

Hermiston Herald

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INSIDE

CITY LOVE

Hermiston residents invited to provide community service on Saturday for I Love My City event.

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ELECTIONS

Ballot returns stand at less than 9% so far in the May 21 election.

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DANGER

A Umatilla County detective is teaching parents about keeping their children safe online.

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BY THE WAY

National Police Week is May 12-18

This week is **National Police Week**, and Hermiston-area residents have a chance to show their appreciation.

They can pick up a blue ribbon at city hall, the police station or many area businesses. The ribbons can be placed in vehicles or rolled up in the window to show support for local law enforcement.

According to a proclamation read Monday at city hall, more than 21,000 members of law enforcement have been killed in the line of duty in the United States. **Hermiston Police Department** lost an officer of its own, **Ronald G. Kilby**, in 1959.

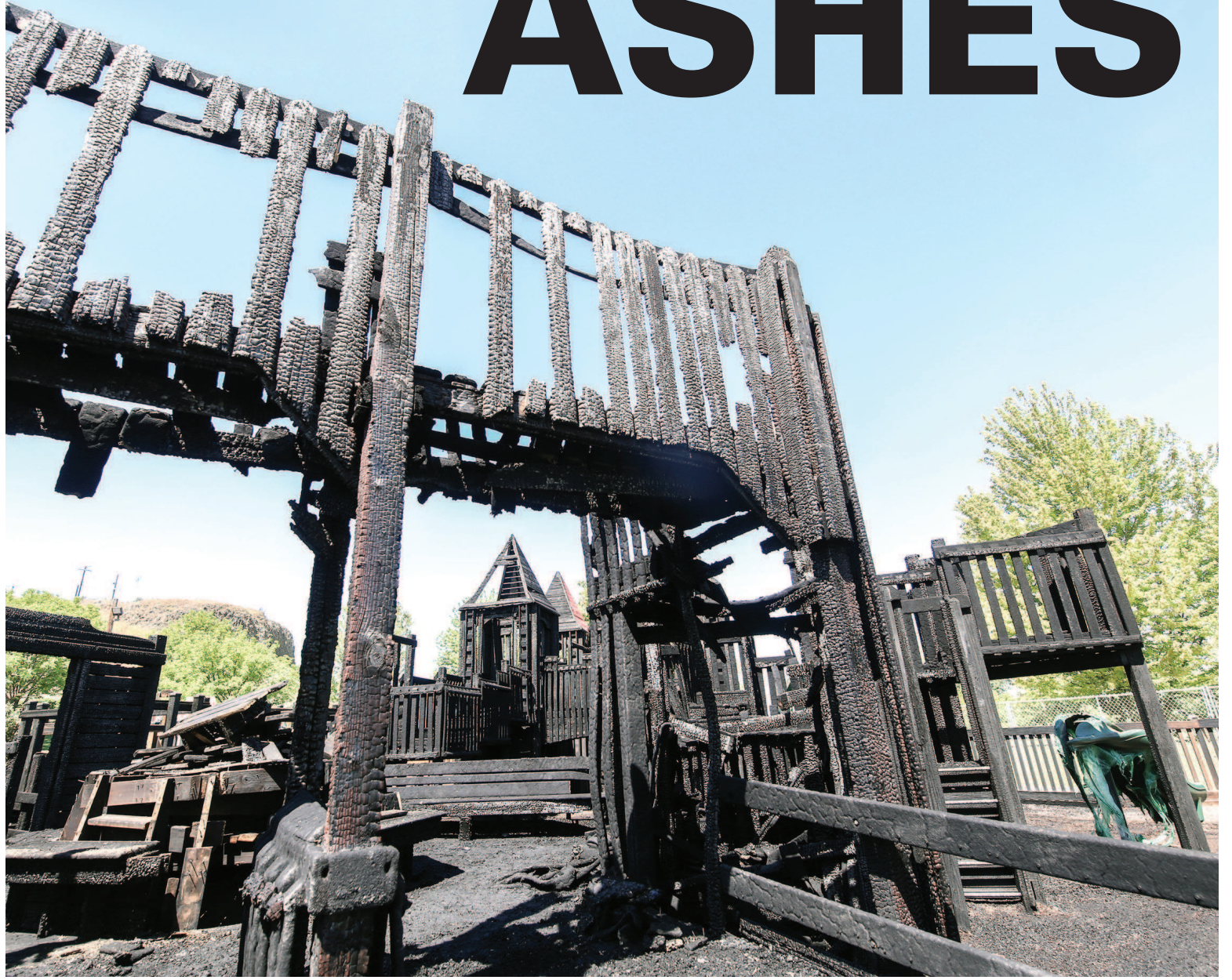
Swimming lesson registration is beginning for the **Hermiston Family Aquatic Center**.

