

Planting seeds: Hermiston's community garden teaches skills and responsibility

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

At Lovin' Spadeful Community Garden, Bill and Ann Webb's family is planting seeds.

There are pumpkin seeds and marigold seeds and bell pepper seeds. But there are also seeds of knowledge, hard work and responsibility.

"We want them to take a more active role and get a better idea of where our food comes from and how much work it takes to grow it," Bill said, explaining why they signed their children up for a plot at the community garden this year after moving to Hermiston.

The family visits the garden, located on Good Shepherd Health Care System's campus, a few times a week to take care of the variety of plants that are beginning to sprout. One of the advantages of the community garden is that all the tools, from a drip irrigation system to spades and hoes, are provided.

"I think it's a great program," he said. "There's a lot of value added to it."

Chelle Hankinson, who spearheads the garden, said a community garden can be a great option for people who live in an apartment or other situation where they don't have the space or supplies to grow their own vegetables or flowers. But even homeowners with spacious yards participate in the garden for the camaraderie.

Hankinson, for example, gardens there with her mother because they enjoy mingling with other gardeners and learning from them.

"Families at first come in and have no idea what to do with tomatoes, and then they run into someone who gives them pointers," she said. "People are talking to people they wouldn't talk to otherwise, sharing tips and sharing vegetables."

Lovin' Spadefuls started seven years ago with 40 plots and has since grown to 80. Seventeen are still available at a rate of \$10 for the season. New amenities



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

From left to right, Lianna Correa, Rosanna Valet, Neva Gilcher, Chelle Hankinson and David Martinez get ready to pull weeds on Wednesday at the Hermiston Community Garden.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Rosanna Valet places painted rocks in the Lifeways garden plot Wednesday at the Hermiston Community Garden.

continue to sprout at the site as a long list of local business donate sheds, benches, signs, fences, tomato cages, bark and other items. The garden also gets donated labor from people sentenced to community service, and students from Umatilla School District planted flowers around the

outside of the fence. "If anybody ever comes to me and says, 'What can I give?' I say 'What do you have?'" Hankinson said. "I never say no."

She said her next goal for the garden is to get some raised beds that would be more accessible to people with limited mobility.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A tomato hangs from a vine Wednesday at the Hermiston Community Garden.

When the garden first started, Hankinson said, there was a minor problem with thefts of produce. But since a camera system was installed and offenders were caught it has cleared up the problem.

The Umatilla County Master Gardeners help teach gardeners at the site

and run an example plot that each year showcases innovations, such as vertical gardening. Participants have the option before the season starts of attending a six-week Seed to Supper class that mixes gardening and cooking tips.

Melissa Garrett said she took the class this year and

really enjoyed it. Her family has gardened at Lovin' Spadefuls every year but one.

"Before, I was just trying things and hoping that it worked, but I felt like I learned a lot," she said.

She said she usually brings her kids over in the evenings, and she is grateful for the chance to teach them about eating healthy and learning a valuable skill.

"It's very beginner-friendly," she said of the garden. "It's a great resource. All the tools you need are already there, and it's not as intimidating as it seems."

Tomas Montoya's family is going for variety over quantity in their first year at the garden, growing zucchini, carrots, peppers, asparagus, tomatoes, parsley, eggplant, chard, cucumbers, celery and basil.

"Stuff is finally coming up through the soil, so that's exciting," he said.

SOFTBALL

Dawgs go 1-2 at state tournament

By HERMISTON HERALD

Bailee Noland hit two home runs, including a key two-out, three-run blast in the top of the seventh inning, to help Hermiston to an 8-5 victory over Holy Names in the consolation bracket at the 3A state softball tournament at the Regional Athletic Complex in Lacey, Washington.

Hermiston's tournament run would end with the next game as Snohomish escaped with a 4-2 victory.

Hermiston finished its season with a 17-10 record.

The Bulldogs trailed Holy Names 4-0 heading into the sixth inning, where Noland hit a solo shot and Hermiston hung three runs on the board for a 5-3 game.

Holy Names failed to score in the bottom half of the inning, putting the Bulldogs at the plate in the seventh.

With two out, and Kalei Smith on third, Ashley Cameron hit an RBI single to push Smith across the plate and bring the Bulldogs within a run.

With Samantha Atilano on second and Cameron on first, Noland sent a 3-1 pitch out of the park for an 8-5 lead.

