



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

A fence protects the construction site where Second Street turns onto East Ridgeway Avenue at the site of the new senior center now being built in Hermiston.

SENIOR

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furnishings.”
The center will also have an elevator and staircase to reach an unfinished basement, and there will be access on the back side to a landscaped outdoor seating area and paths that lead to the front of the building and Highway 395. The building and parking lot will meet all ADA requirements.
Fetter said the city is

partnering with the school district — which leased the land for the senior center to the city — and with service groups to put landscaping, lighting and an interpretive panel around the old Armand Larive arch.

“We’re planning to do some uplighting and really make it a centerpiece,” Fetter said.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

“You’re kind of getting hit from all around.”

Peter Brewer, Coordinates wildfire smoke responses for DEQ

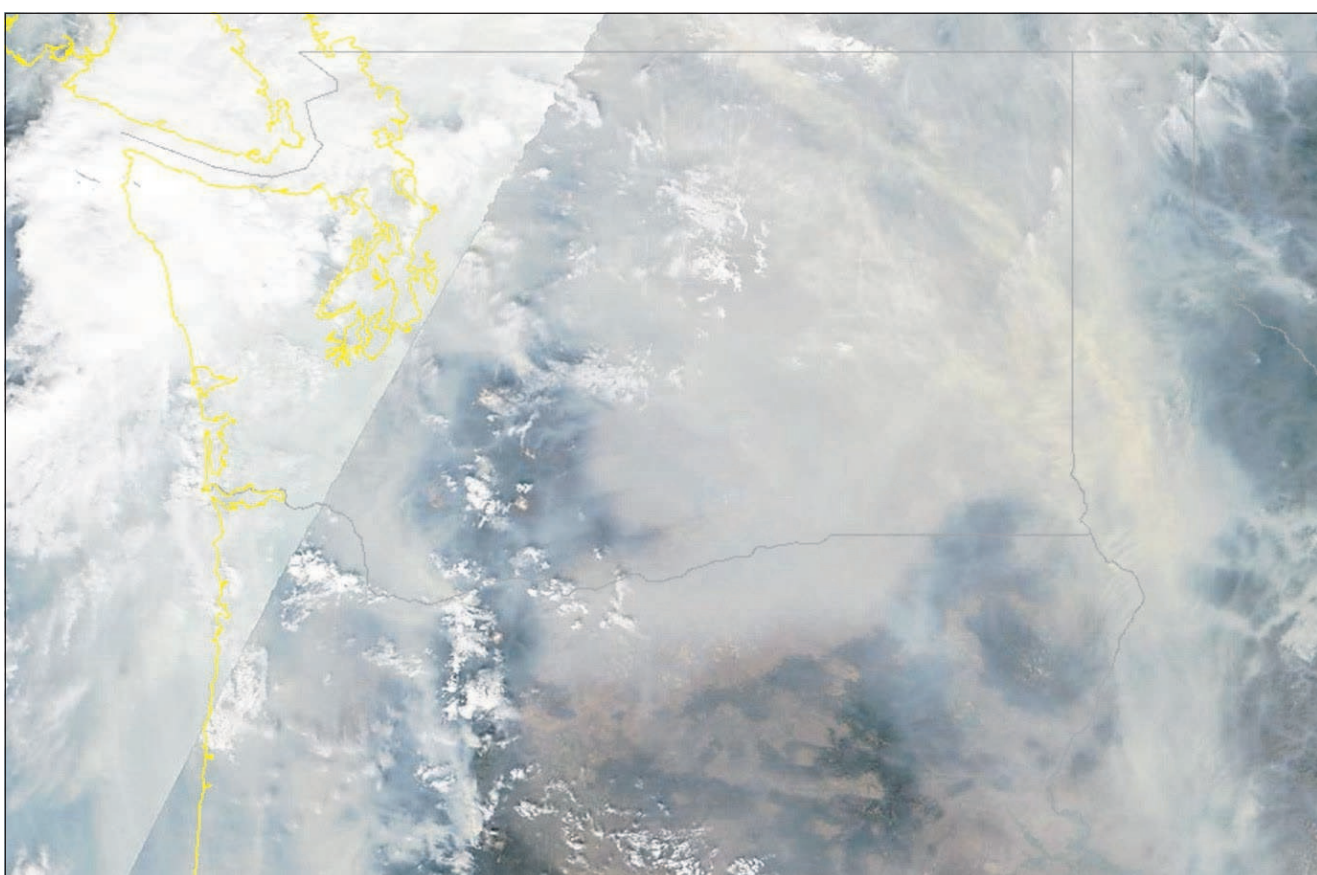


PHOTO COURTESY MODIS TODAY

Smoke covers the Pacific Northwest from wildfires burning throughout the region in several states.

BY THE WAY

PLAYGROUND

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its Aug. 22 annual meeting in Hermiston. Other officers installed were **Kristi Smalley**, vice president; **Joyce Beemer**, secretary; **Bonnie James**, treasurer; **Heidi Leroue**, immediate past president; and directors included **Marsha Brown**, **Linda Shipley**, **Kirsten Kinsel**, **Jan Schroth**, **Jessica Brown**, **Anna Dickman**, **T.J. Smith** and **Brenda Gibbons**.

The group is now gearing up for a 50th anniversary celebration in October. A nonprofit organization, The Arc advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information, call 541-567-7615 or visit www.thearcumatilla.org.

World War II veteran **Bill Runion** of Hermiston recently made his annual pilgrimage to deliver watermelons to the **Oregon Veterans Home** in The Dalles. A longtime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans, the 90-year-old enjoys giving back to the community. He expressed appreciation to his friends, **John Walchli** and **Skip Walchli**, for donating 100 melons so they could be shared with fellow veterans.

You can submit items for our weekly *By The Way* column by emailing your tips to editor@hermistonherald.com or share them on social media using the hashtag #HHBTW. Follow the *Hermiston Herald* on Twitter at @HermistonHerald.

AIR

