

# Elephants provide support for women in herd

I don't drink coffee, but I'm part of an informal coffee klatch that meets periodically to socialize and offer support to one another. Known as "The Herd," people might notice most of the women in our group have an affinity for elephants — sporting elephant tattoos, owning elephant jewelry or possessing elephant art or stuffed animals. The name came about when some friends and I learned about the behavior of female elephants in the wild.

As described by the World Wildlife Fund, female ele-

phants are part of a complex social structure. While adult male elephants live mostly in isolation, the females share in the rearing and protection of the youngest or most vulnerable members of the herd. They take special care in knowing each member's whereabouts when the herd is traveling or approaching danger.

We grabbed onto that and over the years it has grown. It's hard to even say how many belong to The Herd. But, I know if I called one of them, they'd show up — and probably with a

few more in tow. Shopping for gifts is pretty easy with others in The Herd — whenever a special occasion comes up, an elephant is always an appropriate present. Such was the case during a Christmas gathering with four friends back in 2010.

I found four ceramic marble elephant statues at T.J. Maxx. The one I gave Judy Hayes was purple, which turned out to be quite appropriate — about 18 months later, she was diagnosed with cancer. Purple

is the color of hope for Relay for Life.

That was the first elephant Judy had received. It, and the "Elephant Story," as she called it, became a source of strength for her as she battled cancer.

Right before starting chemotherapy, Judy got an elephant tattoo with a little red heart. A number of her family members followed suit — joining her herd.

"You will always be the loved one who taught me

about the strength of the herd. I will always love you for that," she sent in a text several years ago. "The herd continues to surround me & I am very blessed."

During the last year of her life, Judy sent two cards with similar thanks about introducing her to the "Elephant Story." She shared what it meant to her and how it spread to former co-workers at Two Rivers Correctional Institution, churches and prayer chains, as her friends and extended family shared the story across the country.

My eyes filled with tears

this past weekend as several members of The Herd met for coffee at Starbucks. As part of her final will and testament, Judy directed that the purple elephant be returned to me.

A simple gift — costing maybe \$15 — is now priceless because of what it did for my friend while she battled cancer. Rest in peace Judy Hayes.

Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, *Inside My Shoes*, includes general musings about life. Contact her at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539.



Tammy Malgesini  
INSIDE MY SHOES

## HERMISTON HISTORY

# City has changed is 'brand' before

By JENNIFER COLTON  
Staff Writer

The watermelon has been a symbol of Hermiston for decades, but it hasn't always been on the city of Hermiston's official documents.

Dating back at least to 1960, through 1997, official city documents show either a minimalist "City of Hermiston" letterhead or an image of the McNary Dam as the branding for the city.

When a logo was adopted by the city, it resembled a seal: a circle divided in four quadrants, each showing a different piece of Hermiston's economy. That logo was used until the city adopted the watermelon "splash" logo in 2000, taking advantage of the watermelon as Hermiston's symbol and adding the green and red colors to the logo.

