

# Stanfield opens school year with renovated track, tennis courts

By MARCO GRAMACHO  
East Oregonian

STANFIELD — Stanfield School District started fall term classes Monday, Aug. 22, and the district's renovated track and tennis courts are ready for the community and students.

"Stanfield School District had been saving up for the tennis courts and the track renovation for a few years," explained Beth Burton, superintendent of the Stanfield School District.

The tennis courts were in bad shape with large cracks throughout the surface. The track had some similar cracking issues in the asphalt base that were very obvious in the surface material.

"We are excited to have a new asphalt base and new surfacing over the top. It's a 400-meter oval track, pretty standard," Burton said.

The track renovation cost was \$456,700 and the tennis courts cost \$28,600.

"These projects were not bond-funded," Burton said. "Originally, we thought we might utilize our Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund III for these projects, and we got approval to do so. However, we decided to shift those



Stanfield School District/Contributed Photo

Stanfield School District began classes Monday, Aug. 22, 2022, and the district's renovated tennis courts are ready for use. The district spent \$28,600 to redo the courts.

funds to our bus garage project. The tennis court and track are paid for out of our General Fund. We had been saving for a few years."

The Horyna Sports Complex at the bottom of the hill on West Harding Street holds the tennis courts, baseball field and football field. The practice football field is inside the track, which is up on the Stanfield School

District school campus between the elementary school and the secondary school.

Burton pointed out that accessibility to both facilities is great.

"While the track is still closed as the renovation is not yet complete, it is a facility that is open all the time for public use," she said. "It gets a considerable amount

of community use in the fall, spring and summer. It is safe, and it is pretty well-lit. The tennis courts are open for public use as well."

Once the track renovation is complete next month, Stanfield School District won't have any large-scale facilities improvements for a little while.

"Our community is growing as there is a tremendous



Stanfield School District/Contributed Photo

Fall term classes began Monday, Aug. 22, 2022, for the Stanfield School District, which spent \$456,700 to give new life to its track.

amount of housing in the works, so there may be a need to evaluate our capacity and do some precursory planning sooner than later," she said.

Stanfield schools Athletics Director Lorena Woods pointed out the support of the community was paramount to achieve the goal.

"Sports are a huge part of the everyday life of children and teenagers in our schools," she said. "Kids learn to play tennis at an early age, between 9 and 12."

Stanfield School District has 545 students in grades K-12. The student population is very close to 50% Hispanic and 50% white. About 1% of

the population identify as Native American or Alaskan Native and less than 1% identify as Asian or Black.

"I love our school district, and I love this community," Burton said. "I live in Stanfield and I love that I live where I work. My oldest daughter started kindergarten at Stanfield Elementary, and I am grateful to know that she is in the best hands with the staff here. I love that I can look down the hallway in both schools, elementary and secondary, and know that there is not a single teacher I wouldn't be proud for my daughters to have. I'm looking forward to a really good year."

## Rodeo:

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Before the Morrow County Rodeo, the OTRP took place Aug. 19-20, with a payout of more than \$35,000. Russell Cardoza of Terrebonne won the all-around title, competing in steer wrestling, team roping and tie-down roping.

"We had slack on Thursday, and our perfs were full," Healy said of the rodeo, which continues to operate in the same location as it was 100 years ago.

In addition to the all-around title, the rodeo also gives out the Mike Currin Memorial Buckle to the winner of the tie-down roping, which was Bo Pickett of Caldwell, Idaho.

Barrel racing champion Jessica Telford of Caldwell was awarded the Janice Healy Davis Memorial Buckle.

Not to be outdone by the rodeo, the parade featured royalty courts from the past, including 1946 queen Darlene Biddle Hoskins, who is 95 years young and was the parade Grand Marshal.

"We had a good celebration this year," Judy Healy



Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo/Contributed Photo

Ken Bailey, left, of Heppner won the Morrow County amateur calf roping title on Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022. Also with Bailey are his grandchildren Tinley, Tymber, Tiller, Kabel, Koy and Roane, Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo President Tanner Britt, and Jeff Watkins, far right, from Morrow County Grain Growers, which sponsored the saddle.

said. "We had the Pendleton Mounted Band, which was an honor for us. The parade was awesome with all the old wagons, and the past royalty was pretty cool. The farm museum (Morrow County Agriculture Museum) really went out of their way to make sure we had the wagons. The past royalty was on the wagons and some on horses. Some of these people hadn't

seen each other for years. That was pretty special."

Among the older wagons was one that once belonged to the late Joe Yocom, who was a lifelong volunteer for the Morrow County Fair & Rodeo, and was honored as grand marshal in 2008.

Yocom's fully restored yellow covered wagon is well-known in the Westward Ho! Parade and Happy Canyon.

## Naughton:

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"They called me and informed me the main assistant coach position for track was opening up," Bradley said. "They heard stuff about me from Lane (Maher). Once that initial contact was made, things moved pretty quickly. The former head coach (Austin Basterrechea) took a job as the assistant athletic director."

While the move is an exciting one, Bradley said

it came with a little sadness.

"I'm really excited about it, but it definitely was not an easy decision," he said. "Every year you get a kid into the high school that you want to see through their senior year. Not an easy decision."

Bradley's move has him working with former Pendleton hurdler Lane Maher, who, in two years at College of Idaho, has set indoor and outdoor school records in the hurdle events.

"When you have an athlete of Lane's caliber, it makes it easier on the coach," said Bradley, who

coached the hurdles at Pendleton for seven years.

"We are excited to work together again. He has two more years. He has some national aspirations he wants to hit."

It's a cool group of athletes over there. They are welcoming and are happy to have me."

Bradley said he leaves the program in good hands with Naughton.

"Maddy has been an assistant for a long time at Pendleton," he said. "She was a coach when I was an athlete there. She is a familiar face to the kids."

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