

**HERMISTON**

# City looking for food pod operator

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
East Oregonian



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Customers wait for their orders at Tacos Garcia food truck on Aug. 28 on West Orchard Ave. in Hermiston.**

of free real estate.” City Manager Mark Morgan said in a statement that right now the economics of operating a food pod in the Hermiston market is unknown.

“Rather than waste a lot of time, energy and resources trying to figure that out, we’re throwing it out to the private sector to see what they can do, then we’ll revisit the issue,” he said.

The food pod idea grew out of an effort by the city

council and staff to revise the city’s mobile vending rules to allow for more opportunities for people to set up a food truck or cart in the city. City planner Clint Spencer said when the city surveyed residents during the process there was “strong support” for development of a food pod.

The city also added a new category of temporary licenses and three additional licenses for food trucks that desire to operate at a location outside of the

pod. Spencer said the city has gotten one to two inquiries a week about those licenses but no one has purchased one. He said the city will not grant a license to someone unless they already have a location, a working food truck, a food handler’s license and meet other requirements.

A full copy of the city’s request for proposals on a food pod operator can be found on the public notices section of [hermiston.or.us](http://hermiston.or.us). Proposals are due Dec. 3.

# Officials urge vaccinations to stem whooping cough

East Oregonian

Local reports of pertussis, or whooping cough, prompted Umatilla County Public Health officials to urge vaccination.

County Health Director Joseph Fiumara said a few cases of whooping cough have come out of Milton-Freewater, although the department has not concluded its investigation and

the chance of a false positive remains. Even so, he said, the disease can be deadly for infants.

Dr. Jonathan Hitzman, county health officer, said in a written statement pertussis spreads easily in groups.

“It is important for those with a cough to avoid pregnant woman and children under the age of 1,” he said.

The county health

department is offering vaccination for whooping cough during a clinic on Nov. 8, 2-6 p.m. at Gib Olinger Elementary School, 1011 S. Mill St., Milton-Freewater. Fiumara said the vaccine is not perfect, but is the best way to protect the public.

“We encourage everyone who is not up-to-date on their pertussis vaccine to come, regardless of insur-

ance status, and receive a booster dose,” he said.

The county health department asked the public to bring immunization records and insurance information, if you have them, to the vaccination clinic, which also will offer flu shots.

To find out more about pertussis/whooping cough, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>.

# OHA proposes \$784 million in new alcohol, tobacco taxes

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregonians could see significant increases in alcohol and tobacco prices if a state agency succeeds in raising millions from consumers in the next two years.

The Oregon Health Authority is considering seeking \$784 million in new tax money for the 2019-21 state budget cycle.

That includes increasing taxes on beer, wine and cider by 10 percent, estimated to raise an additional \$491 million over two years.

Another \$293 million would be raised through a \$2 per pack tax on cigarettes, an excise tax on “inhalant delivery systems,” and removing the limit on taxing cigars.

The Health Authority said in its preliminary budget documents that it would use \$49 million to expand alcohol and drug treatment programs. It budgets about \$29 million for tobacco and chronic disease prevention.

Robb Cowie, a spokesman for the Oregon Health Authority, said the proposals were more of a “wish list” and are “preliminary.” He also said the agency hasn’t determined how the prevention money would

be used. “We’re still working with legislative counsel to draft language that would direct funding for the 90 percent outside public health chronic disease prevention programs,” he said.


The preliminary budget documents say the rest of the money from the proposed alcohol tax increase would generate funds for treatment services, cities, counties and the state’s general fund.

But it’s unclear, from the budget documents, how the remainder of the taxes generated by tobacco that aren’t

going to prevention would be spent.

The proposal comes as Gov. Kate Brown works on crafting a new state budget,

due to legislators on Dec. 1. The state is facing an \$830 million funding gap for the Oregon Health Plan, the state’s Medicaid program.



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# ‘Drug Takeback Day’ is Saturday

East Oregonian

Umatilla County residents can dispose of unwanted prescription medications this Saturday, as part of the Drug Enforcement Administration’s “Drug Takeback Day.”

The DEA holds several takeback events each year, but many areas in Umatilla County have permanent drop boxes where people can safely dispose of medications. At a takeback event in April, law enforcement agencies around Oregon collected more than 7 tons of medications.

Umatilla County Health Department’s prescription drug overdose prevention coordinator, Mike Stensrud, said there are two new locations for this weekend’s drug takeback. One is at the Stanfield Police Department, 105 W. Wood Ave., Stanfield, and one is at the Milton-Freewater Police Department, 722 Main St., Milton-Freewater.

“This is an excellent opportunity for residents of our smaller communi-

ties that are without a permanent prescription disposal location to dispose of their leftover or expired medications safely,” Stensrud wrote in an email to the EO. “The DEA’s intent is to prevent people from unintentionally becoming a dealer by keeping medications they no longer need.”

He said the disposal sites lower the risk of children accidentally ingesting prescriptions, or people stealing them. Proper disposal of those drugs also keeps them out of rivers, streams and landfills.

A list of permanent drop-off sites in Umatilla county below:

- Hermiston Police Department, 330 S. First St., Hermiston
- Stafford Hansell Government Center, 915 S.E. Columbia Drive, Ste. 128, Hermiston
- Pendleton Police Department, 622 Airport Road, Pendleton
- Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center, 73265 Confederated Way, Pendleton
- Carlson’s Drug, 821 Sixth St., Umatilla.

**SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS**

Submit information to: [community@eastoregonian.com](mailto:community@eastoregonian.com) or drop off to the attention of **Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston** or **Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton**. Call **541-564-4539** or **541-966-0818** with questions.

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The family of Nancy Doherty express their deep appreciation to those who have offered kindness, support, meals, flowers and messages of sympathy and comfort in our bereavement.

We especially thank the St. Judes, Milton-Freewater School District, and St. Francis Catholic Church for all their time and preparation for the funeral luncheon.

Ed Doherty and the Doherty Family