



Phil Wright/Hermiston Herald

From left, Stayton Burns and his father Chad Burns, both of Hermiston, receive a \$300 check for first place in the watermelon costume contest Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, during the Hermiston Watermelon Festival in Hermiston.

WATERMELON FESTIVAL SLICES UP A SWEET TIME



Musician Jonna Kopta, left, plays "To Make You Feel My Love" for Manulani Poumele-Hamilton of Hermiston as she sings as "Walchli" on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, during the Hermiston Watermelon Festival, Hermiston.



Tile (pronounced "teelay") Poumele hands out slices of free Walchli Farms watermelon Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, during the Hermiston Watermelon Festival in downtown Hermiston.

PHOTOS BY PHIL WRIGHT
Hermiston Herald



Umatilla County Commissioner Dan Dorran launches a watermelon seed Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, in the watermelon seed spitting contest during the Hermiston Watermelon Festival in downtown Hermiston. Dorran prevailed against the modest field of two other seed spitters.



Ernie Mejia of Xavis Street Dogs cooks hot dogs Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, during the Hermiston Watermelon Festival in downtown Hermiston.

Stanfield schools open year with renovated track, tennis courts

BY MARCO GRAMACHO
Hermiston Herald

Stanfield School District started fall term classes Monday, Aug. 22, and the district's renovated track and tennis courts are ready for the community and students.

"Stanfield School District had been saving up for the tennis courts and the track renovation for a few years," explained Beth Burton, superintendent of the Stanfield School District.

The tennis courts were in bad shape with large cracks throughout the surface. The track had some similar cracking issues in the asphalt base that were very obvious in the surface material.

"We are excited to have a new asphalt base and new surfacing over the top. It's a 400-meter oval track, pretty standard," Burton said.

The track renovation cost was \$456,700 and the tennis courts cost \$28,600.

"These projects were not bond-funded," Burton said. "Originally, we thought we might utilize our Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund III for these projects, and we got approval to do so. However, we decided to shift those funds to our bus garage project. The tennis court and track are paid for out of our General Fund. We had been saving for a few years."

The Horyna Sports Complex at the bottom of the hill on West Harding Street holds the tennis courts, baseball field and football field. The practice football field is inside the track, which is up on the Stanfield School District school campus between the elementary school and the secondary school.

Burton pointed out that accessibility to both facilities is great.

"While the track is still

closed as the renovation is not yet complete, it is a facility that is open all the time for public use," she said. "It gets a considerable amount of community use in the fall, spring and summer. It is safe, and it is pretty well-lit. The tennis courts are open for public use as well."

Once the track renovation is complete next month, Stanfield School District won't have any large-scale facilities improvements for a little while.

"Our community is growing as there is a tremendous amount of housing in the works, so there may be a need to evaluate our capacity and do some precursory planning sooner than later," she said.

Stanfield schools Athletics Director Lorena Woods pointed out the support of the community was paramount to achieve the goal.

"Sports are a huge part of the everyday life of children and teenagers in our schools," she said. "Kids learn to play tennis at an early age, between 9 and 12."

Stanfield School District has 545 students in grades K-12. The student population is very close to 50% Hispanic and 50% white. About 1% of the population identify as Native American or Alaskan Native and less than 1% identify as Asian or Black.

"I love our school district, and I love this community," Burton said. "I live in Stanfield and I love that I live where I work. My oldest daughter started kindergarten at Stanfield Elementary, and I am grateful to know that she is in the best hands with the staff here. I love that I can look down the hallway in both schools, elementary and secondary, and know that there is not a single teacher I wouldn't be proud for my daughters to have. I'm looking forward to a really good year."



Stanfield School District/Contributed Photo

Fall term classes began Monday, Aug. 22, 2022, for the Stanfield School District, which spent \$456,700 to give new life to its track.

Guide your children toward good decisions



SCOTT SMITH
EDUCATION CORNER

Teaching our children about respect is a key component for them to be able to function with others. Over the past several decades we have seemed to slip away from engaging in respect for others as well as for other important objects and positions held by others. Teachers struggle every year help-

ing some students to understand how respect works within a community or organization. Respect is a cornerstone for any group of people choosing to work together. Without respect it makes it very difficult for people to be able to work together on a common project. Parents often have told their children to respect their teacher, but do they really know what that means? Our current culture can make you wonder.

Respect can be as simple as knocking before you open a door, saying hello when you walk into a room, saying please and thank you, or holding the door for the next person. As adults we have all experienced those things and

probably engaged in them but do our children really understand?

Depending on the organization there are positions or jobs in which we need to show respect. This does not mean we agree with them but we can be respectful of the position they hold. Because we live in America we should respect the office of the President. We may not agree with what is being said, yet we are respectful of the position and complexity of the task put before them.

Respect doesn't mean you agree with a different view, yet in recent years people often push that respect implies agreement.

There are six simple strategies to use

to teach children about respect:

1. Stay calm and don't overreact.
2. Identify the cause for the disrespect.
3. Teach problem-solving alternatives.
4. Remember to model respectfulness.
5. Don't punish.
6. And teach them how you expect them to respond. You must give respect to earn it.

By modeling respect, they will gain the understanding of how it works.

Maybe the hardest aspect for us as adults but has the biggest impact on kids is to apologize when you mess up.

Often it is assumed children understand and should know about respect.

They are often told to show respect but don't fully know what it is. Respect shows you accept someone for who they are, even when they differ from you or your beliefs. Respect builds trust, safety, and a strong well being within our children that will provide them with the ability to apply understanding in difficult situations as adults.

As we all work to raise our children to become strong leaders respect is something that will always make them shine a mark above the crowd.

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

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