

# Program boosts water safety

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
STAFF WRITER

An extension of the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center's season is benefiting Hermiston School District athletes and second graders.

While open public swim is closed for the season, the city agreed to keep the pool filled for the girls swim team. In the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association, which Hermiston High School now competes in, girls swimming is a fall sport.

In addition to allowing the swim team to practice there, the city and school district partnered to allow all the district's second graders to spend one day at the aquatic center last week, getting a two-hour water safety lesson.

The day included learning how to put on life jackets, breathing techniques and basic strokes.

Hermiston Parks and Recreation partnered with the Hermiston School District to offer lessons, with the hopes of identifying kids who may need further water safety training.

Recreation Supervisor Brandon Artz said the idea came about when Blue Mountain Community College closed its pool, and the city decided to keep the pool open until mid-October so the girls swim team could practice locally.

He said the longer season gave them an opportunity to offer more swim lessons.

"We got to talking about water safety, and thought, could we get schools and kids here," Artz said.

Artz said he hopes the program will continue for the next few years.

Last Wednesday, students from Sunset Elementary were at the pool, enjoying a sunny day as they honed their water skills. Students practiced staying afloat in the water with kickboards, retrieving rings from the floor of the shallow pool and jumping off the diving board.



STAFF PHOTO BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
**West Park Elementary School P.E. teacher Bret Favorite teaches students some basic arm strokes before they practice them in the water.**

Aquatic center manager Kasia Robbins said the pool staff focused on several different areas of water safety.

"Knowing how to bob to safety — using your height and the push of a jump to get yourself to where you can stand," she said.

They also taught students about the importance of floating.

"If anything can save you, it's rolling over, putting your head up and floating till you get to safety," she said.

Robbins said they also taught students the importance of having an adult present when they're in the water, and how to put their faces in the water.

At the end of the lesson, all students were sent home with a report card, scoring them from a level of 1 to 5 in different areas — 5 being mastery of the skill.

"They tell whether the child can float, do arm strokes, kicks, if they can bob to safety," Robbins said. Each report card also offers students a week of swim lessons for \$10.

Robbins said the school district covered the cost of buses, as well as towels and swimsuits for kids who don't have them.

"We hope spending the money saves a life," Robbins said.

Cherilyn Spencer, a second-grade teacher at Sun-

set Elementary, said she was glad students were getting exposure to the water.

"This is a life skill," she said. "Some students hadn't ever been here (to the pool) before. With all the water we have around here, it's important."

Physical education teachers from all five elementary schools were at the pool all week, helping with land instruction.

Bret Favorite of West Park helped students practice different types of arm strokes before they got into the water, and Greg Hamm of Rocky Heights showed them how to put on life jackets correctly.

In the water, students got lessons from Hermiston High School students who had worked as lifeguards and swim teachers throughout the summer.

"The high school was really awesome working with us to excuse those students to come out and take part of this," Artz said.

In addition to the Hermiston girls swim team, the Pendleton Swim Club has also been traveling to Hermiston four days a week to use the pool.

"It goes back to the fact that we need an indoor aquatic center," Artz said. "We're happy to have them. We want to provide opportunities for kids to swim."

## PREP ROUNDUP

# Umatilla gets past Stanfield

HERMISTON HERALD

STANFIELD — Umatilla won its game at neighboring Stanfield on Friday night, defeating the Tigers 22-18.

Quarterback Andrew Earl passed for 20 yards, had three carries for 66 yards, one interception and one touchdown. Quarterback Ryan Lorence passed for 23 yards and one interception. Running back Trent Durfey rushed 21 carries for 150 yards and one touchdown.

Tight end Oscar Campos caught two passes for 15 yards, and Eric Hoyos had one catch for 20 yards. Running back Izayah Rodarte rushed four times for 18 yards.

"We're slowly improving," said Umatilla coach Dan Durfey. "We had some small mistakes and drive-killers, but the kids beared down and got the win."

It was the Vikings' first win of the season, putting them at 1-2 overall. They will travel to Grant Union on Friday.

LIBERTY 27, IRRIGON 0 — The Lancers handed the Knights their first loss of the season in Spangle, Wash.

Irrigon (2-1) held Liberty to just 7 points in the first half, but couldn't keep pace in the second half.

"They were big and fast," Irrigon coach Ken Thompson said.

Liberty was the Class 2B state runner-up last year.

