

# Marshall Tucker Band serenades bikers



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

The Marshall Tucker Band, which released its first album in 1973, sang its unique brand of Southern rock Saturday as part of the Pendleton Bike Week at the Pendleton Convention Center.

# Hermiston Athletic Club preparing to rise from the ashes

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Three years after a fire gutted the Columbia Court Club, a new athletic facility is taking shape there.

The Hermiston Athletic Club will open this fall at 80903 N. Highway 395 after an extensive remodel that is completely changing the look and layout of the building.

“Anyone who has been in here before is not going to recognize it,” HAC manager Rodger Adams said.

There is still a lot of work to be done — the front wall of the building is currently missing and the roof is slated to be torn off next — but Adams said they’re shooting for an opening date at the end of September. The basketball court at the back of the building is already open and being used for youth basketball clinics.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Hermiston Athletic Club will soon fill the site of the former Columbia Court Club at 80903 N Highway 395 in Hermiston.

Adams said the Hermiston Athletic Club will have standard gym equipment, such as free weights and treadmills, plus hydromassage, a shooting machine and other

offerings. The new layout will include space for rackets, an indoor track, basketball and volleyball courts and a dedicated area for youth sports training. The building

will also feature more parking than the old club, with a more open and accessible floor plan.

They will offer activities ranging from a “full lineup” of fitness classes to nutrition

### ONLINE

For more information, visit [www.hermistonathleticclub.com](http://www.hermistonathleticclub.com).

counseling to adult basketball leagues. Adams said they’re working to build relationships with area school districts so that the facility will be an option for youth sports training and clinics.

The property is under new ownership, after the old court club’s owner Steve Watkins sold the business in 2018. The fire that tore through the inside of the building in June 2016 was ruled accidental, caused by an electrical short on the upper floor. Watkins had originally hoped to reopen the business himself, but after two years of back-and-forth with the insurance company said he had decided to let “the younger generation” take a crack at resurrect-

ing the damaged building.

New owner Orien Fiander said in an email that reopening an athletic facility there will fill a need in Hermiston, which is “an exceptionally hard-working community who support local sports and are big into family.”

“The Hermiston community is absolutely great,” he said. “I just love the town.”

Adams said Fiander has more than 20 years of experience in the fitness industry. Adams grew up in the area and moved away for about 15 years to manage two gyms in the St. George, Utah, area before deciding he wanted to return to the Pacific Northwest.

Adams said pre-sales for memberships will start in August, which is when he’ll start looking at staffing too. He said they are still working on price points but will offer “pretty standard” membership options.

## Burglars lure out Athena resident with church talk

ATHENA — The Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office wants residents to be aware of a method used to burglarize a home in Athena while the resident was at the dwelling.

A woman around 7:30 a.m. Sunday contacted a resident on High Street and asked him to step onto his back deck to talk about church. While the victim was outside talking, according to the sheriff’s office, another individual entered the residence and burglarized the home. The woman then left on foot, and the burglary included the theft of a .40 caliber handgun.

The sheriff’s office reported the woman was white, 30-40 years old, had shoulder length brown hair and wore an orange and white shirt and jeans. After the burglary, another resident in the area reported seeing a woman matching the description get into a white Jeep Wrangler four-door with half doors and no top.

The investigation continues. In addition to residents being aware of the method of this crime, especially elderly

## BRIEFLY

who live alone, the sheriff’s office also asked anyone to report any suspicious activity and for anyone with additional information to call the 24-hour dispatch center at 541-966-3651.

## Propane leak contained at Port of Morrow

BOARDMAN — A propane leak outside of the Port of Morrow was contained Monday morning.

Lawn maintenance, said economic development director Lisa Mittlesdorf, struck a small propane tank that feeds a backup generator on the side of the building.

After 8:30 a.m., the buildings on site were evacuated.

Mittlesdorf said the leak was contained with help from the Boardman Fire District, Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office and the Boardman Police Department by 9:24 a.m.

## Fire crews respond to new ignitions

PENDLETON — Fire crews on the Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest responded to

new smoke reports following passing thunderstorms early Monday.

Significant lightning activity occurred across the Heppner Ranger District, with approximately five new incidents on the Umatilla National Forest reported to the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center. The majority of the fires are staffed and remain small, less than 1 acre in size. More smoke reports are expected throughout the next few days.

The largest of these fires, the Cabin Creek Fire, is approximately 5 acres in size and is located about 1½ miles north of Rocky Flat. The fire was reported at 10:40 a.m. and is burning in grass, brush and timber. Firefighters utilized aerial resources today to support suppression efforts, including a single engine air tanker and air attack. Current resources on scene include three Umatilla National Forest engines and one Umatilla National Forest hand crew.

With increased dry weather, fire officials want to remind everyone that the current fire danger rating remains at moderate. No public use restrictions are in effect on the forest.

## Doug Drake Grateful Farmer



“I knew every first responder. I’m so thankful to be a part of this wonderful community.”

Severely injured and many miles from the medical attention he so desperately needed, Doug had faith. MCHD EMS and LifeFlight work together year-round to get people in a medical crisis stabilized and where they need to be.

Read Doug’s care receiver story at [HealthyMC.org](http://HealthyMC.org)



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**WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO**  
7/23  
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\$5 Classic Movie  
Showing Wednesday  
Shrek the Third at 10AM  
And Beverly Hills Cops 12PM

The Lion King (PG)  
2D 7:10p 9:50p  
3D 4:30p

Stuber (R)  
4:20p 6:40p 9:30p

Crawl (R)  
4:50p 7:20p 10:00p

Spider-man:  
Far from Home (PG13)  
4:00p 6:50p 9:40p

Toy Story 4 (G)  
4:40p 7:00p 9:20p

\* Matinee Pricing  
wildhorsesort.com • 541-966-1850  
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