



Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

Room tax to generate substantial sum for city

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston officials anticipate people who use overnight lodging in the city will generate more than a half million dollars of tax revenue next fiscal year.

In the preliminary budget approved by the Budget Committee, \$573,335 in revenue is anticipated from the city's Transient Room Tax.

"Most cities have some kind of hotel/motel, transient room tax," City Manager Byron Smith said. "Most places try to reinvest it in places that will generate more hotel nights, so attractions, conferences, those types of things."

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said hotel, motel and RV parks impose an 8 percent tax on the cost of the lodging, and the operators retain 1 percent for collecting the fee.

The remaining money is split between different funds, he said, with 3/8 going toward paying off the bonds for the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center and 5/8 being further split between four funds.

Of the 5/8, Morgan said

SEE TAX/A6

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly sunny
High: 83° Low: 56°

OUTLOOK

- THURSDAY
Sunny
High: 90° Low: 58°
- FRIDAY
Mostly sunny
High: 95° Low: 64°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



Find the **Hermiston Herald** on Facebook and Twitter and join the conversation.

FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS

www.HermistonHerald.com

Hermiston to repaint water tower this year

New look may feature watermelon in design

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston's water tower is set to have a new image by the end of the year.

City Manager Byron Smith said \$40,000 for a new paint job is in-

cluded in Hermiston's preliminary budget, which the City Council will consider for adoption June 8.

He said the entire tower will be repainted by the end of the year, which is necessary for maintenance, and a new image will adorn the face.

"You're going to have to do that every 15 to 20 years," he said about the maintenance painting. "We're coming into the cycle where we would need to do it, so

we'll combine it with putting some new artwork on the tower."

Smith said the new art will incorporate the city brand, "Hermiston: You Can GROW Here," which was officially adopted by the council late last year after seeing a colorful implementation example featuring images of watermelons, but the exact graphic has not been determined. He said the city is working with graphic designer Brooke Harshfield, Limelight De-

sign, who created the example.

"She's going to try to get that overlaid on an image of the tower, so (the council) can visualize what it looks like," he said. "She talked about a couple other ideas that we might use and (will) just show and give the council some options of how they want to see it. Because of all the attention this has gotten, I'm going to have the council look

SEE TOWER/A6

AN AUTOMOTIVE PASSION



A.C.E. Car Show photos

For more photos of the A.C.E. Car Show in Echo Saturday, turn to page A3.

SEAN HART PHOTO

Jerry Enders admires the trophy for Best Muscle Car he won at the A.C.E. Car Show Saturday in Echo on the tailgate of his winning car, a 1962 Ford Falcon Ranchero. Although he said it was not actually a muscle car, the bed had enough 'muscle' to hold a soapbox-style cart that Enders built with a small motor with a top speed of about 40 mph.

Enders provides a look under the hood of a gearhead

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Jerry Enders, Hermiston, has a passion for automobiles.

For the last 11 years, he has owned and operated Fenders By Enders in Hermiston, but he has

been working on cars for more than 45 years.

"Cars have been with me my whole life," the 61-year-old said. "I got my first one at 13, and I have just progressed along and kept learning and kept going. I think the world of them, and I have a lot of fun with them. They represent today's world and yesterday's world, where we'd like to be and where we were — it's kind of a time machine."

His business offers typical auto repairs, but

Enders also specializes in late-model repairs, building street rods and fabricating custom pieces for cars and trucks. He said he especially enjoys working on older vehicles.

"I think it's almost a sin I have to charge people to do it, but I am in business," he said. "It's pretty nice to get paid to do what you like. They say if you really enjoy what you do, you never work a day in your life."

SEE ENDERS/A10

Hawkins shows Le Mans at first car show

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Perry Hawkins has owned his 1972 Pontiac Le Mans GT Custom for 30 years but entered it in its first car show Saturday.

At the A.C.E. Car Show in Echo, he said he was enjoying show-

ing others the automobile that has brought him so much enjoyment through the years.

"I just appreciate the old look of the '70s and the muscle car performance that's behind it," he said. "To me, that's my way of saying this

SEE HAWKINS/A10



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Cathy Michael, Highland Hills Elementary lead secretary, takes a phone call at the school Tuesday morning. Michael has worked as a secretary in the Hermiston School District for 35 years and recently received her seventh five-year rhinestone marking her achievement.

Highland Hills Elementary School secretary reaches the 35-year mark

Michael has worked in the district longer than any other employee

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

When it was time for the Hermiston School District to recognize Highland Hills Elementary School lead secretary Cathy Michael's most recent five-year anniversary by placing another rhinestone on her district

pin, officials realized they had run out of room.

Equipped to handle six rhinestones, they had to get creative when finding a place for her seventh — marking her 35th year with the district — more than any other employee.

Michael started out as a special-education secretary at Highland Hills before the regular secretary took a job at the district office, and Michael moved into her spot.

"I was here when this school first opened up," she said, adding that, at the time, the office was

in a pink trailer while the school was being completed. "So none of this was even ready to go."

Michael said she has never thought much about the number of years she has accrued in the school district. It is actually only her third job ever, she said, adding before she became a school district secretary, she worked as a telephone operator and then at U.S. Bank.

"It's been a perfect journey for me," she said.

Michael said her job as

SEE MICHAEL/A6

Hermiston Herald \$1.00



088051932942
© 2015 EO Media Group