

Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017

HermistonHerald.com

\$1.00



Basketball team slam dunks snow in Stanfield

By TAMMY MALGESINI

Community Editor

Nearly two dozen Stanfield Secondary School students put their idle time to good use after the recent snowfall.

School was canceled Monday after another winter storm dumped a thick layer of snow throughout the region. Stanfield basketball coach Jason Sperr huddled with his players and decided to help the city and area residents.

Instead of hitting the hardwood Monday afternoon, the student-athletes and a handful of coaches hit the streets in Stanfield. Armed with shovels and brooms, the group cleared snow away from more than two dozen homes and many city sidewalks.

"They're learning to give back," Sperr said about his players. "The community is what keeps the school running. They need to support that community just as much."

Players Rafael Orozco, Mario Sanchez, Cody Griffin and Carlos Hernandez all said it felt good to provide a service to the community. Helping others, Orozco said, gives youths an opportunity to show people that the younger generation can step up when needed. The freshman small forward said assisting others lays the groundwork to success.

Griffin, a sophomore guard, agreed, saying it's a good reflection of what youths are capable of. Also, he said, shoveling snow gave him something productive to do instead of just sitting around at home all day.

Cecili Longhorn was impressed with the efforts of the players and their coaches.

"I think this is a simple and great way to show kids how much fun helping others can be," she said.

As the Stanfield Public Library director, Longhorn was pleased to have the group clear snow around the building — even offering them hot chocolate and cookies during a break.

"When the boys left the library, they were all so polite and thankful," she said.

Longhorn was equally impressed with the number of people that offered the youths goodies. Their efforts was the topic of numerous posts on Facebook, she said. Many grateful residents, Longhorn said, offered treats to the team.

Sanchez, a freshman guard, and Hernandez, a senior guard, said they were having a good time. Also, both players said working together with their teammates could help on the court.

See SNOW, A14



A group of Stanfield Secondary School basketball players shovel snow Monday afternoon at a home on West Coe Avenue in Stanfield.

STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI



Cody Griffin, a sophomore at Stanfield Secondary School, cools off while shoveling snow as part of a basketball team community service project Monday afternoon on West Coe Avenue in Stanfield.

STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI



A group of Stanfield Secondary School basketball players shovel snow Monday afternoon at a home on West Coe Avenue in Stanfield.

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Where is the snow supposed to go?

HERMISTON HERALD

The latest winter storms have dumped a blanket of snow on the region — in many places on top of previous snowfall and ice that hadn't completely melted.

While highways and freeways have experienced road closures, the issue facing local home and business owners includes what to do with all the snow that's piling up. Driving through town, it's not an unusual sight to see mounds of snow in parking lots and along curbs.

Ron Sivey, city of Hermiston street supervisor, urges people to be selective about what they do with snow being removed from sidewalks and driveways.

See DISPOSAL, A14

Hermiston paramedic inauguration



FILE PHOTO

Emersyn Aitkin, 5, sprays a fire hose with some assistance from paramedic Mark Johnson during a tour of the Hermiston fire station in February 2014. Johnson will be going to Washington, D.C., to serve as a paramedic on the Disaster Medical Assistance Team during Donald Trump's inauguration.

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

Hermiston Herald

Mark Johnson will see history up close this month, when he serves on a team of paramedics working at the Jan. 20 inauguration of president-elect Donald Trump in Washington, D.C.

Johnson, a Hermiston native and paramedic with Hermiston's fire district for almost 17 years, is part of a statewide disaster response team called the Disaster Medical Assistance Team. The teams are formed by state, and are deployed for federal events that can include natural disasters or national security matters. Most states in the U.S. have at least one team, Johnson said. Those teams are on rotation throughout the

See EMS, A14

INSIDE

SPECIAL SECTION

OUR ANNUAL PROGRESS EDITION LOOKS AT THE YEAR AHEAD FOR OUR REGION.

INSIDE

KING HOLIDAY

HERMISTON GROUP LEADS LOCAL CELEBRATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING'S CIVIL RIGHTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

PAGE 4A

ROLLED AWAY

TINY HOUSE TOWED AWAY AFTER OWNER GOT STRANDED NEAR HERMISTON DUE TO WEATHER.

PAGE 6A

CHOCOLATES

COMMUNITY EDITOR TAMMY MALGESINI'S HEAD IS LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES....

PAGE 8A

MOVIN' ON UP?

HERMISTON HIGH SCHOOL MAY MOVE UP TO THE LARGEST ATHLETIC CLASSIFICATION FOR THE 2018 SEASON.

PAGE 9A

BRIEFLY

SAGE Center hosts job fair

More than 30 immediate career opportunities are available at Lamb Weston.

People can participate in interviews and get information during the Lamb Weston Sage Center Job Fair. The event is Thursday, Jan. 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman.

People are encouraged to bring a copy of their resume. For more information, visit www.lamb-weston.com/about/careers or call 855-216-9551.

Altrusa seeks nominations for youth award

An outstanding young citizen will be recognized during the upcoming Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet in Hermiston.

Altrusa International of Hermiston is seeking nominations for the award. Young people under the age of 21 will be considered. Altrusa is looking for someone that demonstrates commitment, personal responsibility, a positive attitude and who goes beyond what's expected of them to benefit others.

Nomination forms are available at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 415 S. Highway 395, or by emailing hermistonaltrusa@gmail.com. The form and a letter detailing the person's achievements must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 20.

The awards banquet is Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be ordered at www.hermiston-chamber.com or by calling 541-567-6151.



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