



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Elite riders went out fast and hard in the Sisters Stampede.

STAMPEDE:

Race drew many first-timers this year

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were on hand for the race, which sold out several days in advance. The event's Forest Service permit limits the number of riders, so folks who traveled to Sisters expecting race-day registration were out of luck. The Sisters Stampede has, over its six years, created a reputation that means it will fill up well before race day every year.

Joel Palanuk, who founded and directed the race until

handing off the reins to race director Mike Ripley this year, got to climb on his bike for the 2015 edition and turned in a sixth-overall performance.

Ryan Trebon of Bend won a narrow victory in the men's elite race, and Serena Bishop Gordon took the laurels for the women.

Perhaps the biggest winner from the event is Sisters itself. Many riders were heard to promise to return from points distant, vowing to bring their families back to enjoy the beauty of the country, the hospitality of the town — and a race that has become one of the premier events in the Pacific Northwest.

SCHOOLS: Two candidates are finalists for schools chief

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School District, he was an assistant principal at West Linn High School for three years and principal at Vernonia High School for three years. While working in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District, he attended Harvard University's "Principal's Corner" and was recognized as a Teacher of Excellence.

Scholl worked in the classroom as a social studies teacher for six years and also handled coaching duties for football and baseball. He was a member of the Linfield College varsity football team in 1991-93. Scholl has a master degree in science and teaching from Portland State University and a Bachelor of Arts in history from Linfield College.

Joe Wehrli has been the superintendent for St. Paul

School District in St. Paul, Oregon, since 2013. The district has approximately 250 students. Before taking the St. Paul superintendent position, he was the associate executive director for the Oregon School Boards Association and other positions from 2004-2013. Wehrli was an elementary principal in the Salem-Keizer School District for four years, and an assistant high school principal for one year.

He was an elementary assistant principal in the North Marion School District for four years where he also taught agricultural science and technology courses for 10 years. Wehrli has a master's degree in agricultural education from Oregon State University and a Bachelor of Science in agricultural science and technology education also from Oregon State University.

The Sisters School Board will now begin background and reference checks for both candidates. While the background and reference

checks are underway, the board will bring them to the district to meet with staff and community, which is planned for Monday, June 1. The times are not yet scheduled.

The board will conduct a second interview with each candidate in executive session to finish the visits.

The board expects to announce the next steps in the superintendent search soon.

The successful candidate will work with a new school board as a result of the May 19 election.

Stephen King retained the Sisters School Board seat to which he was appointed last year, garnering a plurality of votes among the three candidates for Position 4. Karan Swaner and Steve Mathews were also candidates for the position.

King will be joined by Greg Zadow, who won Position 2, which was also sought by Lachlan Leaver. Amanda Clark and Jeff Smith ran unopposed for their seats.

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