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Local help in short supply PAGE 3

**ABOUT TOWN**

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## Holding on to a taste of yesteryear



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER COLTON

Customers Walter Liebe, from front, Milroy Meyer, Judy Meyer, Kay Sobotta, Jerry Sobotta and John Price, sample 15 cent coffee at the soda fountain at Hermiston Drug.

The height of popularity for the soda fountain was during the early 20th century with a peak in the 1940s and 1950s when patrons could socialize, drink and eat at the counter.

By **JENNIFER COLTON**  
Staff writer

For as long as locals can remember, there's been a soda fountain on Main Street in Hermiston.

Tucked away in the back of Hermiston Drug and Gifts, the old-fashioned fountain still brings food and drinks to patrons of all ages after more than a half-century. Although Hermiston Drug opened in 1927, if anyone knows exactly when the fountain first opened, they have kept the secret well.

The Eugene Register-Guard references a Hermiston soda fountain — unsure if the same location — in 1941, and in a folder of newspaper clippings in the business office is a reference of the fountain — with wood floors and a lunch counter — in 1943.

The exact date may be lost, but the popularity of the soda fountain is almost as old as Hermiston itself. The first soda fountains, the tapped machine that fuses water and carbon dioxide into soda water, came from an attempt to replicate natural mineral waters, and a Yale chemistry professor was one of the first to sell “mineral waters” through a soda fountain apparatus — in 1806. The fountains began to appear in pharmacies where patrons could sample the healthy soda water while waiting for other prescriptions or have a pharmacist mix the carbonated water with medicines and sweeteners to mask the taste of bitter drugs. Slowly, the drinks transitioned from

See **SODA, A6**



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER COLTON

Customers Judy Meyer, from left, Kay Sobotta, Jerry Sobotta and John Price sample 15 cent coffee at the soda fountain at Hermiston Drug.



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER COLTON

Irma Neilson talks with server Bobbi Picker at the soda fountain at Hermiston Drug.

### Panel presents two options

By **JADE McDOWELL**  
Staff Writer

Watermelon is returning to the Hermiston water tower.

The branding committee commissioned by the city of Hermiston and Hermiston Chamber of Commerce unveiled two possible branding concepts for the city on Tuesday, and both logos feature a slice of Hermiston's famous melon.

Residents have until the end of March to vote on the two logo designs, two font choices and between two taglines: “Where Life is Sweet” and “Where Opportunity Shines.”

The city council got a sneak peek at the committee's work on Monday night and were pleased with the results.

“I'm very happy with what you're bringing forward,” Doug Primmer said. “This is what I was hoping for.”

Doug Smith said he would be “happy as a clam” with any of the options presented, and Jackie Myers said she was impressed with the results.

The tagline that gets the most votes from the community will replace “You Can GROW Here,” which drew jokes about cultivating marijuana after it was painted on the water tower south of town. When residents were surveyed about the brand, 67 percent said they disliked the “You Can GROW Here” tagline, and 92 percent said the logo needed to include a watermelon.

In response, the city and chamber of commerce put together a 25-person committee of citizens to work with Focal Point Marketing of Kennewick, Washington, on a new set of logos, taglines and fonts to pres-

## Committee recommends \$104 million school bond

### School funding could hit 2017 ballot

By **JENNIFER COLTON**  
Staff Writer

Hermiston could place a \$104 million school bond on the ballot next year.

The Citizens Review Committee, a volunteer board of 16 community members,

presented its capital needs recommendations to the Hermiston School Board on Monday night, including two bond proposals: a “recommended” \$104 million and a “minimum” \$84 million.

According to the Hermiston School District website, the Citizens' Review Committee was charged to:

- Review the outcomes from the 2008 Bond Program

- Familiarize themselves with the analysis, findings and recommendations identified by the District's Facility Master Planning Committee

- Request additional data or support deemed necessary to inform the committees' work

- Recommend a capital planning program that meets

See **BOND, A16**

### Hermiston schools plan for growth

By **JENNIFER COLTON**  
Staff Writer

The Hermiston School Board of Education unanimously chose to plan for modest growth in the 2016-17 budget.

Monday night, the board approved the “Financial Planning Parameters” for district staff to use to build

See **GROWTH, A16**



**Little Darlings!**

This special section will be full of adorable little darlings and a special keepsake for their family for years to come.

Submit a photo of your Little Darling (Age 0 - 3) & be entered into a drawing for prizes by local sponsors!

PENDLETON ROUND-UP

Publishes April 13th  
Send a high resolution photo, a message to your child and your child's name to [classifieds@eastoregonian.com](mailto:classifieds@eastoregonian.com) by April 4th.



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