

Kennison Field Fundraising Committee receives first sponsorship

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The Kennison Field Fundraising Committee, a subcommittee of the Kennison Field Renovation Project, received its first sponsorship.

The Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HAREC), of Oregon State University, donated \$25,000 to the project, earning the Center a Gold-level sponsorship.

HAREC has been part of the local community for over 100 years. In keeping with that tradition, and understanding the importance of extracurricular activities and how they relate to academic performance, it was only natural to come up with an innovative way to help support the stadium project at Hermiston High School. The new facility will not only provide great opportunities for students participating in sporting events, but it will also benefit for many other groups including soccer, marching band, the community, etc.

“My years on the school board taught me that keeping kids engaged with great activities also contributes to their academic success,” said HAREC Station Director Philip Hamm. “A further benefit comes to the city as a whole, i.e. from groups who will patronize the community and use the facilities in the future for many possible events.”

Funds used for the donation were contributed by private companies to a foundation, which Hamm accessed and could use in this manner on behalf of OSU and HAREC. No public dollars were involved.

“This was one of those rare opportunities to further show that the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center is part of this community and that this is a great project which provides for kids,” said Hamm. “It is not hard to understand, since the mission of OSU is to educate kids so they may be productive citizens in the future. I am thankful to organizations like the Hermiston Sports Booster Club and the Hermiston Linebacker Club, as well as their members, for what they do. I look forward to seeing how their fundraising efforts make the stadium project a reality. The project will be another example of how the Hermiston community came together to do something great!”