

Boardman pool makes big splash

Boardman's indoor pool and recreation center opened over the weekend

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

A project dreamed up more than 30 years ago is now open and expects to draw people to Boardman for years to come.

The Boardman Pool and Recreation Center's grand opening was Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center features an indoor pool, gyms, exercise equipment and a climbing wall.

Parks and Recreation board member Ray Michael said the first plans for the center were drawn up in the 1980s.

"Everyone wanted to have it," he said.

"But no one knew how to pay for it," chimed in parks and recreation secretary Lynn Prag.

Building the 43,000-square-foot center would require a bond, but the hard part was figuring out how to pay for the center's yearly operating costs once it was built. In 2013 the parks district commissioned a feasibility study and began working with



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

A whirlpool feature and a waterslide are two of the main attractions of the indoor pool at the new Boardman Pool and Recreation Center.

consultants on a plan. In November 2014 the community approved a \$12.39 million bond, and the district created a fund using money from sponsors and memberships to pay the center's operating costs.

Boardman only has about 3,400 residents, but booming businesses at the Port of Morrow bring in thousands more commuters during the workweek.

Many of the new recreation center's rooms bear the names of those businesses, and the port itself donated most of the exercise equipment. But Prag

said there are still naming rights left for some rooms and smaller items.

"Our goal was to raise \$300,000 and we're approaching that," she said.

Michael said many of the companies have also purchased corporate packages that give memberships to their employees at a bulk discount. Since Blue Mountain Community College's pool is closing in Pendleton and Hermiston's Columbia Court Club has not re-opened after a fire in June 2016, there has been particular interest in the center's indoor pool.

"I think it's not just the local community (that will use it)," Michael said. "We've had a lot of questions from Hermiston and even Pendleton."

The pool area features a four-lane swimming pool that goes to 10 feet in the deep end, connected to a shorter recreational pool and a round vortex pool that creates a whirlpool effect. There is also a large water slide and a smaller, warmer therapy pool. A multi-use room and patio off the pool are both available for parties.

The center's 27-foot



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Lifeguards Abby Hernandez, Taylor Hamby and Faith Rosen assemble a desk in the lifeguard offices on Thursday at the Boardman Pool and Recreation Center.

climbing wall features 500 different handholds spread out to create multiple routes to the top. Prag said someone with expertise in climbing walls came out and helped arrange the routes to provide a challenge for climbers at various skill levels.

"We will keep changing these as people get bored," she said.

A multi-court gym will be available for basketball and volleyball games, and a room with floor-to-ceiling windows holds exercise machines and weights. Once the landscaping outside is finished it will include a walking path around the center. Prag said the district is has put together a schedule of swim lessons and fitness classes and is looking for more instructors to expand those offerings.

The facility, at 311 N. Olson Road, Boardman, will be open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and noon to 7 p.m. on Sundays. Daily admission will be \$4 for in-district youth ages 4 to 18 and \$5 for out-of-district youth, \$6 for in-district adults and \$7.50 for out-of-district, and \$4.50 for in-district seniors over 64 and \$5.50 for out-of-district seniors.

Monthly and yearly passes are also available for families and individuals, including \$480 a year for adults living in the Boardman Parks and Recreation District. For an extra \$50 adults can access the gymnasium and cardio room 24 hours a day. For more information call 541-616-1050.

West Nile virus found in Umatilla

First detection in Oregon this year

Umatilla County Officials report that West Nile virus has been detected in Umatilla County in the city of Umatilla, the first case detected in Oregon so far this year.

The virus was found in a mosquito sample trapped June 21 near the mouth of the Umatilla River in the city of Umatilla.

Oregon State University, Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Corvallis confirmed the finding in testing done June 25.

This is the first mosquito detection of West Nile virus in Oregon in 2017.

Local residents can expect to see an increase in mosquito spraying based on the positive sample. Ultra-low volume applications of insecticides from truck-mounted sprayers will be used to reduce mosquito populations. These applications will typically be made after sunset when mosquitoes are most active. All applicators are licensed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

West Nile is primarily a disease infecting birds. Some birds — including magpies, blue jays and crows — are especially susceptible.

Mosquitoes become infected by feeding on an infected bird and can pass

the virus to humans, horses or other hosts when they bite.

The public is encouraged to alert district officials when they come across dead birds so the district can track the spread of the virus.

There is a vaccine available to prevent West Nile virus disease in horses. Contact your veterinarian for more information.

The risk of West Nile is low but people are encouraged to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites.

