

Vigil:

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that even though the pandemic has created isolation, it was important not to try to deal with their worries on their own.

“You have a tremendous community here in Stanfield,” he said.

He encouraged everyone present to heed former President Teddy Roosevelt’s words to “spend yourself in a worthy cause” and to find ways to help other people as they go through a difficult time.

“Now is a great time to be kind to one another,” he said.

Stanfield Baptist Church Pastor John Hurty led the group in prayer, and said that his heart went out to all the friends and family of the boys affected.

“An event like this reminds us that life is incredibly fragile and incredibly precious,” he said.

After people at the vigil lit candles and observed a moment of silence, members of the group broke off into smaller groups to pray together, cry together or sign cards and a banner with well wishes.

Sheller said school counselors continue to be available for students who wish to speak to one.

While online GoFundMe fundraisers were set up immediately for Gabriel Monkus and the Nunez brothers, many of their classmates have spearheaded other efforts to help as well.

On Saturday, Oct. 3, a group of teenagers spent the entire day washing cars in the parking lot of Stan-



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

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

field’s Center Market.

The car wash benefit was advertised as going until 5 p.m., but when a *Hermiston Herald* reporter stopped by that afternoon, participants said they were ready to go until dark if there were still cars waiting to be washed.

A line of vehicles three wide stretched through the parking lot, with generous tips coming from many of those visiting the fundraiser.

On Thursday, Oct. 8 Java Junkies plans to donate all of its sales to the Monkus

and Nunez families.

Other support efforts are also being shared on social media using the hashtag #tigerstrong, in reference to

the high school’s mascot.

East Oregonian reporter Alex Castle contributed to this report.

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