



PHOTO BY STEVE KADEL

Sisters High School boys and girls track Coach Jeff Larson, left, and project manager Brett Hudson inspect the running track's new surface.

SHS track and tennis courts ready

By Steve Kadel
Correspondent

Last week's sunny, warm weather gave workers the opportunity to wrap up renovation of the Sisters High School track and tennis courts.

"We just finished painting the track today," Brett Hudson, project engineer, said on Thursday, September 29. "The tennis courts were finished yesterday."

The two projects are the first to be funded with money from the \$10.7 million bond measure voters approved in May. Hudson will oversee all aspects of bond construction, with his salary paid by bond money.

He was happy with the track surfacing work done by Beynon Sports Surfaces, the company that installed the University of Oregon's Hayward Field track.

"It's great," Hudson said. "We hired a really good company with a lot of experience."

"It's beautiful," agreed Tim Roth, the District's athletic director.

A new running surface was needed because frost heaves and tree-root upheavals made the track unusable for competition. Now, the Outlaw track and field teams will be able to host meets in Sisters again.

Tri County Paving of Redmond did paving work for the track and tennis courts while Robinson & Owen Heavy Construction of Sisters did the construction. Response to Nature of Sisters installed new sod around the football field's perimeter.

Other construction authorized by the bond passage will start in earnest after an architectural firm is hired. Sisters School District Superintendent Curt Scholl has said he hopes that decision will be made during the November school board meeting.

Meanwhile, members of a citizens' oversight committee to monitor spending and construction related to the bond are expected to be announced during the Wednesday, October 5 school board meeting. It begins at 5 p.m. at the District administration office.

Drummer teaches rhythms at SES

By Erin Borla
Correspondent

Students at Sisters Elementary School learned new rhythms over the past two weeks with their African Drumming Artist in Residency.

Dale Largent from Bend spent the better part of the last two weeks working with music classes from Pre-K (through the SPRD Community Preschool), and kindergarten through 4th grade, all within the Sisters Elementary School and funded through the Studio to School grant from Sisters Folk Festival.

All kids received four lessons and participated in the all-school assembly (the preschool had two lessons).

Students learn hand-drumming on djembes. More importantly they learned ensemble skills and how to work in a team. They also each had the opportunity to explore several parts of music like dynamics and rests.

"It's a chance to be a little loud," said Largent. "And an entirely different experience for most of these kids — getting applause when you hit something."

Working in a group, even if you struggle with the rhythm, there are so many people around you that can support your sound and help get you on track.

The Studio to School grant was awarded to and managed by Sisters Folk Festival. It is funded through the Oregon Community Foundation, Fred Fields Fund. This five-year grant, now in its third year in Sisters, is in play in 18 sites across the state of Oregon. The first three years of the grant awarded the Sisters Folk Festival organization \$70,000 each. If they meet

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PHOTO BY ERIN BORLA

Sisters Elementary School fourth-grader Althea Trask plays a djembe.

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