well, we pulled our children out and moved to Montana before finding our way to Oregon.

Ed and Melissa Dunn
Irrigon

Get to know Oregon's Republican candidates

Attention Oregon citizens it's time to get involved with Oregon's Gubernatorial election May 17, 2022.

The Republican candidates running for Oregon governor are the following declared candidates, and I would encourage you to meet these candidates when they visit your county or town. You can get their information online and send them an email with your questions or concerns.

Bridget Barton, political consultant for Third Century Solutions; Raymond Baldwin; Court Boice; Tim McCloud; Bob Tiernan; David Burch; Reed Christensen, former electrical engineer; Christine Drazan, former minority leader of the Oregon House of Representatives (2019-21) and state representative from the 39th District (2019-22); John L. Fosdick III, customer service representative, Army veteran; Jessica Gomez, member of the Business Oregon Commission and Oregon Institute of Technology Board of Trustees; Nick Hess, chief executive officer and entrepreneur; Kerry McQuisten, mayor of Baker City; Brandon Merritt, business development manager; Bud Pierce, oncologist and nominee for governor in 2016; John Presco, president of Royal Rosamond Press; Stan Pulliam, mayor of Sandy; Amber Richardson, chiropractor; Bill Sizemore, general contractor, tax-reduction advocate and nominee for governor in 1998; Stefan Galen Streck (Stregoi), painter and graphic design artist; Marc Thielman, Alsea School District superintendent.

Kathy Wilson
Pendleton

Not all rural Oregonians want to be Idahoans

I'd like to tell everyone to go outside and sing a song. I recommend "What a Wonderful World." Oregon has a thriving economy. The only ones who experience real hardship here are the poorest. Some have been victims of neglect all their lives. Polluted water, air and soil are harmful to development. Financial struggles are accompanied by lower school attendance. Behavior problems often become aggravated and cumulative.

Investing in healthy families isn't just a softhearted liberal policy. Even the most conservative capitalists must be waking up and saying to themselves: Oh my, I guess we should have put money into a clean environment, good schools and economic support for struggling parents. Then their kids could have grown up to be smart, trustworthy workers capable of learning new technologies. (And getting along well with others.)

Oregon is not perfect but is certainly capable of turning these concepts into reality.

Those who are unhappy with our state should go live in Idaho for a few months. Just try it out before you push your separatist ideology.

The media is in grave danger of presenting a distorted picture of rural Oregonians. They are failing to cover anyone here who believes in keeping Oregon whole.

Mary Cooke
Cove

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CORRECTIONS

It is the policy of the Hermiston Herald to correct errors as soon as they are discovered. Incorrect information will be corrected on Page A2. Errors committed on the Opinion page will be corrected on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories. Please contact the editor at editor@hermistonherald.com or call 541-278-2673 with issues about this policy or to report errors.

SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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 250 words. No personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person. The Hermiston Herald reserves the right to edit letters for

length and for content. Letters must be original and signed by the writer or writers. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Writers should include a telephone number so they can be reached for questions. Only the letter writer's name and city of residence will be published.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Hermiston Herald publishes paid obituaries; death notices and information about services are published at no charge. Obituaries can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at hermistonherald.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@hermistonherald.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at the Hermiston Herald or East Oregonian offices. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 800-522-0255, x2211.