

PSD shuffles administrative deck

Curriculum coordinator moves on, other administrators move up

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The departure of a longtime employee and the continued effects of a \$55 million bond set in motion a flurry of personnel changes, the Pendleton School District announced Monday.

Roughly a half-dozen administrative positions will change hands as high-ranking employees either change work sites or take on expanded roles for the 2015-2016 school year.

The first domino fell when Laura Miltenberger, the district's curriculum, instruction and assessment coordinator, took a similar position in Washougal, Wash.

To fill the position, the district turned to Sunridge Middle School Principal Matt Yoshioka, who has worked at Sunridge as a teacher and administrator for 15 years.

The district then promoted Sunridge Vice Principal Dave Williams to replace Yoshioka. Williams was a teacher and athletic director at Pendleton High School until 2009,

when he moved to the middle school.

While the district has looked in-house for many of its administrative positions, officials found their Sunridge assistant principal candidate at Salem-Keizer Public Schools.

Jared Tesch, a middle school instructional coach for the Salem-Keizer school system, will replace Williams. Tesch's LinkedIn page states he was also a social studies teacher at LaCreole Middle School in Dallas, Oregon, for eight years.

The district's game of musical chairs extends beyond the middle school.

Because West Hills Intermediate School will be repurposed into a career and technical education center at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, the district created a position to oversee the new program.

Washington Elementary School Principal Curt Thompson will be the first person to hold the title of career and technical education coordinator, vacating a posi-

tion he's held for the past six years. He will also be the head administrator at Hawthorne Alternative School, which will join sites with the career and technical education program.

"As we look toward our CTE program at West Hills and building on our school board's focus to increase career-related opportunities for students, this is the right time to hire for this position," Assistant Superintendent Tricia Mooney said in a statement.

Thompson's previous experience includes stints as an assistant principal and a technical education teacher at the high school. In an interview, Mooney said West Hills will be renamed when it changes roles in 2016.

McKay Creek Elementary School Principal Aimee VanNice will replace Thompson at Washington. She will oversee the transition of students and staff to the new Washington building when it's completed by 2016.

Prior to moving to Pendleton in 2012, VanNice was a fourth grade teacher and instructional curriculum leader in Bend.

Ronda Smith, the high

school assistant principal, will become the principal at McKay Creek where she began her career as a teacher in 1993. Before becoming an assistant principal at Pendleton High School, Smith was the principal of Nixyaawii Community School.

Completing the circle is Hawthorne lead teacher Chris Bettineski, who will become one of the high school's assistant principals. Bettineski has previously worked at the high school as a counselor.

All of these personnel moves come on top of the previously announced decision to move Principal Lori Hale from Lincoln Primary School to the Pendleton Early Learning Center, which is set to open later this year.

Yoshioka will act as interim principal for Lincoln in its last year as a school before it transitions into the district's central office.

Mooney said in an interview that Brenda Geisen will continue to serve as the West Hills principal, after which the district will figure out a more permanent solution.

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HERMISTON

iCan Bike seeks participants, volunteers

East Oregonian

Children and youths with special needs can learn how to ride a bicycle this summer with the iCan Bike program.

The summer camp, which includes 75-minute sessions daily from Monday, June 21 to Friday, June 26, uses adaptive equipment, trained professionals and volunteers to give participants a skill that can increase their independence and confidence. It's held at Armand Larive Middle School, 1497 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston.

According to a news release, 80 percent of those who participate are able to ride a bike unassisted by the end of the week.

Participants must be at least 8 years old, have a disability, be able to walk unassisted without a cane or walker, have at least a 20-inch inseam, weigh less than 220 pounds and be able to side-step quickly to both sides. They do not have to live in Hermiston.

The program also needs volunteers. To serve as a volunteer, people must be at least 16 years old, unless accompanied by an adult. Those volunteering must be able to commit to 90 minutes at the same time each of the five days of the camp.

In addition, volunteers need to be able



EO Media Group file photo

Amanda Clark of Stanfield receives support from a pair of volunteers during a past iCan Bike program. Riders and volunteers are needed for the program, which runs June 21-26 at Armand Larive Middle School.

to provide physical emotional and motivational support to their assigned rider. Also, the program requires light jogging/running while keeping up with riders.

The camp costs \$99. Registration forms are available at www.imesd.k12.or.us/iCanBike. For more information, contact icanbikeeo@hotmail.com, 541-289-6111 or visit www.icanshine.org/hermiston-or.

PENDLETON

Boundary proposal receives pushback ahead of vote

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Although the Pendleton School District originally stated the school board vote on the new elementary school boundaries would take place Monday, officials instead decided to hold a first reading of the ordinance and hold further discussion while postponing the actual vote for the July 13 meeting.

The boundaries being redrawn because the district is consolidating Lincoln Primary School and West Hills Intermediate School after the end of the next school year.

Assistant Superintendent Tricia Mooney explained that the district formed a boundary committee comprised of parents, administrators and a Mid Columbia Bus Co. official.

After the committee narrowed down their options to two boundary maps, the district solicited feedback from parents at community meetings at each of the district's five elementary schools.