HEPPNER 20, LOST

RIVER 6 — Mason Lehman scored three touchdowns to lead Heppner to a nonleague win Saturday over Lost River in Bend.

Lehman ran for 103 yards and two scores, and caught a touchdown pass from Jayden Wilson. He also finished with four tackles and one interception.

Jason Rae led the Mustangs (1-2) with 13 tackles, while Gavin Hanna-Robinson had nine and Blake Wolters seven.

Zachay Buller scored the Raiders' lone touchdown in the fourth quarter.

## VOLLEYBALL

YAKIMA — Hermiston finished 0-3 at the Sun-Dome Volleyball Festival on Saturday in Yakima, but coach Amy Dyck said the tournament was a good experience for her team.

"We battled through challenges and learned a lot," Dyck said. "We are looking forward to getting back in the gym and preparing for our match against Walla Walla."

The Bulldogs opened with a 25-9, 25-18 loss to Lynden Christian, then followed with a 25-9, 25-13 loss to Ellensburg. They finished the day with a 25-19, 25-20 loss to University (Spokane).

Richland won the tournament with a 25-12, 21-25, 15-10 victory over Lynden Christian.

Hermiston will host Walla Walla on Thursday.

ECHO 3, CONDON/WHEELER 0 — The Cougars won in three during

their game at Condon on Friday.

Echo dominated the court from beginning to end for a 25-10, 25-1, 25-9 win.

The Cougars went on to win a Riverside-hosted volleyball tournament on Saturday.

The three-set tournament saw Echo win matches against Stanfield 25-13, 25-18, Elgin 25-17, 25-18, and South Wasco County 25-22, 25-23.

The Cougars have won the tournament three of the past four years.

## BOYS SOCCER

FOUR RIVERS 7, IRRIGON 3 — Irrigon is 0-6 overall after losing its first league match of the season against Four Rivers on Saturday.

The Knights will host Nyssa (3-1) on Saturday.

## GIRLS SOCCER

SHADLE PARK 3, HERMISTON 0 — The Bulldogs lost their sixth consecutive game on Saturday at Kennison Field.

Shadle Park from Spokane, Wash., is the first non-league opponent the Bulldogs have faced. They will resume Mid-Columbia Conference play at home Thursday against Walla Walla.

RIVERSIDE 2, PRESCOTT 1 — Riverside picked up its third win Monday by edging Prescott in Boardman.

Riverside (3-2-1) and Riverdale played to a 2-2 draw Saturday in Portland.

The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.



www.eomediagroup.com

MORE WINNERS. MORE OFTEN.

KICK OFF THE EXCITEMENT  
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

WIN!  
UP TO \$3,200  
IN CHIPS

TEAM ?

e-STATION  
VS

TEAM ?

\$11,000  
PIGSKIN PICK'EMS

PICK THE FOOTBALL TEAMS YOU THINK WILL WIN!  
WEEKLY - QUARTER - HALF TIME & END OF GAME WINNERS

GIFT SHOP

SPEND & WIN  
AT THE GIFT SHOP

WIN UP TO \$100 IN  
FREEPLAY  
with your \$50 Gift Shop purchase

CASINO • HOTEL • GOLF • CINEPLEX • RV • MUSEUM • DINING • TRAVEL PLAZA  
800.654.9453 • PENDLETON, OR • I-84, EXIT 216, wildhorseresort.com. Owned and operated by CTUIR  
Management reserves all rights to alter, suspend or withdraw promotions/offers at any time.



One destination. The perfect tractor package.

RDO does that.



### PACKAGE FEATURES

- 1023E Sub-Compact Tractor
- D120 loader
- 48" Rotary Cutter
- 48" Box Blade
- 20' Trailer

\$185  
PER MONTH<sup>1</sup>



REQUEST A QUOTE at RDOEQUIPMENT.COM

HERMISTON | 844-551-5594

<sup>(1)</sup> Offer valid on new, in-stock 1023E Sub-Compact Utility Tractor Package purchases made between 8/1/2018 and 10/15/2018. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial. Up to a 20% down payment may be required. Example: based on a purchase of \$18,825 with \$3,765 down payment, monthly payment of \$185 at 0% APR for 84 months. Taxes, freight, set up and delivery charges could increase the monthly payment. Price and model availability vary by dealer. Valid only at participating US dealers.

