

# PENNIES: Students surpass fundraising goal

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and helping others. Especially this time of year, people are in need," she said.

Though the students were excited by the competition aspect — with the highest-earning class getting a pizza party — Harwood said they also talked about the impact the donations would have locally.

"They were listing people that needed food," she said. "The fact that it was somewhere close, it hit close to home."

Some of Harwood's second-graders said they asked their parents to help out, while others donated money of their own.

"My parents have a jar filled with money, and I asked them for some of that," said Avah Viesca.

Sophie McFetridge said she found \$2 in her backpack, which she donated to the penny drive.

"I grabbed some of my money, but made sure I didn't get rid of all of my money," Davis said.

Though he said he hoped his class would win, he was more happy to be doing something nice for others.

Davis' mom, Kalie, said her son always takes the initiative to raise his own money.

"Phoenix does extra chores to earn money for when we go on vacation or when he really wants a new toy or game," she said.

But he saved that money once he came up with the idea for a penny drive.

"The first week of the penny harvest he came home and dumped all of his allowance money into a bag so he could donate it," she said. "He has a heart for helping people."

Toni Eddy, the board chair of the Stanfield Food Basket, said she and other food bank members were moved by the students' efforts.

"It had everyone in tears," she said.

Eddy said the food bank serves between 120 and 150 families per month. It is open



Staff photos by E.J. Harris

Toni Eddy, of Irigon, packs a box with food while preparing an order at the Stanfield Food Basket as Doris Reid of Hermiston looks on Monday.

the last two Mondays of each month from noon to 4 p.m. During November and December, it is open every Monday.

She said families can take whatever they need, but they give out food based on the size of the family. They stock fresh, frozen, dried and canned food, and try to provide enough food for families to make five or six meals between each visit to the food bank, to supplement food they can buy with their own income or from other programs.

She said Safeway donates fresh produce through their "Fresh Alliance" program, and several individuals and groups will contribute, as well.

"Most of our donations

come in the form of food," she said. "We have a couple of sources that contribute on a regular basis."

They also apply for grants, and get donations from CAPECO and the Oregon Food Bank. Donations from schools and community members also help.

"We use the monetary donations to fill in the gaps," she said. "So if we're getting a lot of grain products, we may need to buy more canned food," Eddy said.

They also use it for special occasions. This year, they gave away whole roasted chickens for Thanksgiving.

The Stanfield Food Basket is located at 405 N. Sherman St., Stanfield, and is open to anyone who lives in Umatilla County.



Janet Butler of Stanfield puts food items in a bag while filling an order on Monday at the Stanfield Food Basket.

## RATES: The council voted 6-1 to table the resolution

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increase was 10.95 percent in 2015 and 2.5 percent in 2016. The increase proposed for Jan. 1 would represent a 2.56 percent increase.

Rivera said the increase would have been higher, but HES saved a combined \$3 million on a refinancing of its bond debt and savings on construction costs compared to what had been originally budgeted. However, he also said the increase before the council Monday did not factor in whatever amount BPA increases its wholesale power rates by in 2019, or what costs might be added to HES by a capital improvement plan in the works — meaning he would likely be in front of the council a year from now asking for another increase.

Mayor David Drotz-

mann said he didn't like the idea of continuing to go back to customers with more rate changes each year, and city councilors pointed out that it was unfortunate timing with the recent rate increase for water and sewer that will kick in March 2019.

Smith said staff thought it was better to raise rates only as needed.

"The council had previously said they didn't want to wait, and see those 11 percent increases," he said.

Councilor John Kirwan said he wanted to see a more specific breakdown of how the customer's bill was divided between different costs such as wholesale power and construction. He asked that the council postpone a vote on the increase until their next meeting so that Rivera could come

back with that breakdown and a better explanation of how the savings from construction and the bond refinancing were being used.

The council voted 6-1 to table the resolution. Councilor Manuel Gutierrez was the dissenting vote, after pointing out that a Dec. 10 vote for a Jan. 1 increase would not give customers much time to prepare.

Included in the resolution was a new program that, if passed, would allow customers to pre-pay their electric bill with HES. Rivera said customers who prepaid at least \$25 of their first bill would be able to avoid the \$250 deposit that new customers are usually required to provide.

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## DEATH: Report of shooting came in at about 6:30 a.m. Monday

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report Monday at about 6:30 a.m. and deputies responded in the foggy, sub-freezing morning, where they found Luiz-Antonio dead.

"There was evidence at the scene that indicated Mr. Luiz-Antonio was shot and killed while operating the tractor," according to written statement from the sheriff's office.

Detectives and some members of the local major crimes team spent most of the day "investigating and searching for evidence that may lead to a suspect and an

arrest in the case," according to the sheriff's office.

"We have leads on the case, and are following up with our investigation," Rowan said. "We are not at liberty to identify the other employee at this time."

The sheriff's office also stated the Oregon State Medical Examiner plans to conduct an autopsy Tuesday and will release further information as it becomes available.

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus also was at the scene. Primus or one of his deputies responds in person to homi-

cide scenes. He said he was there in case the investigation required a search warrant or to answer questions about evidence gathering. Primus also said it helps to have a first-hand account if he needs to present the case to a jury.

Rowan said there are nine people working the investigation, including officers from Hermiston, Milton-Freewater and Walla Walla to help with translation.

Umapine is about 9 miles northwest of Milton-Freewater in the northeastern corner of Umatilla County.

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