



INSIDE

NO TEXTING

Hermiston Police Department was awarded a grant to crack down on distracted driving. PAGE A3

SPUDFEST

Formerly known as Funfest, a family-friendly event will take over downtown on Saturday. **PAGE A5**

NEW LAWS

Legislators reflect on the 2019 session, plus 14 new laws you should know about. PAGE A8

BY THE WAY

Stanfield names parade winners

Stanfield named the winners of its **Fourth of July** parade this week. See page A13 for photos from the holiday.

Overall first place went to the **Desert Shrine Club** lead by **Jim Leitch**. Second went to **Jim Morris** and his 1955 M38A1 Military Jeep and third was **Petsense** driven by **Yazell Chavez**.

Category winners were Shirley Pettit and Tony

District to try for new bond in November

Bond would replace Rocky Heights, add elementary school

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ROCKY HEIGHTS

Staff Photo by Jessica Pollard The proposed bond would fund the replacement of Rocky Heights Elementary

Erickson (classic car), local motorcycle riders (new vehicles), Glory Riders of Oregon (horses), American Legion Post 37 (royalty), Scott Harvesting driven by Patrick Scott (farm), Stanfield FFA (youth/fraternal), Patriot Auto Glass (business) and Hermiston Warming Station with Teesie Hill and Sandy Francis (miscellaneous).

The pie-baking contest winners were Jennifer Baros (first place adult), Kylee Ranson (second place adult), Bethany Woodall (third place adult), Taylor Carnine (first place junior), Katelyn Smith (second place junior), Will Smith (third place junior) and Jory Carnine (fourth place junior).



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By JESSICA POLLARD STAFF WRITER

he Board of Education unanimously approved a recommendation during Monday night's school board meeting to put an \$82.7 million bond measure on the ballot this November.

The bond would not raise school bond taxes past current levels, according to the district.

"I personally am very excited about the outlook for this," school board member Ginny Holthus said. "[The proposal] addresses the overgrowth in our district."

The bond would fund a number of projects, including the replacement of Rocky Heights Elementary School with a larger capacity building on the same property and the construction of a new elementary school on property owned by the district on Theater Lane.

The bond would also fund a multi-classroom annex for Hermiston High School,

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Rocky Heights Elementary School would be replace with a new, larger school on the same property if a school bond is approved by voters in November.

Hermiston hopes for more restaurants and retail

By JADE MCDOWELL NEWS EDITOR

From Red Robin to Costco, everyone has a wish list of restaurants or stores they wish were closer.

Those businesses have their own lists of what they need in a new location, however, and some communities don't measure up. A city might have too few people, too much competition, not enough local spending, too low of a median income or be too far away from an interstate.

Companies today are able to analyze exactly what makes for a successful location and what each community has to offer, Hermiston assistant city manager Mark Morgan said.

"There are companies out there that know more about Hermiston than we do as far as the market," he

said.

Companies can go beyond looking at the number of people living in a market, for example, and see how many locals are actually shopping there. Consultants like Retail Coach put together analyses by using cellphone location data from the many apps that make their money by quietly tracking users' location and selling the information.

"Your cellphone knows where you live because it knows where you sleep at night," Morgan said.

From there, a company can analyze how many Hermiston residents are shopping or eating in the Tri-Cities, or create a "heat map" of sorts showing where visitors to a certain Hermiston store are coming from.

"If you really want to help drive

See RETAIL, Page A14



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Panda Express is tearing down the former India Kitchen building in Hermiston's commercial corridor to build a new restaurant.

