

# Dough Cookies opens storefront on First St.

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

Hermiston residents with a craving for something sweet can now visit Dough Cookies, which held its grand opening on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Co-owners Kylee Ransom and Stephanie Thompson, who are sisters-in-law, originally started the business in September 2019 as a delivery service out of their home.

They put the business on pause in March due to the pandemic, and this month opened a storefront at 405 N. First St., Unit 105, sharing a building with Neighbor Dudes Tap House.

Ransom said she and Thompson started the business because she has always loved baking and Thompson has always wanted to start a small business. They combined forces to create Dough

Cookies, which offers fresh, warm chocolate chip cookies and a rotating menu of other flavors.

“Our cookies are 6 ounces in size, so they’re about three times the size of a typical cookie,” Ransom said.

She said they hope to eventually resume the delivery aspect of the gourmet cookie shop, but for now, cookies are just available for pick-up at the shop, which is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

She said the grand opening celebration was a success, with good feedback from customers.

“We had a line from the minute we opened to the minute we closed,” she said.

Ransom said she and Thompson are “super excited” to be open and are thankful for the support they’ve received from the community so far.



Dough Cookies/Contributed Photos  
**Chocolate chip cookies (above) come four to a box at Dough Cookies, which recently opened a storefront in Hermiston after starting out as a delivery service. The confetti chip cookie (right) is one of several recipes that Dough Cookies rotates through.**



# Local barbers, stylists will offer free haircuts on Nov. 22

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

A local barber is hoping to give Hermiston’s residents in need a fresh new look with a new project he calls Cuts of Love.

Austin Erickson, who also goes by AJ the Barber, said he has rounded up at least eight area barbers and hair stylists to donate their time giving free haircuts on Sunday, Nov. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Arc of Umatilla County building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., in Hermiston.

Erickson, who works at Twist of Glam, said the event is targeting those who can’t otherwise afford a professional haircut, and area veterans, but they will accept anyone who comes in, no questions asked.

He said he is talking with the Agape House and Hermiston Warming Station about hosting future events in partnership with them to provide free cuts to Hermiston’s homeless population and others in need. Other organizations, such

*“I KNOW A LOT OF KIDS CAN’T AFFORD A HAIRCUT; THEIR MOM AND DAD CAN’T PAY FOR IT. GROWING UP, I NEVER HAD A FRESH CUT, AND I KNOW HOW THAT FEELS.”*

Austin Erickson, who also goes by AJ the Barber, has organized “Cuts of Love”

as drug and alcohol rehabilitation groups, have also expressed interest in working with Cuts of Love. Erickson said he would love to be able to provide boxes of food to people getting haircuts as well, but that aspect is still uncertain for now.

For Erickson, the inspiration came from his own childhood, when he said his family couldn’t afford haircuts and he felt self-conscious.

“I know a lot of kids can’t afford a

haircut; their mom and dad can’t pay for it,” he said. “Growing up, I never had a fresh cut, and I know how that feels.”

For anyone interested in helping out, Erickson has set up an online fundraiser at [www.gofundme.com/f/cuts-of-love](http://www.gofundme.com/f/cuts-of-love).

He said he will use donations pay for masks, gloves, aprons and other supplies for the Nov. 22 event and future events.

# Real estate report shows Hermiston price trends

HERMISTON HERALD

A report from John L. Scott Real Estate shows Hermiston remains a seller’s market when it comes to homes.

The Mid-Year Real Estate Review covers housing numbers in April through September of 2020 for the Columbia Basin region, including a section on Hermiston.

During the six-month period, a high of 65 homes sold in Hermiston in July and a low of 33 in May. The area also had a high of 89 homes on the market in Hermiston in May, compared with a low of 41 up for sale in August.

The average sold price of homes has decreased

slightly since the spring, the report stated, from \$268,000 in April to \$252,000 in September. The average price per square foot of homes sold was \$158 in April and \$153 in September.

According to the report, the average number of days homes stayed on the market in Hermiston during the six-month period fluctuated from a high of 52 days in July to a low of 30 days in May.

John L. Scott Real Estate was established in 1931 in Seattle, according to the company’s website, and now operates more than 100 offices with more than 3,000 agents throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and now California. Its Hermiston office is at 985 N. First St.

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