

New discipline strategy comes to local schools

Schools and child care facilities in the area are taking a new approach to instruction

By JESSICA POLLARD
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — The sun is setting on the disciplinary age of no deserts and time-out for children in trouble. It's rising, instead, on a social emotional learning program called Conscious Discipline.

Perhaps Dr. Becky Bailey, creator of the program, said it best: "Discipline is not something we do to children, but something we develop within them."

Conscious Discipline has been around for two decades now, and is currently gaining momentum in Eastern Oregon.

The curriculum features books and other classroom aides that educators can purchase online. It is built around the "Seven Skills of Discipline," which are composure, encouragement, assertiveness, choices, empathy, positive intent, and consequences.

It promotes internal, as opposed to external, reinforcement.

"You don't do it because I'll like you, you do it because it's helpful," said Erin Bartsch, the prenatal to third grade coordinator for Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub.

The program also emphasizes a focus on childhood trauma affecting student success.

"People understand adverse childhood experiences and how they impact learning, and a child's ability to come to school ready to learn," Bartsch said,



Staff photo by Jessica Pollard

Stanfield Elementary School Principal Lacey Sharpe reads a book in the school's "Safe Place" room for kids.

"When you understand trauma, it changes the way you approach behavior management."

This month, the Conscious Discipline Summer Institute, a seven-day foundational training on the program, will take place in Hermiston July 15-21.

Around 150 educators, administrators and home visitors will be in attendance. Bartsch said the training, which costs \$1,100 to attend, sold out within a month. The Hub, with the help of a Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant, was able to fund 50 of those seats.

With a grant from the Ford

Family Foundation, the Hub will help provide lunch and travel expenses to attendees. The leftover money will go toward learning materials, which the Hub helps supply to teachers in the area.

There will be a one-day Spanish training available as well, and a follow-up training focused on parent education and home visits in August.

Currently, school districts across Umatilla and Morrow counties all incorporate some degree of CD into the classroom. Umatilla Morrow County Head Start utilizes the program.

The Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center's Native Con-

nections program is installing CD community-wide.

After the Conscious Discipline Summer Institute, Bartsch said the area can expect more parent education on the matter.

Bartsch said that some districts are more ahead than others, and that it mostly depends on size. She said educators sometimes look to Stanfield School District as an example of implementation.

Conscious Discipline in action

There is a little room next to Principal Lacey Sharp's office in Stanfield Elementary. It's full of brightly col-

ored seats and picture books. The whiteboard reads in large handwriting, "You have the power to choose!"

This is Stanfield Elementary's "Safe Place." It's where kids go when they are feeling upset and need to calm down, and it plays an integral role in the school's CD program.

Sharp said Stanfield Elementary has been practicing CD for six years now.

The school prefers "calling for help forms" to traditional referrals. Rather than sticking kids in detention, a "connecting session" creates individual time between the student, teacher and principal to dis-

cuss the conflict at hand.

"Any type of behavior that students have, they're trying to tell us something and it's our job and opportunity to respond in a helpful way," Sharp said.

But it's not just about the kids. The school has a "Staff Shout Out" board where employees can leave positive comments for each other. Photos of staff friends and family are posted outside the library.

Sharp said when the school first started practicing CD, kids were showing up in Safe Place at a much higher rate than they are now. Every month, students participate in an assembly that covers one of the seven tenets of CD.

Previously, Stanfield Elementary didn't have a counselor. But starting in the fall, a new counselor will be available two days a week, along with a counseling space adorned with bean bag chairs and games. The counselor will be integral to the continuation of the CD program, Sharp said.

Sharp said that three educators from Stanfield, herself included, will be in attendance at the training later this month.

The middle and secondary schools have adopted some of the CD practices as well.

"It's teaching kids how to manage their emotions, it just looks different from [another] age," Sharp said.

According to the Stanfield School District website, the district has over 520 students. Sharp said administrative support has been integral to implementing CD so deeply.

