

Kennison project funding gap filled

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The Kennison Field Fundraising Committee is proud to announce it has raised the necessary \$700,000, in less than four months' time, to ensure the \$4.0 million stadium renovation project is realized.

Combining \$3.3 million in Federal and State grants, a \$250,000 Hermiston Sports Booster donation, and over \$700,000 in local and regional contributions, permits the district to deliver the facility amenities identified by the Kennison Field Renovation Committee and endorsed by the Board of Education. Bids are now being accepted for construction work, which is set to begin in early February. The facility's expected completion date is August 1, 2013, prior to the first home football game.

"This will be a one-of-a-kind facility," said Deputy Superintendent Wade Smith. "It will feature state-of-the-art amenities, ensuring the safest and most advantageous spectator and participant opportunities available. Just as the Hillsboro Stadium has brought athletic and economic opportunities to student athletes and their communities on the west side of the state, this facility will serve as a crown jewel for participants, families, and commerce throughout central and eastern Oregon."

The multi-use facility, which can accommodate football, soccer, lacrosse, and track and field, will feature high quality amenities for athletes and community users. Advanced synthetic turf, with added concussion and injury reducing measures, a superior quality IAAF certified track, and separate throwing implement and jumping stations are just some of the qualities identified and designed by the renovation committee. Elevated stadium seating, accessibility for handicapped and elderly spectators, improved performance and access lighting, and assisted-listening technologies are just a few of the amenities identified and included in the \$4.0 million effort.

Considerations have been made to ensure the greatest opportunity for this facility to host state-level performances and collegiate competitions, including a comprehensive press box and concessions facility, featuring a four bay concessions and Booster spirit booth, complete seven-room press box and game management area, covered video booth for streaming and broadcasting capabilities, and elevator access for the disabled.

"The Hermiston community and region is simply amazing," noted Smith. "From individuals to corporate partners, the support, both financially and emotionally has been nothing short of remarkable. Just like so many other projects in the past, our community continues to roll up its sleeves and do whatever is necessary to continue promoting opportunities for our youth and improved economic vitality for our region."

For more information about the project, visit the district's website at: <http://www.hermiston.k12.or.us/krp>.