Most people who become infected with West Nile virus do not become ill. Some people develop mild flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, and occasionally swollen lymph glands or a rash.

In rare cases West Nile may cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain. Individuals with severe or unusual headaches should seek medical care as soon as possible. Residents of the district should remain vigilant in protecting themselves from mosquitoes and the diseases that they can carry, such as West Nile virus.

In Washington state, the Department of Health reported on Thursday that West Nile virus has also been detected in mosquitoes in Yakima County, the first detection of the virus in that state this year.



Reduce West Nile risk

Here are some suggestions to reduce the risk of exposure to West Nile:

- Get rid of old tires and other containers where water can accumulate and serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- Flush or replace the water in horse troughs weekly.
- Be sure to flush or add mosquito fish to ornamental ponds.
- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito infested areas.
- Use mosquito repellents

containing: DEET, Picaridin, Oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535 or 2-undecanone. And make sure to follow the directions on the container.

- Screen doors and windows.
- Report mosquito infestations and dead bird sightings to the West Umatilla Mosquito Control District at 541-567-5201. Because horses are also at risk for West Nile, health officials encourage horse owners to check with their veterinarians for vaccination. Veterinarians can arrange for testing of samples from horses suspected of infection with West Nile virus.

For West Nile updates

Updates about West Nile Virus in Umatilla County will be released to local media outlets or you can go to the Oregon Department of Human Services web page at: <https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/WestNileVirus/Pages/survey.aspx> Additional information on West Nile is on the Web at: U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/> Oregon Department of Human Services <https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/WestNileVirus/Pages/survey.aspx> Umatilla County; <http://www.co.umatilla.or.us> West Umatilla Mosquito Control District: <http://www.wumcd.org>

Gas station and mini-mart coming to Highland Avenue

Hermiston is getting a new gas station on the corner of Southwest 11th Street and Highland Avenue.

The project at 1120 W. Highland Ave. will include a mini-mart, fuel station and laundry facility run by the owners of the Metro Marts in the Tri-Cities area.

Carrie Sullivan, project manager from LCR Construction of Richland, said they are hoping to finish construction by the end of October. A building permit filed with the city shows plans for a 3,826 square-foot convenience store and 1,554 square-foot laundromat plus fuel canopy.

According to a recent report compiled by assistant city manager Mark Morgan for the city's public infra-

structure committee, while Hermiston experiences about 31 percent more retail sales than expected for a town of its size, it sells 35 percent less fuel. A 2013 study showed gasoline sales within the Hermiston city limits were \$7,682,993 at the time.

The city council recently added multi-family residential and mini storage units as conditional uses for roughly 8 acres of property along Highland Avenue running west of 11th Street, including the corner property where the Metro Mart will go. Eastern Oregon Development, LLC just got the final plat approved to build a mini-storage facility on Highland just west of the gas station project.

Irrigon man dies in car crash

HERMISTON HERALD

An Irrigon man died and a woman was injured Thursday in a single car crash in Irrigon, according to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

According to the sheriff's dispatch office, the vehicle was traveling westbound on Columbia Lane around 5:20 p.m. Thursday when the driver lost control for unknown reasons near the intersection with West Eighth Road.

The vehicle rolled twice and one person in the vehicle was ejected. That person was not wearing a seatbelt, according to the sheriff's office.

Rafael Garza, 23, of Irrigon, was pronounced dead at the scene. Katelyn Tolar, 18, also of Irrigon, was injured and transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston with serious injuries. It was not immediately known who was driving the vehicle.

LABEL XYXYX

Echo gears up for Open Air Market

Produce, crafts and more are featured during the Open Air Market in Echo.

Held the third Saturday of each month, the next event is Saturday, July 15, from 4-7 p.m. at George Park, located at Bonanza and Dupont streets. There is still space available for people who would like to sell their wares.

Proceeds from vendor fees goes to the Echo Museum. Last year's markets resulted in a \$600 contribution to the museum.

For more information, contact [\[rket@gmail.com\]\(mailto:rket@gmail.com\) or visit \[www.facebook.com/echoopenairmarket\]\(http://www.facebook.com/echoopenairmarket\).](mailto:echoopenairma-</p>
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Fun Factory builds biblical learning

Kids are invited to attend the Maker Fun Factory vacation Bible school.

"Created by God: Built for a Purpose" is the theme, which starts Monday, July 10, from 5-8 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. The program continues nightly through Thursday, July 13.

For more information, call 541-567-3013 or search Facebook.

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