

# Stanfield students provide day of service

By ERICK PETERSON  
Hermiston Herald

Stanfield Secondary School freshman Lucas McCann and many of his classmates skipped school Friday, April 22.

But they had a reason. The students were involved in various service projects throughout Stanfield, from meeting with seniors to cleaning up trash along the highway to clearing weeds from the cemetery and more.

Meanwhile, elementary students were on a walking field trip through town, passing out “thank you” letters to businesses.

McCann said service to his community has a special meaning to him.

He is the grandson of Thomas McCann, Stan-



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

**Bodie Braithwaite and Jaggot Singh, both juniors at Stanfield Secondary School, pose for a photo Friday, April 22, 2022, at Bard Park, Stanfield. The pair worked with other classmates on projects to improve their town.**

field’s mayor until his death April 16 at the age of 84. He was a police officer, a firefighter and more. As such, public service is a family tra-

dition, the student said. “He was great,” the younger McCann said about his grandfather. “He contributed to so many things, he

was amazing.”

McCann said he has “a start” in public service, following in his grandfather’s footsteps.

Blaine Braithwaite, Stanfield Secondary School principal, explained the day off for students came about because his school had a snow day earlier in the year for which it had to make up. Attendance on make up days, however, is poor.

“We thought we would do something different,” he said. “So we planned something that was engaging and fun.”

School administration came up with a day of service. School leadership spoke with district leaders, who coordinated with city government.

In all, around 300 students were involved — roughly 250 from the sec-

ondary school and 50 from the elementary school.

Jaelynn Wright, secondary school junior, participated. She said she put together kits for a homeless shelter.

“It was really fun,” she said. “It’s good to give back.”

She said she had never been part of such a large group of people who were serving the community, but she does volunteer on her own.

Students Jaggot Singh and Bodie Braithwaite helped spruce up their school’s track. They said the school had scheduled a track meet in the following week. As they were intending to participate in the meet, they would be able to enjoy their work then.

“It’s super nice to be doing this,” Singh said.

They both said they have served the community in other ways, and they look forward to doing more in the future.

“It was enriching to us and to everyone,” Bodie Braithwaite said about the event.

Ethan Robertson, freshman, also said he felt great about his work. He pulled weeds and collected them from a street.

In addition to doing something good for his community, he was able to enjoy time with his friends. Like others, he said he would be happy with more work.

Bodie Braithwaite said this was the first time his school has done this event, but “it won’t be the last.”

Principal Braithwaite said the service day would be an annual event from here on.

## AWS Think Big Space coming to Hermiston

Hermiston Herald

Hermiston is the next local community in line for an Amazon Web Services Think Big Space.

The Hermiston School District in a press release April 26, announced plans for a collaboration between AWS and the district to “provide a dedicated space for students and educators to explore innovative and imaginative ideas through interactive hands-on technical education and cloud computing training.”

“This AWS Think Big Space will provide enhanced classrooms for students in grades 3-14,

grounded in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics disciplines,” according to the district.

Tricia Mooney, school district superintendent, said in the press release “the horizon is guaranteed to look different” for Hermiston students entering the workforce in the years ahead.

“Our partnership with AWS for the Think Big Space will give Hermiston students a step ahead, as they learn to look at problems in more innovative and imaginative ways,” she said.

The district will oversee the space, partner-

ing with Blue Mountain Community College and other private sponsors.

The AWS Think Big Space will be in the east annex of Columbia Hall across from the Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center.

Construction is scheduled to begin soon, with the space expected to open by the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Think Big Spaces also are in operation at the Port of Morrow’s SAGE Center in Boardman and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation’s After School Center near Pendleton.

## Amazon bucks on hold

By ERICK PETERSON  
Hermiston Herald

Morrow County Board of Commissioners voted to suspend a \$627,517 share of Amazon’s one-time gift payment to Blue Mountain Community College.

The move came April 20, after Commissioner Melissa Lindsay said she wanted the county to “hold on to those Blue Mountain Community College dollars.”

She said BMCC had “transitioned away somewhat from our workforce development” and she had felt “uncomfortable.” It was her preference, she said, to keep that money until more

was known about where it would be directed. She said she wanted to ensure that it would benefit Morrow County.

According to Lindsay, because BMCC is not going to fund its part of the Workforce Training Center in Boardman, the county itself could direct the money to the center.

“I did confirm that those checks had not been cut yet,” she said.

This being the case, suspending the payment would be an easier matter than it would have been otherwise.

Commissioner Don Russell said this move by the commissioners would be an

overreach.

Following this discussion, there was a vote to suspend the money until research could be done. Commissioners voted 2-1, with board Chair Jim Doherty and Lindsay voting to suspend the money and Russell voting against.

Doherty said he was heartbroken over BMCC’s problems. The school is suffering low enrollment, cutbacks and budget shortfalls. The commissioner said he and his son are alumni of the college.

He said the topic of the suspension will be revisited at some point, following further discussions.

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