



TIGER STRONG

Stanfield rallies for five young men injured in car crash

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

In a year that has pushed people apart physically, tragedy in Stanfield has brought the community closer together.

Five young men ages 14-20 — three current Stanfield Secondary School students and two recent graduates — were injured in a rollover crash on Sept. 29 outside Hermiston. Since then, community members have hosted several fundraisers for the three most seriously injured.

“The outpouring of love through all of the donations is so greatly appreciated!!!” organizer Angie Hallgarth wrote on a GoFundMe page for Gabriel Monkus, who was transported via Life Flight to Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane the night of the crash. “Prayers are still very much needed for Gabriel as well as for his family. Thank you all so very much!!!”

Another GoFundMe account has been set up for Armando Nunez, who was also seriously injured and sent via Life Flight to Spokane, Washington, and his brother Eduardo, who, according to the GoFundMe page, broke his leg in the crash.

On Thursday, Oct. 1, about 100 community members gathered for a candlelight vigil at Bard Park in Stanfield. It wasn’t the reunion that Stanfield Secondary School Principal Steve Sheller had hoped to have with his students, he said.

“Whatever you’re feeling now — whatever it is — it’s OK,” he told the crowd as the sun set. “If you feel sad, that’s OK. If you feel fearful, that’s OK. If you

FUNDRAISERS

Online fundraisers have been set up for three hospitalized victims of the Sept. 29 single vehicle rollover that injured five young men from Stanfield.

To donate to **Gabriel Monkus’s** medical bills, visit gofundme.com/f/benefit-for-gabe-monkus.

To donate to **Armand and Eduardo Nunez**, visit gofundme.com/f/help-for-nunez-family.

don’t know what to feel, that’s OK. ... What’s not OK is to do it alone.”

According to Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan, deputies were dispatched for the report of a crash on North Loop Road to the east of Hermiston at about 10:15 p.m.

The Oregon State Police and its crash reconstruction unit is assisting the sheriff’s office in the investigation, but statements at the scene indicated a 2012 Toyota Camry lost control and left the roadway while traveling in excess of 100 mph.

The vehicle severed a power pole and three of its occupants were ejected, Rowan said.

All five were then transported from the scene to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston before three were flown to Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane.

Rowan identified the driver of the vehicle as 19-year-old Eduardo Nunez.

During the candlelight vigil, Sheller directed his comments to the students there, telling them

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Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

Stanfield community members gather for a candlelight vigil at Bard Park in Stanfield on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2020.



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

Stanfield Secondary School Principal Steve Sheller pauses while speaking at a candlelight vigil on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020, for a group of five past and present Stanfield students injured in a car crash on Sept. 29, 2020.

Corn mazes, pumpkin patches ready for fall fun

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

For people worried the pandemic might have canceled their favorite fall activities, several options are back for another year.

The Echo Corn Maze opened its fifth season on Friday, Oct. 2. The 8-acre maze is located at 100 N. Dupont St. in Echo. In addition to the main maze, which takes approximately one hour to complete, the property also includes smaller mazes for young children, a pyramid of hay bales for climbing, a zipline, pumpkin patch and fire pits that can be reserved for group gatherings.

Owner Gina Tyhuis said her family started the maze five years ago to celebrate the adoption of her son. Now, each year is a celebration of that anniversary for their family.

This year they had to do extra work to bring the maze back, after the entire property was covered by water during the extensive flooding of the Umatilla River in February.

“We flooded in the spring and had to start over, so that’s what’s pushed us back some,” she said as she worked to wrap up preparations on the day before the maze opened to the public.



Hermiston Herald, File

Hermiston residents Hope Smith and Angelica White, both 13, walk through the path at the Echo Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch in 2019. The maze has reopened for the 2020 season.

She said the community participation is always “awesome,” including sponsors and volunteers who help make it possible.

The maze opened Friday, Oct. 2 and will stay open through

the end of October, Tuesday through Sunday. The haunted Field of Screams version will be available Oct. 17, 24, 30 and 31 from 7-9 p.m. Several special events, including a pumpkin

carving demonstration by artist Roger Pope, are also scheduled throughout the month.

In light of COVID-19, masks will be required on the property and hand sanitizing stations will

be available. Guests are asked to keep 6 feet apart from other groups and not visit the site if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness or have recently been exposed to COVID-19.

For more information on the maze, including hours and pricing, visit echocornmaze.com or call 509-528-5808.

Bellinger Farms and Gourmet Shoppe at 1823 S. Highway 395 in Hermiston will be offering its pumpkin patch seven days a week. This year’s experience includes a hay bale maze and games, such as corn hole, a photo station and tractor rides. Visitors can also buy food and drinks from the shop and The Gathering Place restaurant.

The pumpkin patch is offering an outdoor pay station and sanitation stations for COVID-19, and is requiring social distancing on the property.

For more information, including times and prices, visit the Bellinger Farms and Gourmet Shoppe Facebook page or call 541-567-5870.

While Halloween events may look different than usual this year, most cities are still holding socially distanced events.

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