

Parks and recreation department faces uncertain summer

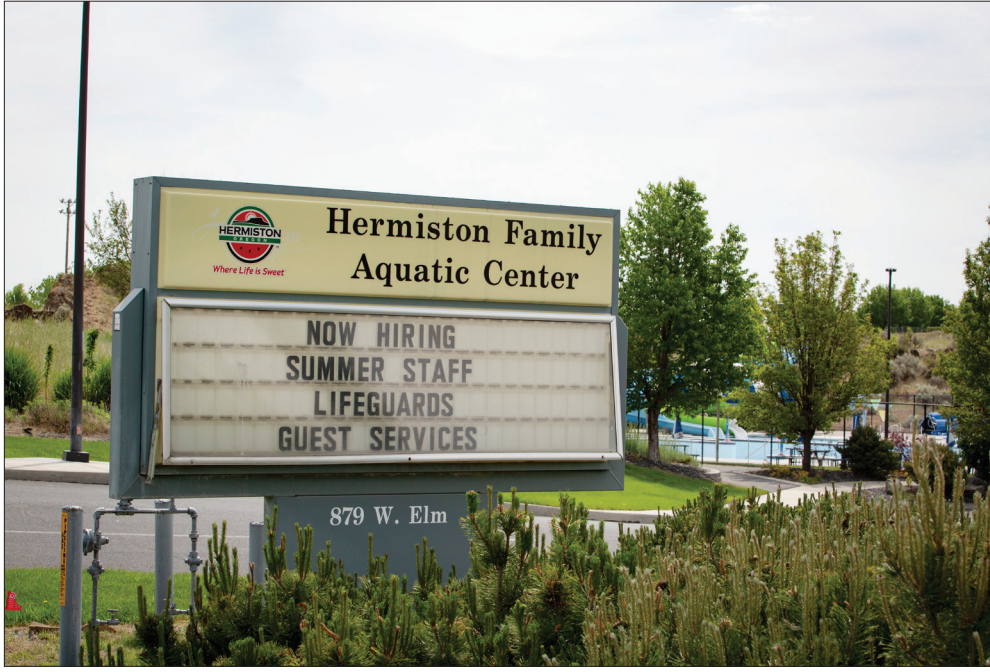
By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

Some of the city of Hermiston's summer recreation programs will go on and some are already canceled, but opening the city's aquatic center remains in question.

The state has dictated that swimming pools, water parks, playgrounds and picnic shelters remain closed during Phase One of Oregon's reopening. But Larry Fetter, Hermiston's parks and recreation director, said the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center could open in some form later in the summer if Umatilla County meets the criteria to move on to higher phases.

"Local governments can impose higher standards (for reopening) but they can't impose lower standards," Fetter said.

He said the department has made conditional job offers to lifeguards and swim instructors, with the understanding that the aquatic center may not open at all this summer. It is unclear



A sign at the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center advises that the facility is hiring summer staff and lifeguards. The city of Hermiston is weighing its options surrounding the reopening of facilities, such as the aquatic center.

so far at what phase public swimming pools would be allowed to open, and Fetter said if it comes too late in the summer it might be a struggle to staff the pool after some lifeguards have moved on to other job opportunities.

He said they are making the necessary preparations to open if they are able, however, and will adjust to the social distancing guidelines the state places on them.

"What that looks like is anyone's guess," Fetter said.

The splash pad at Butte Park, which is a combination of playground and water park, will also remain closed for now.

Hermiston's parks remain open in general, however, along with its trails and disc



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
The pools at the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center sit empty on Monday morning in the shadow of Hermiston Butte.

golf course. On the recreation side, Fetter said summer day camps fall under the child care category and will therefore be allowed to continue. Phase One also allows for gatherings of up to 25 people if they stay 6 feet apart as much as possible, which will allow some of the department's other summer programs to continue. The lunch program that offers free meals for children at parks will also go on as usual.

On the other hand, Fetter

said, restrictions on larger gatherings mean the cancellation of summer festivals, such as Spudfest and Mel-onfest on the city's festival street.

The city still plans to have its annual fireworks show on the Fourth of July. Fetter said they will forgo the live entertainment and booths set up in the park during the day, but people will still be able to enjoy the fireworks that night from their cars, homes or at a safe distance apart from each other in the park.

District accepting new school name submissions

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

It has been a couple of decades since Hermiston got to name a new school, but that chance has come again.

Hermiston School District is accepting submissions to name the new elementary school it plans to build in 2021 on East Theater Lane.

Current school district policy states that Hermiston school names must reference a famous American, the school's location (for example, the street it is on or a nearby geographical feature), or a community member who has not been active in the school or community for at least five years. Other names can be submitted with a written justification of why they should be considered despite not fitting the above criteria.

None of Hermiston's current elementary schools — Desert View, Rocky Heights, Highland Hills, West Park and Sunset — are named after a person.

The district's only school named after a person is Armand Larive Middle School, named after a former superintendent who served Hermiston in the 1950s through 1970s. When the district asked for suggestions 25 years ago for what is now Sandstone Middle School, finalists included Henry Ott Middle School, Doris Bounds Middle School, Ed Benschel Middle School, Tom McCall Middle School, Hermiston Desert Middle School and Farm City Middle School.

Name suggestions can be sent in through an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/TC9GRS2 that will be open throughout the



A sign at Hermiston High School thanks voters for their support of the bond that will build a new elementary school on Theater Lane.

month of May. Once ideas are gathered, the school board will select finalists for the public to vote on.

"By opening the process up to the public, we expect to find names that are truly representative of Hermiston's diversity and creativity," Superintendent Tricia Mooney said in a statement. "Each school is a fundamental part of this community, and it's important that the community is connected to

each school." The new elementary school will be paid for by a bond passed by Hermiston voters in 2019. The \$82.7 million bond plus \$6 million state matching grant will also pay for a new annex on the high school, replacing Rocky Heights Elementary School with a larger building, improvement of traffic flow in front of schools and purchasing land for future growth.

Pinning ceremony honors local graduate, daughter

HERMISTON HERALD

An event held in Cocoa Beach, Florida, recently celebrated milestones in the careers of mother and daughter in a joint pinning ceremony attended by family, friends, and co-workers.

The program began with the playing of the National Anthem by Elyssa Isaly on her flute. U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Laura (Herd) Isaly was promoted to her current grade by Lt. Col. Matthew Allen. After the reading of the official promotion orders, Allen administered the Oath of Office and Lt. Col. Isaly was formally pinned with her new grade by her daughter, Elyssa Isaly.

Following comments by Allen and Lt. Col. Isaly, Allen administered the Nightingale Oath to Elyssa Isaly, who graduated from the Eastern Florida State



L. Isaly



E. Isaly

College nursing program the previous evening. She was then pinned by her mother with her nursing pin. The pinning ceremony concluded with comments by both recipients.

Lt. Col. Isaly, a 1992 graduate of Stanfield High School, enlisted in the Air Force in 1994 and served as an A-10 aircraft crew chief. She earned a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from the University of South Carolina and an Air Force commission in 2005. She earned a master's degree in computer science from the Air Force Institute of Technology in Dayton, Ohio, in 2010. In 2017,

she earned an Air Command Staff College Masters of Military Operational Art and Science degree at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. She is currently assigned to Patrick AFB, Florida.

Elyssa Isaly is a 2016 graduate of Edgewood High

School, Merritt Island, Florida, with an Associate of Arts degree.

Lt. Col. Isaly is the daughter of Ron Herd (Herd) Young of Meacham, and Elyssa Isaly is their granddaughter.

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