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an air quality alert until noon Friday for Umatilla, Morrow, Union, Wallowa, Gilliam, Wheeler, Grant, Sherman, Wasco, Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties.

Peter Brewer, who coordinates wildfire smoke responses for DEQ, said Umatilla County has been getting smoke from fires in Idaho and Montana, and last week from central Oregon, but this week’s spike was likely tied to the Eagle Creek fire in the Columbia Gorge.

“You’re kind of getting hit from all around,” he said.

He said that many of the websites featuring air quality and weather infor-

mation have been crashing from the higher-than-usual traffic, but one useful resource is oregonsmoke.blogspot.com, which combines information on smoke in Oregon from many government sources.

The Umatilla County Health Department advised residents to limit outdoor exercise and stay inside in well-ventilated areas if possible.

Smoky skies throughout the area caused local schools to shift some of their outdoor activities indoors Tuesday, in an effort to limit students’ exposure to the poor air quality.

Stanfield and Umatilla schools did not go outside for recess.

“We moved all recesses indoors first thing this morning and kept a watch on the rating. We’ve now

canceled our soccer games for today and have moved all sports practices indoors,” said Umatilla Superintendent Heidi Sipe said Tuesday.

Hermiston School District officials monitored air quality conditions throughout the day, and decided Tuesday morning to move recess indoors. Some sporting events were canceled, including boys and girls soccer games in Hillsboro. All outdoor practices were also moved indoors or canceled, and district officials said they would continue monitoring the smoke and make adjustments as necessary.

Interstate 84 through the Columbia Gorge was also closed Tuesday due to the Eagle Creek Fire burning in the gorge and threatening the historic Multnomah

Falls Lodge Echo School Superintendent Raymon Smith said Tuesday afternoon that he was studying the OSAA requirements for when practice should be canceled.

“According to OSAA regulations, we’re OK to have limited activity outside,” he said. “So for football practice, we will do limited, if any, outdoor activity. And then we’ll move inside.”

Smith said other sports practices were already scheduled to be inside. He said during the day, P.E. and recess activities were moved inside.

“We started the morning at 79, which is moderate, and by mid-morning, it was at extreme,” he said.

More information about air quality can be found at www.deq.state.or.us.

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