

Perris News

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Heritage High School honors longtime Perris Valley supporter

Last year, the Heritage High School Patriots football team played its games on a field that lacked one crucial element: stadium bleachers.

While that made a cozy setting for parents who brought lawn chairs to the games, the view wasn't the best.

All that's changed at the Perris Union High School District campus which supporters call a gem for the entire Perris Valley.

Heritage High School dedicates its completed stadium during its halftime show Oct. 3. The dedication of Marion Ashley Stadium honors the Riverside County supervisor who was born and raised in the area and remains one of the community's biggest backers. Ashley worked with the county's Redevelopment Agency to obtain \$2.3 million to build the stadium and put in the grandstands and lights.

"This is quite a surprise," Ashley said of the upcoming dedication. "You can't help but feel good. It's an unbelievable feeling."

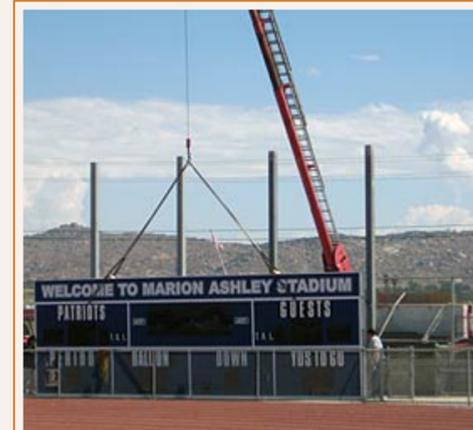
Ashley grew up in the Romoland community when there was no high school. He's a 1953 graduate of Perris High School whose family has farmed potatoes, onions and grain for 70 years.

The stadium at 26000 Briggs Road in the Romoland area took 14 months to go from grading to bleacher completion. Ashley Stadium boasts a complete artificial turf field with an all-weather composite track for track and field competition and soccer matches. The facility can hold 4,500 people and has the lighting power to accommodate live television and web broadcasts of football games.

The stadium has entrances for each team. The scoreboard and wind screening were installed in mid-September.

"This is as good as the practice facility for USC," Ashley said. "It's a state-of-the-art facility."
Robert Long, Heritage High School's athletic administrator, said county supervisors and City of Perris elected officials will attend the dedication.

"This stadium shows that both the county and the Perris Union High School District are ready to meet the challenges of the future both athletically and in the classroom," Long said.



Heritage High School in Romoland is naming its football complex in honor of Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley.

Photo by Robert Long, Heritage High School athletic coordinator.

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Close this Page

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