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He said as far as he could recall, no other chiefs from Hermiston had served on the board of that group.

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The **Hermiston School District** is seeking community feedback after voters rejected a \$104 million bond measure this May.

The district will collect information from the community through an online platform called "Thought Exchange," which allows people to submit comments and opinions anonymously. District administrators and school board members will use the feedback to decide when they might put another bond measure on the ballot.

To comment, community members can go online signup.thotex.com/hermiston/Lnj and sign up, and then click on the "Share your thoughts" link. Participants will then answer a series of questions, and can add, delete, or change their answers any time after completing it, until the forum closes on June 11.

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Hermiston High School's graduation will be Saturday, June 10, at 10 a.m. at the Hermiston High School gymnasium. Audience members must have a ticket to enter the gymnasium. Overflow seat-

ing is in the auditorium and does not require a ticket. The event will also be live-streamed, and the link is at the district website, hermiston.k12.or.us.

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A large Eastern Oregon contingent was on hand in Clackamas on Sunday to attend the ceremony for **Daniel J. Hill**, who was promoted from colonel to brigadier general in Oregon National Guard. Hill's father, **Jim Hill** of Hermiston participated in the ceremony by helping to affix his new one-star rank insignia to Hill's dress uniform jacket. Hill's daughter, **Mackenzie Hill**, a junior at Hermiston High School, also participated by holding the Bible that was used when Hill took the oath of his new office (see story Page 7). Among those in attendance were several current and former staff members from the Circuit Court where Hill is judge in his civilian life. They included **Roy Blaine**, trial court administrator, **Judge Eva Temple**, **Judge Christopher Brauer**, and former judge **Jeff Wallace**.

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You can submit items for our weekly By The Way column by emailing your tips to editor@hermistonherald.com or share them on social media using the hashtag #HHBTW. Follow the Hermiston Herald on Twitter at @HermistonHerald.

Flora School Days



PAUL WAHL/EO MEDIA GROUP

Lee Carlson of Hermiston brought a team of fjord horses and a wagon to provide tours of the town of Flora during Flora School Days Saturday. Flora is 40 miles north of Enterprise on the Lewiston Highway. The day-long event showcased dozens of crafts and old-time experiences and drew visitors from across three states. It is a fundraiser for Flora School Education Center. Carlson is organizer of the CC Plowing event at Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston.

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high school. Our 12th grade class was 377 students at the last enrollment report. Next year's freshman class is 410. If you project down the road, the junior class will be at 382. And the current seventh grade class is at 447."

The 2010 census data showed that between 2000 and 2010, Hermiston saw an increase of 712 children ages 5 to 17. In 2000 there were 2,880, and by 2010 it had jumped to 3,592.

Mooney said the growth of the youth population is reflective of changes in the surrounding area.

"When the community grows, the school grows," she said.

Mooney said the increase in enrollment has had some benefits, including the po-

tential to add new programs.

"The really good aspect is that there are more opportunities for kids," she said. "The ability to offer different programs is good. I know we're looking at adding some health occupation programs. We've been able to offer a greater range of elective classes."

The district has several programs aimed at career preparation, including agriculture, food and natural resource systems; arts, information and communications; business and management; family consumer sciences and human resources; health sciences; and industrial and engineering systems.

One such class is the Columbia Basin Student Home Building Program, which allows students to construct a home that will then be sold.

She said that those additional classes are the areas in

which a larger student population allows the district to expand.

"Math requirements, language arts requirements — other schools will have those same offerings," she said. "What sets us apart is the ability to offer outside of that."

The programs can offer some incentives for students in smaller districts. Mooney said 134 students transferred into the district this year from other areas while 131 transferred out.

Mooney said there are some challenges that come with the growth, as well.

"With growth comes growing pains," she said. "In Pendleton, the pains are different, and the opportunities are different."

The biggest challenge for the district will be space. After a failed bond in May that proposed to build a new elementary school and rebuild

two others with increased capacity, the district is going to have to take another look at how to handle the still-growing student population. Right now, the solution to the growth has been to use modular classrooms, but district employees have said that will be difficult to maintain as a long-term solution.

The city of Hermiston presented data collected by Portland State University that looks at projections for the area's urban growth boundary. Although Hermiston and Pendleton were found to have similar populations within their city limits at the time of the forecast, Hermiston's urban growth boundary was projected to grow much faster. In 2000, the population within Hermiston's urban growth boundary was 15,635. In 2010 it was

19,234. The projected population for 2016 was 21,488, and for 2035, it was 28,667.

By contrast, the population within Pendleton's urban growth boundary was 17,161 in 2000, but dropped a bit by 2010, and is projected to increase just slightly, to 18,395 people, by 2035.

Hermiston Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said the reason for overall growth in the area is fairly straightforward.

"People follow the jobs," he said. "Unless it's a resort destination, people don't typically say, 'I'm going to move to Hermiston and then find a job.' It's really just general economic growth in the region."

He cited the expansion of several food processing plants and new data centers in the area in the last few years, all of which have created scores of jobs and, as a result, growth in other parts

of the community.

Morgan said another reason Hermiston might be seeing more people moving in is its proximity to the Tri-Cities.

"We are absolutely different housing markets," he said. "But with the correlation in commuting patterns, there's ways I believe we're tied to them."

He added that because most people seeking a place to live based on work are more likely to be at the age where they have school-going children, it's safe to assume that with this population increase, school enrollment will continue to climb.

"I don't see it going anywhere in the near future," he said.

Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at 541-564-4534 or jramakrishnan@hermistonherald.com

IMPORTANT BENEFIT INFORMATION FOR CURRENT AND FORMER HANFORD WORKERS

cold war patriots

RESOURCE FAIR

EXHIBITS • INFORMATION • COMMUNITY

Cold War Patriots is hosting a workers' Resource Fair which helps connect current and former Hanford workers and their families to helpful resources with health care, financial, safety and benefits information.

- ★ Free Admission
- ★ Door Prizes and Vendor Giveaways for All Attendees
- ★ Free Health Screenings: Oxygen Saturation & Blood Pressure Checks
- ★ Lunch Provided (limited quantities)

Special Presentations by:

- ★ Gail Splett-Department of Energy
- ★ Faye Vlieger-Worker Advocate
- ★ The Hanford History Project
- ★ Professional Case Management
- ★ And MORE!

Cold War Patriots is a community resource and advocacy group helping nuclear weapons and uranium workers and their families get the recognition, compensation and health care they have earned.

DATE & LOCATION

Tuesday, June 13th ★ 10 am – 2 pm
THE INDOOR PAVILLION AT SOUTHRIDGE SPORTS & EVENTS COMPLEX
2901 SOUTHRIDGE BLVD., KENNEWICK, WA

FEATURED EXHIBITORS:

- Brookdale Building Trades National Medical Screening Program
- Changing Places, LLC
- Chaplaincy Health Care
- Cold War Patriots
- Damsel in Defense
- Department of Energy
- Guardian Angel Homes
- Hanford History Project
- Hawthorne Court Retirement Community
- Help You Move
- JEA Senior Living
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- Tri-Cities Cancer Center
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