Mooney said the meetings were sparsely attended — the 15 people that attended the West Hills meeting was the biggest turnout.

During the public comment section of the meeting, district parent Hollie Chay requested they move the section between Southeast Sixth Street and Southeast 11th street that are in the Sherwood Heights Elementary School section to the Washington Elementary School section.

"I'm here tonight because I did not attend any of the parent meetings and honestly I could probably guarantee that none of the parents in my neighborhood did", she said. "Because why would we? We're so close to Washington School, some of the houses in that area ... can almost see Washington School."

Chay, a third grade teacher at Sherwood Heights, said she was speaking for parents and not as a district employee.

When asked about parent opposition to the boundary proposal, Mooney said she didn't get any outright refusals but she did get some inquiries on the inter-district transfer policy.

Superintendent Jon Peterson said the board was voting on a new boundary map early in the process to give parents time to adjust while admitting not everyone was going to be happy with the changes. "We realize

that boundary changes are difficult and timely and you can never get them 100 percent right based on the 3,200 students we serve," Superintendent Jon Peterson said.

The board also discussed other issues, including,

- While a centralized kindergarten has been one of the main selling points of the Pendleton Early Learning Center, the center was always intended to provide a variety of early childhood services under one roof.
- The board approved contracts with several organizations to lease space at the center, which is scheduled to open this fall.
- The district signed a three-year contract with the Intermountain Education Service District and Umatilla-Morrow Head Start while

agreeing to one-year deals with Pioneer Relief Nursery, The Children's Clubhouse, Umatilla County Care Program and the Umatilla County Health Department.

- The board unanimously approved a \$91.7 million budget with a \$33.9 million general fund for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.
- Michelle Jones, director of business services, said the general fund was larger than the one the budget committee approved because the district was now accounting for the extra \$270,000 the school system was projected to get under the Oregon Legislature's revenue forecast last month.
- The board also held its annual officer elections, voting Michelle Monkman chairwoman and Debbie McBee vice chair.

BRIEFLY

Pendleton Fourth of July fireworks fundraiser exceeds \$5,000 goal

PENDLETON — It's been quite a turnaround for Pendleton's Fourth of July fireworks show.

After organizers said the show was called off in May because no community organization had signed the requisite \$10,000 deal, Pendleton City Councilwoman Becky Marks announced the show's revival Monday with a more modest goal of \$5,000.

While the show will still be a little smaller in 2015 than it was in previous years — and moved to July 3 — the fundraiser managed to exceeded its goals.

The Pendleton chapter of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the community organization tasked with collecting donations, collected \$7,000 and will not be accepting any more donations for this year's show.

In addition to personal donations, Marks said the Round-Up Association, the Round-Up Foundation and Wildhorse Casino and Resort all made contributions large enough to raise the bar.

Although donations are closed for this year's show, Marks said organizers are already starting fundraising efforts for the 2016 show, with a goal of restoring it to its former scale.

Oregon State Police bomb squad called in for nonworking hand grenade

HERMISTON — A hand grenade that turned out to be harmless caused some residents at Ridgeway Village apartments to be evacuated Wednesday morning.

Hermiston Police Department Chief Jason Edmiston said the Oregon State Police bomb squad was called in as a precaution after officers found the grenade while arresting Jacob Carson Royce Barthel, 20, of Hermiston.

Officers contacted Barthel at 725 W. Ridgeway Avenue after a tip that he was involved in a vandalism case. They found him in possession of an illegal knife and the grenade.

The grenade turned out to be harmless and therefore not illegal for Barthel to have; however, he was cited for Felon in Possession of a Weapon for the knife.

Hermiston City Council adopts \$57.2 million budget

HERMISTON — The Hermiston City Council adopted the city's \$57.2 million budget for the upcoming fiscal year at its regular meeting Monday.

The primary revenues include \$23.5 million from cash forward, \$8.1 million from energy service, \$5.8 million in transfers from other funds, \$5.5 million from property taxes and \$4.5 million from other agencies.

The largest expenditures include \$17.6 million on materials and services, \$9.3 million on personnel services and \$6.8 million on capital outlay with \$9.4 million reserved for future expenditures and an unappropriated balance of \$3.9 million.

According to a budget message from City Manager Byron Smith, this year's budget includes \$40,000 to repaint the south water tower, \$100,000 for community enhancement projects, \$100,000 in a reserve fund for future city hall improvements and a 2.25 percent pay increase for city employees.

In other news, the council approved the Enhance Hermiston plan created by the city's Community Enhancement Committee. The committee spent about a year identifying projects to improve the aesthetic appeal of the community. Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said the plan was a starting point with conceptual ideas to assist with long-range planning and budgeting. He said approving the plan did not provide funding for any of the projects or a commitment to complete them.

Credit union sponsors shred day

HERMISTON — The public is invited to get rid of confidential papers that need to be shredded.

A Community Shred Day is being sponsored by Old West Federal Credit Union. People can bring items to be shredded Tuesday, June 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at 1739 N. First St., Hermiston. There is no charge.

There may be some restrictions in amounts per household. For more information, call 541-564-0264.

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