Parents can register their children online (or adults can register themselves for the adult class) beginning at 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Visit bit.ly/hermistonrecreation to register. For a list of lesson schedules throughout the summer, visit bit.ly/2019hermistonsummerguide.

The taste buds have all been tallied — **Tri-**

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FROM THE ASHES



Fire destroyed a play structure early Friday morning at Hermiston's Funland Park.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney/East Oregonian



Fire destroyed a play structure early Friday morning at Hermiston's Funland Park, melting this slide.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Hermiston pledges to rebuild Funland

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

It was heartbreak all over again for Hermiston on Friday.

Mayor David Drotzmann stood in front of the blackened Funland playground at Butte Park, hours after a fire tore through the wooden structure that was rebuilt in 2001 after fire destroyed the original playground built in 1996. It was the saddest day of his career as mayor, Drotzmann said in a video message he posted to Twitter.

"One thing's for sure," he said. "Hermiston's a great community. We've rebuilt this before. We will rebuild it again. You can't slow down our spirit. You can't squelch our pride. We're a great community, we care about our kids. This park is important to us and we will once again rebuild it from the ashes."

The mixture of grief and resilience matched responses from the rest of the community. On Monday night, Hermiston resi-

dents showed up in full force to let the city know in no uncertain terms that they were willing to do whatever it takes to rebuild.

Sue Daggett volunteered the help of the Altrusa Club. Tami Rebman of the Columbia Basin Board of Realtors said they were on board to help however they could. Philip Spicerkuhn, president of the Lions Club, said the Lions were "passionate about helping make sure this resource continues to be a part of the community." David McCarthy, president of the Hermiston noon Kiwanis Club, offered similar assurances.

"This is the kind of project both our money and our work likes to go to," McCarthy said.

He shared a story of when he first began dating his wife, before he lived in Hermiston. When he visited her, one of the first things she showed him about the community was her family's name engraved on a wooden slat at Funland in recognition of their contributions toward the project.

Tony Garber of the Rotary Club said Rotarians were ready to help as well. He shared

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Former Hermiston Foods plant to be used for hemp processing

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

The former Hermiston Foods plant has a buyer.

Alan Cleaver, who owns Columbia Basin Onion and related companies in Hermiston, has a purchase agreement for the facility on South Highway 395. He plans to use it to extract CBD oil from industrial hemp for pharmaceutical purposes.

Cleaver said he has already heard concerns from people who associate hemp with recreational drug use or think he is processing marijuana. The strain of hemp he is growing, however, has no THC

— the component that causes the high associated with marijuana use. Instead, the CBD (short for cannabidiol) oil from the hemp is used to treat epilepsy without producing any sort of intoxication.

Industrial hemp was legalized across the United States last year, and Cleaver said his plant, which will operate under the name of Columbia Basin Extraction, will help lead the way in creating large-scale processing infrastructure for the hemp industry.

"We're excited about the potential," he said. "There's a lot of hope and energy

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Hermiston Foods is changing hands. Cleaver Farms plans to use the facility to extract CBD oil from industrial hemp for pharmaceutical purposes.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

