

Hermiston Herald

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BY THE WAY

Farewell, Fontaines, end of an eatery era

Longtime Hermiston restaurateurs **Chuck and Karen Fontaine** seem committed to making another attempt at retirement. The Fontaines have operated restaurants at three different locations in Hermiston for more than 40 years, dating back to the Steel Wheel nightclub which they bought in 1976.

They have attempted to retire before, after selling their Fontaine's restaurant building to **Ye Olde Pizza Shoppe** in 2006, they had planned to retire then. But they took over **Stockman's** in December 2014, leasing the building on a three-year term. They have decided to not renew their lease and try to sell the restaurant business. They say this retirement will stick. But we wouldn't be surprised to see Chuck working in someone else's kitchen from time to time.

Get your order of Seaburg Fontaine in while you can.

...
Laurie Ball-Kiser, longtime organizer of Hermiston's community Christmas and Thanksgiving meals, passed away early Monday morning at Good Shepherd Medical Center.

Ball-Kiser was the organizing force behind the holiday meals — which offered food, fellowship and volunteer opportunities to countless community members — for more than 25 years.

She was mostly absent from last year's Thanksgiving and Christmas efforts, however, after suffering a stroke in September. **Makayla Humphreys** stepped up to the plate to coordinate the events in her place, indicating that Ball-Kiser's legacy will likely live on in future community meals.

...
On June 14, the students at Rocky Heights Elementary carried on a

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SUMMER'S BIG WEEKEND



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Kids reach out to high-five drivers during the Outlaw Lawn Dragsters races during the 2016 Funfest. The popular entertainers return for this year's event July 8 in downtown Hermiston.

Hermiston's downtown extravaganza coming July 7-8

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
COMMUNITY EDITOR

With summer just around the corner, Hermiston will be sizzling with a trio of events held the weekend of July 7-8, including Hermiston Funfest, the Eastern Oregon Arts Show and the Cool Rides Car Show.

Hermiston Funfest

In its 11th year, Funfest offers a cornucopia of family-friendly activities Saturday, July 8 from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in downtown. Bring a hearty appetite and enjoy the Funfest Breakfast by the Hermiston Rotary Club from 7:30-9:30 a.m.

The festival features children's activities,

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STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Alivia Wadkins, Jake Wadkins, Ariel Wadkins, Aubrianna Wadkins and Kyle Ball enjoy Hawaiian shaved ice during the 2016 Funfest. More than 50 booths will offer food, refreshments, activities, merchandise, games and prizes during the July 8 event in downtown Hermiston.

Chamber turns down Carnegie Library space

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

The Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for a new home after officially turning down the city of Hermiston's offer to use the basement of the old Carnegie Library on Gladys Avenue.

Board chair Josh Burns said the chamber is hoping to find something more visible.

"We need adequate space that says 'We're a thriving business community,'" he said.

The chamber must move out of the Hermiston Conference Center, which it has been operating under a contract with the city, by the end of the year after the city council voted in April to turn management of the center over to its parks and recreation department. The city is planning to remodel the basement of the former Carnegie Library



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

New diagonal parking spaces replaced the parallel parking along Gladys Avenue, including the front of the Carnegie Library.

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