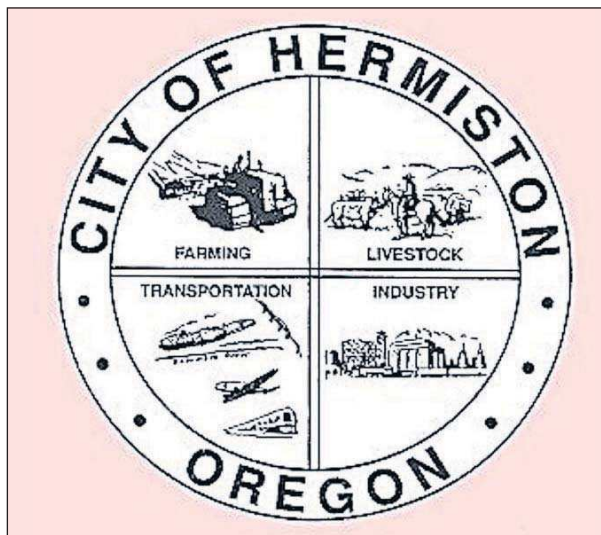
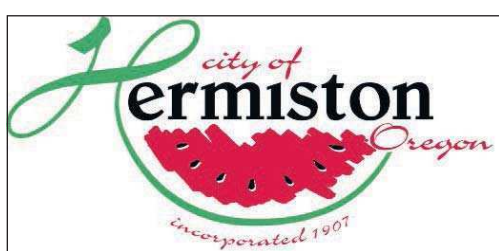
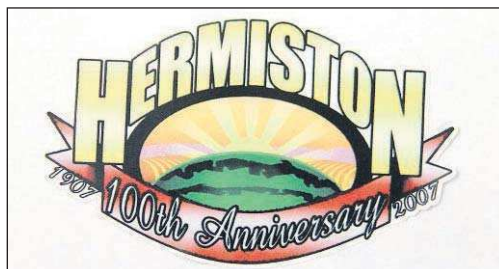
When exactly the logo was adopted is a bit of a mystery. Although the city codes — available online — track resolutions and

ordinances back to 1955, none of them mention a logo, branding or seal.

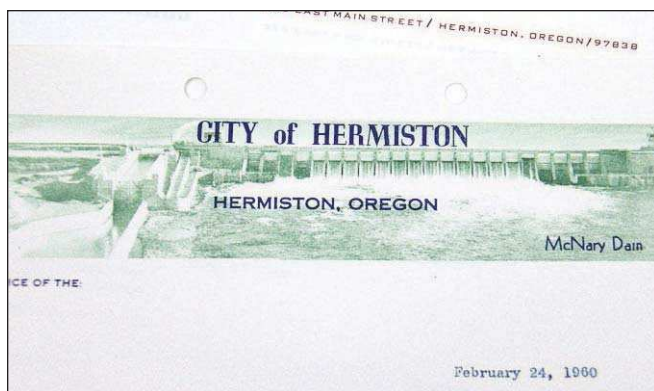
The city's current branding — You Can GROW Here — was adopted in 2013, although the splash watermelon logo is still used for many city publications.

The city is currently asking for the public's input on one of two new proposed logos as part of a rebranding process. A committee of 25 local residents, including Hermiston High School students, worked to develop the brand identity concepts before launching a community survey. The survey on was open through March 31, and an independent contractor is now working to consolidate survey replies.

Do you know more about the history of the logos for the City of Hermiston or other interesting tidbits of Hermiston's history? Let us know by emailing [jcolton@hermistonherald.com](mailto:jcolton@hermistonherald.com).



Left: "Seal" logo used by the city of Hermiston through the 1990s. Far Top Left: Hermiston's 100th Anniversary logo. Far Bottom left: Current logo for the city of Hermiston, adopted in the early 2000s.



Letterhead from 1960

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Notice of Availability of the Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility (NWSTF) Boardman Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Record of Decision

The U.S. Navy, in cooperation with the National Guard Bureau and Oregon National Guard, has announced its decision to implement its Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) to increase the types and number of certain training activities at NWSTF Boardman; develop and enhance training facilities at NWSTF Boardman; and create additional special use airspace to support existing aircraft training. The Navy made its decision after carefully considering the potential impacts training and testing activities may have on the human, natural and cultural environment and comments from the public on the proposal and environmental analysis. The Proposed Action is needed to provide a training environment at NWSTF Boardman — including ranges, training areas and instrumentation — to better support current and future unit and personnel training requirements.

The Navy's Record of Decision and Final EIS are available online at [www.NWSTFBoardmanEIS.com](http://www.NWSTFBoardmanEIS.com), and at the following public libraries: Multnomah County Central, Salem Central, West Salem, Oregon Trail Heppner, Oregon Trail Boardman and the Stafford Hansell Government Center.

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