

Freedom's Path apartments celebrates 10 years of helping homeless veterans

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The Columbian

Friday, August 7, 2026 | Serving Clark County, Washington |  www.columbian.com

Heat, wind threaten to boost fires

Crews making progress against flames across Wash.

By KAI UYEHARA
The Seattle Times

Firefighting crews are making progress containing wildfires burning hundreds of square miles across

INSIDE

Washington's attorney general urges caution if donating to wildfire charities. **Page A2**

this weekend while temperatures rise, increasing fire risk even as containment percentages have grown

Washington, including the catastrophic trio of fires in Spokane.

But winds are predicted to pick up this weekend while temperatures rise, increasing fire risk even as containment percentages have grown

among the largest and most serious fires, which include the Little Giant Fire outside of Leavenworth, the Kaiser Canyon and Modrite fires in Eastern Washington, and the Sinlahekin Fire in Central Washington.

Gov. Bob Ferguson praised firefighters battling the Spokane Complex Fire — originally a conflagration of the Old Trails, Fair-

view and Autumn Lane fires burning at the northern edges of Spokane — and said they had established containment lines at all three fires, “making significant progress.”

The Autumn Lane Fire, the most active among the original three blazes totaling over 16 square miles, was 13 percent contained Wednesday morning, ac-

cording to California Inter-agency Management Team 7, which is in Washington to help fight the fire. The Old Trails and Fairview fires were 13 percent and 5 percent contained, respectively.

Underscoring the fragility of the situation, a fourth blaze sparked Wednesday afternoon. Called the Charles Fire, it was reported about 1:51 p.m. west of the

Autumn Lane Fire and had grown to about 6 acres. This new fire is burning in a relatively rural area, but there are homes around, said Nathan Jeffries, an assistant fire chief with Spokane County's Fire District 5.

“We know we need to get on it,” said Tom Clemo, an incident commander for the **FIRE**, Page A2

Affordable Housing Projects Stall



Photos by AMANDA COWAN/The Columbian

A cyclist rides through downtown Vancouver as construction continues at the Native American Youth and Family Center's affordable housing project, left, on Thursday morning. Vancouver has committed money from its taxpayer-supported affordable housing fund to partially pay for eight existing projects. But because of Washington's budget shortfall, nonprofit developers are waiting longer than ever for state grants that would make their affordable housing projects pencil out.

Lack of state funds proves obstacle

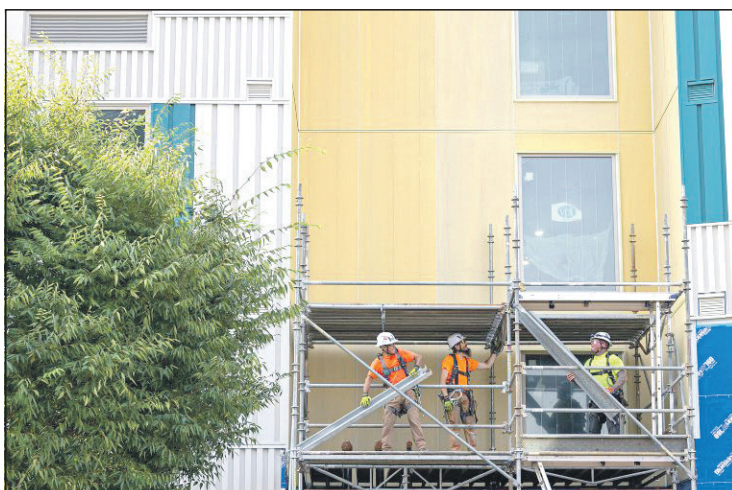
Vancouver official, staff study work-arounds for council to consider

By KELLY MOYER
The Columbian

The need is there, the will is there, and much of the money is there, but affordable housing development in Vancouver still has stalled out.

“The affordable housing pipeline is one of our biggest frustrations,” said Patrick Quinton, the city's housing and economic director. “We have eight existing projects with over 630 units that cannot move forward.”

The city has tried to help. Vancouver committed money from its taxpayer-supported affordable housing fund to partially pay for all eight projects, Quinton said. But because of Washington's



Construction continues on the Native American Youth and Family Center's affordable housing project in downtown Vancouver on Thursday morning.

budget shortfall, nonprofit developers are waiting longer than ever for state grants that would make their affordable housing projects pencil out.

“Having eight projects with over 630 units is a big deal. I'm not sure we've had that many in the pipeline in the past five years,” Quinton said. “This has

put a spotlight on the lack of state funding.”

Without state grants or other funding sources, the housing developments are in limbo — and so are the affordable housing fund dollars the city already has attached to the projects.

“Because these projects have stalled, we have roughly \$16 million that is committed but unspent,” Quinton said. “We're sitting on a bunch of undisbursed funds.”

‘No place for people to go’

In 2016, when Vancouver voters OK'd a \$42 million property tax levy to create the city's landmark affordable housing fund, the city's rental costs were growing faster than anywhere else in the nation, rental properties were 98 percent filled and subsidized housing waitlists were at capacity.

HOUSING, Page A2

Hennrich won't support Perez

Democrat finished 3rd in primary behind incumbent, Braun

By JAKE GOLDSTEIN-STREET
Washington State Standard

Fresh off a losing bid to unseat U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, fellow Democrat



U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez

Brent Hennrich says he won't be supporting her in the general election.

Hennrich earned over 16 percent of the tally as of Wednesday night in Southwest Washington's 3rd Congressional District, a distant third to Gluesenkamp Perez, a two-term moderate Democrat, and John Braun, the state Senate's Republican leader from Centralia.

Hennrich, who ran to the incumbent's left, had received nearly 28,000 votes, as of around 5 p.m. Wednesday. Those voters could be key to deciding the race come the

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WSU head coach to announce starting QB by Aug. 24

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Jackie Calmes: Trump's reality show grows tiresome

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