



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

William McMillan fills the radiator with coolant on his 1976 Corvette Stingray on Friday in Hermiston.

CORVETTE

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William never made it past the first one, which he decided he had to have. The man selling it said his recently-deceased mother had owned it for 20 years, but it hadn't been driven for the past two and he wasn't even sure it would run anymore.

A new battery and a few fluids later, however, William drove it from Portland all the way home.

"He surprised me with it," Christy said, re-enacting her shock when she saw the classic car in the driveway.

It was a fun surprise though — she was and is supportive of the hobby.

The car took about a year to get show-ready, including a new paint job in the original brown, now with

tiny gold and bronze flecks to make it shine. Everything in the car was kept except for the stereo, which was upgraded from the 8-track player.

William said whoever the original owner was "loaded it up" with every amenity offered for the model in 1976 including air conditioning, rear defrost, extra horsepower, telescopic steering and something called Gymkhana suspension. It has little more than 133,000 miles on it and runs "great."

"It was well taken care of," William said. "Somebody loved it for a long time before me."

Matt Price, an organizer for Corvettes on the Columbia, said show judges look for things like the quality of the interior, the paint job, engine condition and how accessories enhance the car.

Something like a small ding in the paint or a rock chip on the window will count against it.

For the McMillans to win a top award, their car had to be "presented very well."

"It garnered a lot of respect," he said.

Price said there have been seven generations of Corvettes since they first came on the market in 1953 (William's belongs to the third), and all seven generations were represented at this year's show. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Make a Wish foundation, which serves children with life-threatening medical conditions.

William's Corvette has also won a few other awards, including recent honors at Echo's car show. The couple had to miss a few shows last year while getting the car touched up

after he nudged a pole.

"The front end's really long on it, so you can kind of misinterpret how close you are," he said.

Before each show, he cleans and polishes every inch of the vehicle. Since he doesn't have a trailer to transport the Corvette, he then has to scrub bugs off the exterior again once he drives it to wherever he is going.

Some days, instead of driving it to a car show, the McMillans cruise around town or on the highway for the pure joy of it.

When William took it for a spin last week he pointed out the people who were doing double-takes or turning to stare at the car as it cruised by. He said it's common for people to stare or even try to race him.

"I think it's an attention-getter," he said.

BTW

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This year the association donated half of their proceeds to Hermiston police officer **Mike Ellwood's** family. His daughter **Jasmine** is battling cancer and the family is facing "significant financial challenges as a result."

"The support we have seen for this family is humbling," **Capt. Travis Eynon** wrote. "Words cannot express the appreciation we have for our community and in our partner agencies. A huge thank you to the Umatilla Police Officer's Association for their generous act of kindness."

The police department also wrote this week about using caution while interacting with solicitors.

While many door-to-door solicitors are making a legitimate living, the department wrote, the practice can also be a way for scammers to target people.

Any door-to-door solicitor in the area is required to have a license from the city. Licenses can be looked up online at <https://hermiston.or.us/police/solicitors-license>.

Hermiston residents are encouraged to take time to verify information and make an informed decision.

"If a sales person does not have their license, or you can't find their information at this link, please give us a ring at 541-567-5519 and press the option for dispatch," **Lt. Randy Studebaker** wrote.

Summer reading programs at local libraries are heating up, providing the opportunity for kids to put their brains to work over the break from school.

The summer reading program in Echo kicks off Friday at 2 p.m. in the VFW Building, 20 S. Bonanza St.

The program is open to youths from birth through

age 18. The parents of non-readers can list the titles of books they read to their child. In addition, there will be a variety of programs, giveaways and contests all summer, so be sure to pick up a list of events and drop by as often as possible.

For more information, call 541-376-8411.

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A recent donation by **Smitty's Ace Hardware** owners **Randy and Tammy Smith** encourages summer reading. **Shelley Lund** said students at **Sunset Elementary School** were giddy with excitement when representatives from the Hermiston business stopped by the school June 1 to deliver 500 books.

Students carefully flipped through the pages to determine what book they wanted to take home with them. Store employee **Niki Garhart-Gonzalez** said her daughter, **Myah Gonzalez**, was among the students who received a book. "I think this is so great," she said.

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Even though volunteers of the **Good Shepherd Medical Center Auxiliary** were being recognized during a June 4 awards luncheon, they still were reaching out to give back. **Nick Bejarano**, director of marketing and communications, said the group presented a check for \$22,000 to **Bob Green**, executive director of the **Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation**.

The money was raised through a variety of fundraisers throughout the fiscal year. Bejarano said it will be used to purchase much-needed equipment at Good Shepherd. For more about the hospital auxiliary, call the director of volunteer services at 541-667-3690.

You can submit items for our weekly *By The Way* column by emailing your tips to editor@hermistonherald.com.

MIGRANT

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older students it may be comprehension."

Kara Nichols, who has taught at the migrant education program for four years, said with her fourth grade class she is focusing on vocabulary, and on place value in math lessons.

She said she has taught the same group of students since they were in first grade, and has enjoyed the connection she's developed with them.

"The smaller size class makes it more personable," she said.

She added that language barriers can be a challenge.

"I speak Spanish, but I can't teach in it," she said. "I have to try to make sure their time is valuable."

For students who don't speak English, Fitterer said in addition to a math and reading goal, they will work toward an English goal by the end of the program.

"We work on prepositions, pronouns and verbs," she said. "We've had pretty good success with monolingual students."



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Students listen as instructor **Carson Clem** explains the details of an in-class assignment during science class for ESL student on Friday at **Sunset Elementary School** in Hermiston.

She noted that in the last few years, they've seen an increase in students who only speak a language other than English or Spanish, such as K'iche' or Mam, Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala and parts of Mexico.

Kyllian Wood, the seventh/eighth grade class instructor, said the students help each other out, too.

"There are three monolingual students in here," he said. "The rest of them are almost all bilingual, and they try and translate — that

helps."

In the first grade class, students are working in small groups at five different stations on reading assignments. Some sound out words with the teacher, and some do a word recognition game called "smelly sight words," where they roll a dice, and the number corresponds with a certain color and word. They then use a "smelly" marker to write that word, helping them develop an association between the word and the number.

Students also complete assignments on a program called "Stride," which was created specifically for migrant education programs.

"They can continue to use it for the rest of the summer on their computer, laptop or even cell phone," Fitterer said. The program has lessons in math, phonics and science.

"Many of the families will go to Texas to sell Christmas trees, then migrate back here for asparagus, and over to Washington for apples," Fitterer said. "So the kids' instruction is interrupted."

She said the Stride program helps bridge that gap, allowing students to have some continuity in their education even if they are moving schools.



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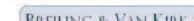
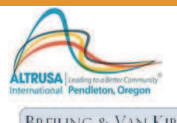
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