

OUR VIEW

# Move to protect workers during heat wave vital

The move by the state last week to protect workers as they toil outside in the unprecedented heat wave was a good one and makes sense.

The new emergency workplace rules were adopted Thursday by the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division — or OSHA — after Gov. Kate Brown ordered the move. The new rules come after a farmworker died in Western Oregon in late June as temperatures climbed above 100 degrees. The rule is temporary and will remain in place for 180 days.

While OSHA already has some rules in place to provide water and shade to workers, the new temporary rules will add another layer of protection for those who must work during the brutal heat wave. The new rules also break down what employers must do to safeguard workers as the outside temperature climbs.

For example, when the temperature rises above 80 degrees, employers are required to furnish each



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald  
**Workers harvest melons near Hermiston on the morning of Tuesday, July 13, 2021. On July 15, the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division implemented a new set of emergency workplace rules in response to the heat wave.**

worker with 32 ounces of water per hour. The water also must be free and accessible to employees and they must have the required amount of time to drink the cold stuff. If the

outside temperature goes above 80 degrees, employers must furnish shaded space for workers so they can get out of the sun during a break.

These rules are necessary now

more than ever, especially in Eastern Oregon. Here outside farmworkers are the backbone of the agriculture industry. In many areas of the state, crops simply will not be harvested without a corps of employees who can move into the fields and work. That necessity, though, doesn't translate to ignoring basic safety measures, and that is why the new rules are so important. Without them the common goal of safety can be unintentionally pushed into the backseat as the deadline to bring in crops hovers over the horizon.

The heat is impacting all of us, everywhere. That is why utilizing basic safety measures — staying hydrated and out of the hot rays of the sun — need to be reinforced as much as possible. It doesn't take much to suffer a heat injury and the consequences can be serious. The new rules are important and show that while our economy is important, so are the lives of the people we depend on to make our state a great place to live.

EDUCATION CORNER

## Summer is the perfect time to practice

Practice is key to mastery, and this is for sure true when it comes to young readers. Students who read during the summer have often maintained or even improved their reading skills. It also helps students when they return in the fall because they are better prepared. Summer reading doesn't always have to be from books, and we have an opportunity to impress the importance of reading on our children and teach them how to gain enjoyment from reading.



Scott Smith

During the summer, it is also a great time to check out the local library. They often offer summer reading programs for children. It is very gratifying for the kids to choose their books to check out to take home. However, we as adults have to remember that it is OK for them to choose a book that might be too hard or even too simple. The objective is to use this time as a learning opportunity and practice discovery in a safe environment. Pictures can teach us a lot, so don't stress if they choose a book

with many images or one that is way too easy. Again, this is an opportunity to discover and learn on their own.

A few things you might consider as you move into the summer with kids being home.

**Lead by example:** Point out throughout the day things you read: titles, calendars, messages on your phone.

**Read everything everywhere:** Read signs, ads, menus, and things around the house. Challenge kids to find objects and read titles.

**Check out the library:** Weekly trips to the library are an excellent activity filling time and providing many materials to read.

**When you read something aloud, or they read something, ask questions.** Then, take their understanding to the next level by explaining what you read or what they read.

**Journaling:** Keeping a summer journal is a great way to reinforce not only writing but reading. Have the kids read what they wrote from previous days. Not only does this reinforce their reading skills but also their writing skills. They will learn to recognize grammar errors and make changes quickly.

Another great activity for summer reading is to have kids read a book and then have them retell the story using just the pictures from the story, allowing children to gain a greater understanding of what they have read and build their comprehension. You can also read a story to them and have them create pictures for the story. Using their images, have them retell the story.

Summer is a time for practice. Kids like looking at word DNA (Spelling). First, have them locate open one-syllable words (the vowel is long: me, go, be). Then find closed, one-syllable words (the vowel is short: man, run, sit). Next, locate one-syllable words with a vowel team (the first vowel is long: team, rain, boat). Next, move on to "r" controlled words (for, first, are). Then move to find silent e words (same, ripe, robe). Working on this word hunt DNA activity will help with their spelling and their ability to decode words while they are reading.

*Scott Smith is a 40-plus year Umatilla County educator and serves on the Decoding Dyslexia Oregon board as its parent/teacher liaison.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Service to others is what makes us human

It's raw animal instinct to protect the self first. By preserving the self — survival of the fittest — a being preserves its species by allowing the traits most suited to survival to be passed onto future generations.

What sets human beings apart from other animal life is the God-given power (all too rarely utilized, these days) to set that instinct aside and serve others ahead of ourselves. A true steward of the Earth — as we're all made to be — puts his needs and everyone's desires last and instead tends primarily to the needs of all around him. This is what defines humanity, and the epitome of humanity can be found daily in our rescue workers, firemen, policemen, doctors, nurses, teachers, pastors and parents. Those who are in it for the right reasons have put the needs of the greater community ahead of the instinct to be "the fittest."

Most blessed are those who fight for the rights of the least able, the defenseless, the voiceless — particularly when there's nothing in it for them. Primarily, I'm thinking of pro-life activists and supporters here. So be sure to thank those people you see sacrificing their time and energy and instinct to protect the greater good, especially when they have nothing personal to gain for it. They are our role models.

Mark Elfering  
Hermiston

### Longtime resident appreciates Funland park effort

Many, many thanks to Larry Fetter (director of Hermiston Parks and Recreation) and his staff for the marvelous job they did in building Funland Playground. This engineering marvel required exceptional skills and patience in putting together this huge jigsaw puzzle.

Thank you to our community in supporting this wonderful effort. This playground will be the envy of the Northwest. Our children will enjoy it for many years to come.

Dave Faux  
Hermiston

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### CORRECTIONS

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Please contact the editor at editor@hermistonherald.com or call (541) 564-4533 with issues about this policy or to report errors.

### SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters Policy: Letters to the Editor is a forum for the Hermiston Herald readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters should be kept to 250 words.

No personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person. The Hermiston Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length and for content.

Letters must be original and signed by the writer or writers. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Writers should include a telephone number so they can be reached for questions. Only the letter writer's name and city of residence will be published.

### OBITUARY POLICY

The Hermiston Herald publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at hermistonherald.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@hermistonherald.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the Hermiston Herald or East Oregonian offices. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, x221.