



Members of the U.S. Air Force team compete against Amo ser Latina during the Splash and Dash at Funfest in downtown Hermiston on Saturday. STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

Splash and Dash helped Funfest stay cool

By JADE MCDOWELL
STAFF WRITER

A frenzy of splashing and dashing officially broke in Hermiston's new festival street during Funfest on Saturday.

The annual summer celebration in downtown Hermiston included a ribbon-cutting for the new street followed by Splash and Dash 2018, a race between teams of three pushing one team member around cones in a wheeled tub full of water.

"We hope this becomes an annual tradition," city parks and recreation director Larry Fetter said. "The winners will have their name engraved on this very nice trophy and we hope to add names every year."

The first spot on the trophy belongs to Hermiston's Rotary Club, which won the championship heat against the U.S. Air Force team.

Rotary president Tony Garberg and team members Haylee Harper and Brad Wayland said they hoped the city continued the tradition every year so that Rotary could defend its title.

"It was a blast," Harper said. Garberg said they didn't practice ahead of time, and Wayland gave credit to "old age wiles" for their win.

Eight teams total competed, and Umatilla County Fire District 1 was on hand with a truck to refill tubs with a fire hose and shower contestants with extra water as they pulled the tubs around a series of orange traffic cones. There was a Seattle Seahawks-themed team and the "Hawaiian bobsled team." The Hispanic Advisory Committee was represented by the Three Amigos — city councilor Clara Beas Fitzgerald, city council candidate Mark Gomolski and HAC chair Jose Garcia.

Patty Ortiz, Rosie Delgado and Ana Pimeyro named their team "Amo ser Latina," a Spanish play on words that meant both "I love to be Latina" and "I love to be the bathtub." They said they didn't do much to prepare, other than having enthusiasm and positive thinking and matching



The Bram Brata Steel Drum Band performs on the new festival street at Funfest in downtown Hermiston on Saturday. STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL



Splash and Dash competitors pose for a photo after Rotary Club was crowned this year's winner at Funfest in downtown Hermiston on Saturday. STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

T-shirts. "We did our shirts, that's a start, right?" Pimeyro said.

Before the Splash and Dash, city manager Byron Smith and city planner Clint Spencer cut the ribbon on the new festival street. Smith said the street had been talked about for at least 10 years before it became a reality, and credited Spencer with putting it into motion. He also thanked a long list of other contributors, including the contractors and engineers, the city committee that worked on the design and the downtown merchants who were supportive of the project despite the impact of construction the last few

months. "I know it wasn't pleasant all the time, but thank you for your patience," he said.

While the festival section of Northeast Second Street hosted the tub races and live entertainment, Funfest stretched down sev-

eral blocks of Main Street. Crowds downtown listened to bands, bought food and snow cones, watched lawnmower races, got free pop-sicles handed out by Santa Claus and participated in activities like the bouncy house and dunk tank while trying to stay cool.

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Odor citations coming 'almost daily' at Stanfield plant



The 3D Idapro Solutions plant in Stanfield is receiving nearly a citation a day for odor complaints from residents of the town. HH FILE PHOTO

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
STAFF WRITER

A pet food plant in Stanfield has received a string of complaints from citizens who say the odor from the facility is once again permeating the air.

The 3D Idapro Solutions pet food processing facility, on Hoosier Lane, has been the subject of daily complaints from residents. Since last summer, the facility has had problems with an odor control device, called a scrubber, that burned in the first of several fires at the plant. Though company executives came to Stanfield in October and presented a three-part plan to mitigate odors, citizens have been complaining that odors have gotten worse again.

Stanfield City Manager Blair Larsen said in an email to the *Hermiston Herald* that the plant is now getting a citation nearly every day. He said he has been in communication with the plant every week for most of the year.

"For a 10-day period in early June, they had turned things around, and our complaints had dropped to only one or two per day," Larsen wrote.

But since then he said complaints have spiked again. The city continues to rely on their odor nuisance ordinance, which states that if the city receives complaints about an offensive odor from a property in city limits from at least four separate

households in a 12-hour period, they can issue a citation. The ordinance states that the municipal judge can set the fine anywhere from \$0 to \$2,000 per occurrence.

Larsen said the judge had been escalating the fine, and he heard the most recent ones have been set at close to \$500 each.

Larsen said the company's vice president said they are hiring a new general manager for the site. He said they are also again replacing equipment that had previously been fixed, and installing additional equipment that will decrease the amount of time the material sits before going into the dryer.

"They are saying that this will result in fresher material going in, and fresher material means less odor," Larsen wrote.

He said despite the increase in complaints, the city has not changed its process.

"Our discussions with our city attorney have indicated that we don't have any other options unless we decide to file a lawsuit against the company. The city council has chosen not to go that route at this time," Larsen wrote.

Some Stanfield residents also started a Facebook group last week, which states that its purpose is for residents to share ideas and stories, and hopes to end the smell in Stanfield. So far the group, titled "What's That Smell!?" has gathered more than 80 members.

Juvenile injured in accidental shooting

HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston.

Umatilla police are looking into a shooting in a McNary neighborhood on July 11.

Around 5 p.m., police were called to Chenoweth Street for reports of a male who had a gunshot wound. Police Chief Darla Huxel said the 16-year-old victim was taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center,

Huxel said the boy suffered an accidental, self-inflicted wound to his left hand while handling a handgun.

She said the victim and some of the witnesses were not being cooperative, and that the police had not yet found the gun. The parents were not home at the time of the incident, and are cooperating with the police.

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