"For parents," she said, "don't be afraid to learn more about it. [Conscious Discipline] really starts with the adult."

Hermiston council to vote on EOTEC strategic plan Monday

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston City Council will vote Monday on adoption of a strategic plan for the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

The city retained SSW Consulting to help it create a strategic plan for EOTEC, which opened the doors to its first building in 2016. Some of the priorities listed in the plan include securing water rights for the site, updating the overall site plan, beautification, improving security, building storage and office space for the Umatilla County Fair, improving the RV park, adding a multisports facility and developing a marketing plan.

The council will also vote Monday on the next step in formation of a local improvement district in the South Hermiston Industrial Park. The LID, once formed, would assess property owners within the industrial park area to pay for new roads, water and sewer infrastructure the city hopes will draw

more businesses to the site. Monday's resolution would declare an intent to form the district, setting in motion the required public hearing process.

The council's regular meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at city hall, preceded by a 6 p.m. work session to discuss new parks and recreation department software and the Family Promise program sponsored by the Faith Based Advisory Committee.

ON THE AGENDA

The agenda for the 7 p.m. meeting also includes:

A presentation of updates by Hermiston School District

Adoption of updates to the employee handbook

A vote on joining a new statewide coalition called PERS for Public Service

Staff, council and committee reports

Whisky Fest expands kickoff party

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — As the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest has grown, so has its kickoff party.

A Friday night concert on South Main Street the evening before Whisky Fest, the kickoff concert is expecting to attract more than 6,000 people, organizer Andy McAnally wrote in an email.

As a result of the anticipated crowds, Whisky Fest is hiring a second band to entertain an audience preparing for the July 13 main event at the Round-Up Grounds.

The kickoff party will feature holdovers DJ Govern-T and Precious Byrd, a self-described "dance band" from Bend.

The acts will be joined by newcomer Kurt Van Meter, a

former Hillsboro cop whose brush with death inspired him to pursue a career in country music.

The event, which runs from 6 p.m. to midnight, will mainly take place on the 200 block of Main Street, although a section of the 300 block next to the Pendleton Farmers Market will be open to kickoff party food vendors.

The Pendleton Police Department will close the 200 block of Main Street at 4 a.m. on July 12, with the 300 block to follow at 2 p.m.

Whisky Fest has also filled out the rest of its July 13 slate to compliment headline acts Post Malone and 50 Cent.

This year, organizers are going heavy on hip-hop acts, with all five performers associated with the genre.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Members of the Party Pit watch as Blake Shelton performs during the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest last year. As a result of the anticipated crowds for this year's event, Whisky Fest is hiring a second band to entertain an audience preparing for the July 13 main event at the Round-Up Grounds.

Before 50 Cent takes the stage, Whisky Fest will feature a performance from Tyla Yaweh, a Florida rap-

per and singer who is signed to Post Malone's record label and has performed with him on tour.

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
7/5 - 7
Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie
Showing Wednesday
Iron Giant at 10AM
and **Sixteen Candles 12PM**

Spider-Man: Far From Home (PG13)
1:20p* 6:30p 7:00p
ED 4:10p 9:50p

Midsommar - R
12:40p* 3:40p*, 6:40p, 9:40p

Toy Story 4 (PG)
12:10p* 2:30p* 4:50p 7:10p 9:30p

Annabelle Comes Home (R)
11:50p* 2:20p* 4:40p 7:20p 10:00p

Men in Black: International (PG13)
3:50p* 9:20p

The Secret Life of Pets 2 (PG)
11:40a* 1:40p*

* Matinee Pricing
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WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
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Festival Street Entertainment

7:30 am
ROTARY BREAKFAST

9:00 am
ZUMBA BY JOY

9:30 am
BIG TOP THE CLOWN

10:00 am
TRINITY MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY

11:00 am
DALLIN PUZEY

12:00 pm
BRAM BRATA STEEL BAND

1:00 pm
WOOD CARVERS AUCTION

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