

SACRIFICE

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gage and paid it off in eight, so it's a giving congregation," Sexton said.

Saxton said the current building off East Highland Avenue contains a sanctuary that fits about 170 people, three classrooms, restrooms and offices. When he came to Hermiston three years ago there were about 40 people attending regularly and they could squeeze into the front hall area for fellowship activities. Now with about 60 people attending, there isn't room.

"We can't have a meal, we can't have these types of things," he said.

The new fellowship hall will allow for meals, parties, extra classes, wedding receptions and other activities. Sexton said the church would be able to rent out the hall to other groups, and is considering starting a preschool in the space.

The addition should be done by Oct. 1, and will be furnished with tables and



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL.

Parking lot re-paving work is complete at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene but the church is still raising money to cover the cost.

chairs from Pilot Rock's Presbyterian Church, which closed recently.

Getting creative

For Hermiston Church of the Nazarene's new roof and parking lot, the work is done but the bill is due soon and the church is a little short, which is why the Temples decided to do their ride and have faith that would be enough to fill in the gap. They brought in about \$1,800 from the ride but as of Tuesday were still about \$1,200 short.

Harrison said his dad had been excited about the project.

"He bought a selfie stick just for this trip," he said.

Before the trip Harrison said the furthest he had ever unicycled was about 20 miles, so the fundraising journey would be a test of his endurance. But Patrick said he wasn't worried about his son keeping up.

"The student is now the master," he said. "He can do stairs and all sorts of things I can't do."

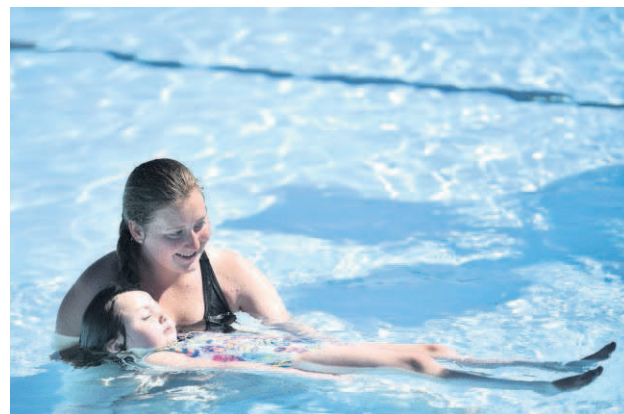
On Thursday the Temples set out from the airport in Pendleton at 6 a.m. It was 66 degrees out and "cool and pleasant," Patrick said. The ride along Barnhart Road was a breeze, but getting on Interstate 84 was a little scary.

"When the first truck passes you, it's a little different ride," he said, noting he quickly stowed the selfie stick. "It was hands on and paying attention."

Harrison said he was disappointed not to be able to finish the ride due to technical difficulties, but it gave him a new appreciation for just how far it was between Pendleton and Hermiston.

"It's something you don't grasp until you're in a car," he said.

Fritz, who drove the chase vehicle, said he was grateful for the Temples for their help in raising money for the church, and for the other "awesome" members of the congregation who had given generously to the campaign over the past few months so that the church did not have to go into debt for the project.



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Instructor McKinsay Naillon coaches Delilah Boyd, 4, on how to float on her back.

POOL

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do further work looking at possible financing options. Smith said there probably wouldn't be much in the way of grants available for the project.

The most common way for cities to pay for aquatic centers is through bonds. The city has been paying off its bond obligations for the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center — which opened in 2004 — using Transient Room Tax funds assessed on local hotel stays and an increase in the city's operating levy. (Two separate attempts at a bond failed to pass). The indoor Boardman Pool and Recreation Center that opened last summer was paid for by a bond levy passed by voters in 2014, adding a property tax of 95.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Another option that has been discussed is creation

of a recreational taxing district that would possibly include Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo.

Hermiston had a small privately owned indoor pool at the Columbia Court Club until 2016, when the workout center had a fire that destroyed much of the inside of the building. After two years of fighting with insurance companies, owner Steve Watkins said he has decided to sell the club instead of continuing.

Hermiston also lost another year-round swimming option when the Blue Mountain Community College pool in Pendleton closed. The Hermiston High School swim team had been commuting to Pendleton to practice there. Briana Cortaberria, executive assistant to the superintendent for Hermiston School District, said the district "fully intends" to have a high school swim team in the coming year, but the details were still being worked out.

Umatilla man arrested in Winco shooting

HERMISTON HERALD

A Umatilla man was charged in Richland with attempted murder after allegedly shooting a woman in a grocery store.

Richland Police have booked Matthew McQuin, 45, in Benton County Jail on attempted murder charges. The victim, a woman, was taken to a local hos-

pital with gunshot wounds, but police have provided no further information on her condition.

Police responded to WinCo Foods in Richland around 7:30 p.m. Monday, and found the woman with a gunshot wound. McQuin surrendered to police inside the store.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the victim was reported to have been released from

the hospital.

Umatilla Police Chief Darla Huxel said McQuin is known to local law enforcement. He has been arrested several times in Umatilla County for possession of controlled substances, driving under the influence of intoxicants and fleeing or eluding a police officer. His most recent charges were in August 2017 for driving under the influence.

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