

Stanfield City Council appoints new mayor

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

STANFIELD — Susan Whelan will be sworn in as Stanfield's mayor at a city council meeting on Tuesday, May 3.

Whelan, a Stanfield city councilor since 2017, was selected April 18 from the council to replace Mayor Thomas McCann, who died April 16 of a heart attack.

"I will do my best," she said.

Whelan said she admires McCann a great deal. They knew each other for several years, she said, and their families were close.

According to Whelan, their children played together, and she misses him. But then, she said, many people in town have the same feelings.



Whelan

"He was an icon in the community, well-loved and well-respected," she said. "It will be hard to fill his shoes."

McCann, she said, "really knew how to run a meeting." She attributed his authoritative presence to his history as a police officer; he knew how to command respect. She said it will be difficult for her to be like him in the same way.

At the city council meeting in which she was selected, she recalled that Councilor Jason Sperr nominated her to the vacated mayoral position. She said no one else was nominated. Before the other councilors voted, she asked them if they thought she could do it. They said that she could, and then they unanimously voted in her favor — 5-0, with Whelan abstaining.

Asked why she was selected, Whelan joked that it was "the only way they were going to get her off the council."

The incoming mayor is lighthearted by nature, she said, and she likes to laugh. She said she feels that "humor makes things go easier" and "life is short." Also, life can be "hard for people," she said. A sour attitude makes things worse.

Whelan said she has recently been the subject of teasing within her family. Family members are asking her if they should call her "mayor" rather than "grandma."

She said she is happier with her grandchildren calling her grandma, just like she prefers to be called "Susan" around town.

Whelan is not doing this job to satisfy her ego, she said. Nor does she have great plans to "make her mark" on the town, she added. Instead, she said she is focusing on the job itself.

"God doesn't care if I'm mayor, and I'm not trying to impress anyone," she said.

In the coming months and years as mayor, Whelan said she will look after continuing projects in town. Constructions projects and cleaning up Main Street are two things she said are on her mind.

Music festival coming to Baker County

Chautauqua Music Festival scheduled for May 20-22 in Richland

By LISA BRITTON
Baker City Herald

RICHLAND — Booking the bands was the first step.

After all, musicians are the backbone of a music festival.

"We've had those in place for a while," said Sara Artley of the Eagle Valley Locals, who are organizing the first Chautauqua Music Festival in Richland.

The event is happening May 20-22 at Eagle Valley Grange Park.

Featured bands will be Tiller's Folly, Juni Fisher, The Wasteland Kings, Carter Junction and JJQ (Jenni, Jon and Quinn).

"We're all huge music lovers," Artley said of the organizers. "We feel like Richland is this hidden gem — we have a lot going for us."

In addition to music, Artley said 30 vendors are confirmed for the weekend.

"We'd like to get another 20," she said.

Offerings so far will include food stands — barbecue, gourmet hot dogs, coffee, desserts — as well as artisans.

She said a "local crafter's booth" will be available to those who have local products but not enough supply for their own stand.

Interested vendors can request an application by emailing ChautauquaVendors@gmail.com.

Lodging, sponsors

Artley said they've posted a list of lodging partners on the website — look under "Attendee Info."

"We're encouraging people to use our partners who are sponsoring us," she said.

As for sponsors, she said organizers — who are all volunteers — welcome more businesses that would like to support the festival,



Contributed Photo

Tiller's Folly is one of the bands scheduled to play at the Chautauqua Music Festival in Richland May 20-22, 2022.

CHAUTAUQUA MUSIC FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 20

- Vendors open at 3 p.m.
- Carter Junction plays from 3:30-5 p.m., The Wasteland Kings follow at 5:30 p.m., and Juni Fisher finishes the day from 7:30-9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

- Breakfast served at the Eagle Valley Grange from 7-11 a.m.
- Vendors will be open all day.
- The music starts at 2 p.m. with JJQ, followed by Carter Junction at 4 p.m. and Juni Fisher at 6 p.m. Headliner Tiller's Folly takes the stage at 8 p.m.
- The day finishes with a campfire jam from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

- Breakfast served at the Eagle Valley Grange from 7-11 a.m.
- Vendors will be open in the morning only, from 8-11 a.m.
- A gospel jam finishes the festival from 10-11 a.m.

which they plan to make a yearly event.

They held a "mini Chautauqua" fundraiser earlier this spring and are currently running a raffle to win a Ruger American. Tickets are \$10 and available at the same places as festival tickets. The winner will be drawn on May 21 at the festival.

Any profits from the festival, she said, will go back to benefit the local community.

Anyone interested in being a sponsor or making a donation can contact Artley by email at badroadsfestival@gmail.com, or send her a message through the Chautauqua Music Festival Facebook page.

Open mics, tickets

Artley said May 21 also includes six 30-minute slots throughout the day for open mic sessions.

"People can come do

poetry or music," she said.

Those interested in the open mic can contact her in advance at badroadsfestival@gmail.com.

Tickets are on sale at www.chautauquamusic-

festival.com, or in Baker City at Ryder Bros. and the A-Frame RV Park. Artley also has tickets at her restaurant, Sara's Richland Cafe.

Tickets are \$17 for May

20 only, and \$25 for May 21. An all access ticket for both days is \$35. For children ages 6-12, tickets are \$10 for May 20, \$15 for May 21, or \$20 for a weekend pass.

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