"We just finally started hitting the ball," Hermis-

ton coach Kate Greenough said. "The girls made adjustments. That was the big change there."

The Cougars left a runner stranded on third in the seventh to finish the game.

"Holy Names has some scrappy hitters," Greenough said. "You only have winners from here on out. Every team's going to be good."

Noland, who drove in four runs, also pitched a complete game, scattering eight hits.

Sydney Stefani and Cameron also drove in runs for the Bulldogs, who also got two hits and two runs scored from Smith.

Chloe Sexton drove in two runs for the Cougars, while Caitlin Manning, Logan Luebbe and Sydney Esterberg each had two hits.

Snohomish 4, Hermiston 2

The Bulldogs' season came to an end with a loss to the Panthers in the consolation round.

The Bulldogs scored on a Bailee Noland fielder's choice in the first inning, but the Panthers pulled away from there, scoring twice in the third inning and once in the fourth and sixth innings.

Sydney Stefani went 2-for-3 with a triple for

Hermiston, while Samantha Atilano was 2-for-4 and Daisy Maddox 2-for-3.

Bonney Lake 5, Hermiston 0

Brooke Nelson threw a no-hitter and struck out 19 to lead the Panthers past the Bulldogs in the first round of the state tournament.

It was the first state no-hitter for Nelson, who has signed with the University of Washington.

"She does a good job of setting up batters," Hermiston coach Kate Greenough said of Nelson. "We fell for some of her tricks. She's about as good as they come."

Bonney Lake, the defending state champion, scored five runs in the first inning, but were held scoreless the rest of the game.

"We played really great defense the rest of the game, we just weren't hitting the ball well in that first inning," Greenough said.

Grace Brown and Hailee Hagins each hit a double for the Panthers.

Bailee Noland gave up five runs on six hits in the first. Janelle Almaguer came on in relief and held the Panthers scoreless.

"Janelle pitched awesome," Greenough said. "They didn't get a runner to third base for the rest of the game."

Hermiston athletes earn accolades in three sports

By **ANNIE FOWLER**
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston had four players selected to the Mid-Columbia Conference all-conference boys soccer team.

Midfielders Emilio Leal and Coleman Solano were named to the first team, while goalie Juan Carlos Navarrete and defender Matt Mendez were named to the second team.



Navarrete

In eight MCC games, Navarrete's goals against average was .888. He had shutouts against Southridge and Kennewick. In three playoff games, he allowed two goals.

Walla Walla forward Julio Tapia was named the Player of the Year.

Chiawana's Riley Dod-

son was named Coach of the Year. The Riverhawks finished the regular season 8-0.

The Bulldogs finished 5-3 in MCC play and earned the top 3A seed to the District 8 playoffs.

Hermiston defeated Kennewick 1-0, then topped Kamiakin 3-1 in the championship game.

The Bulldogs lost in the first round of the 3A state playoffs, dropping a 2-1 game to Mountain View in a shootout.

Baseball

The Mid-Columbia Conference baseball honors included just one Hermiston player — senior outfielder Jordan Ramirez, who was named to the first team. The Bulldogs struggled in their

first season in the MCC, finishing 1-15.

Chiawana junior Riley Cissne was named Player of the Year. Kamiakin senior Trystan Vrieling was named Pitcher of the Year.

Kamiakin's Steve Woods was named Coach of the Year after leading the Braves to a 14-2 regular-season record.

Tennis

Hermiston senior Hayden Cissna was named to the Mid-Columbia Conference second team. Cissna, who has signed to play for Treasure Valley Community College, made it to the semifinals of the MCC tournament before losing.

The MCC boys Player of the Year is Etienne Chailot of Walla Walla. The girls top player is Quinci Fisher of Richland.

"Scramble for Scholarships"

Friday, June 7th

..... 1pm Shotgun Start

Big River Golf Course - Umatilla

Golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate in the 26th annual "Scramble for Scholarships" golf tournament. Four person teams can sign up together or individual pairings can be made by the tournament committee. Your \$70 entry fee covers green fees, a box lunch, and BBQ dinner, and makes a charitable donation to the foundation to use in awarding scholarships for local health care students.

Register at scrambleforscholarships.eventbrite.com or by calling 541-667-3405. Entry deadline is June 5th.

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