





# HAST REGONIAN MAY 6-7, 2017

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## Fritsch picked as new superintendent

By ANTONIO SIERRA East Oregonian

The Pendleton School Board picked Chris Fritsch to be the district's next superintendent.

Fritsch, the assistant superintendent at Longview Public Schools, was one of four finalist candidates interviewed by the community, staff and school board this week. He will

begin the new job July 1, replacing interim superintendent Matt Yoshioka who began a two-month stint this week. Yoshioka is filling in after the early departure of Andy Kovach, who was hired in 2016 and resigned in

Debbie McBee, Pendleton School Board chair, said after interviews with "numerous" candidates and reference checks, the board found things they

liked about each candidate.

"However, Chris Fritsch emerged as the right fit for Pendleton," McBee said in a statement. "He demonstrated a superior breadth and depth of experience at all levels of district administration and was well received by all who interacted with him."

Fritsch was chosen over Jim Wagner, superintendent of Kimball Area Public Schools in Minnesota, J.T.

Stroder of Gardiner Public Schools in Montana and Aaron Chavez of the Wahluke School District in Washington

McBee said in an interview that overall the crop of 21 candidates was much stronger than it was in 2016. The group included more candidates superintendent experience, with

See FRITSCH/12A

**Big fines** 

dismissed

in bighorn

poaching

Three

penalties.

By AIMEE GREEN The Oregonian/Oregonlive

men

responsible in the illegal

beheadings of three bighorn

sheep in rural Oregon won't have to pay \$25,000 each as

Wasco counties ruled this week that a state law meant to discourage poaching doesn't

empower them to order the men to pay the penalties —

even though prosecutors had

Cody Plagmann, 37, were

caught in April 2016 after a

driver on Interstate 84 spotted one of them standing on a

hillside over a dead bighorn

sheep from a protected herd

in the Columbia River Gorge

in Gilliam County. Troopers

found two black garbage

bags — each with the head

of a bighorn sheep in it — on

a victory for Jason Begay,

26, who was caught with a ram's head in his house in

Wasco County in May 2016.

He claimed that he found

the animal already dead and

decided to cut off its head

and take it home. But that

was enough to convict him

— like Samora and Plagmann — of an illegal taking

Since the three men were arrested last year, state lawmakers have raised the

penalty for illegally killing or possessing the body parts of a

bighorn sheep from \$25,000 to \$50,000. That's one of more than a dozen penal-

ties that lawmakers have

increased as of Jan. 1: State law now calls for poachers

to pay \$7,500 for a cougar or

a black bear, \$15,000 for an

elk with six-point antlers and

\$50,000 for a moose with

for Samora, Plagmann and

Begay argued that state

law doesn't explicitly say a

judge can order defendants

to pay up in criminal court as

But defense attorneys

antlers.

restitution.

or possession of wildlife.

The rulings also mark

the hillside.

Justin Samora, 33, and

argued that it did.

Judges in Gilliam and

## CLINIC'S NUMBER IS ZERO

### New Yellowhawk on path to net-zero energy consumption

By GEORGE PLAVEN East Oregonian

The new Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center remains a work in progress as construction workers pound away toward a fall opening date.

Once completed, the building however, will have already taken its first steps toward net-zero energy consumption, thanks to a combination of efficiency and solar development.

Representatives of the Energy Trust of Oregon and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation donned hard hats for a tour of the site Friday, adjacent to the Nixyáawii Governance Center in Mission. Tribal leaders have worked closely with Energy Trust on the project to ensure it will one day create just as much energy as it consumes.

Yellowhawk is the first building from Eastern Oregon — and first tribal building statewide — to be enrolled in Energy Trust's "Path to Net-Zero" program. That means it was designed to operate at least 40 percent more efficiently than required by Oregon energy code.

Misti Nelmes, new buildings outreach manager for Energy Trust, said



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Energy Trust of Oregon tour the construction site for the new Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center on Friday in Mission.

Yellowhawk is already poised to exceed that target.

"It's really exciting to see," Nelmes said. "Basically, the goal was to focus on conservation first."

Nelmes led the way for much of the tour, speaking over the sound of whirring power tools and heavy machinery inside the skeletal structure. She explained how the clinic will use LED lighting and controls, and how the heating and cooling system will use refrigerant in ceiling pipes to control temperature.

'It's very fine-tuned almost to the individual

needs of each room," Nelmes said.

Initial plans also call for Yellowhawk to build a solar carport capable of generating approximately 100 kilowatts of renewable energy. The tribes do plan to add more solar panels onto the building through

community fundraising.

Energy Trust of Oregon granted \$450,000 to the project in exchange for a net-zero energy commit-ment. Path to Net-Zero offers a range of incentives from early designs all the

See YELLOWHAWK/12A

### **MILTON-FREEWATER**

## Work begins on first new school since 1922

By ANTONIO SIERRA East Oregonian

From a surprise opportunity to a successful bond campaign, Milton-Freewater was able to relive the happy set of circumstances that led to the groundbreaking of the city's first new school since

Standing on a temporary stage on Mill Street in front of a few dozen supporters Friday, Milton-Freewater Unified School District superintendent Rob Clark and other local and state officials marked the beginning of Gib Olinger Elementary School's construction with a ground breaking ceremony.

Clark remembered the day when the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation informed him it was interested in contributing \$15 million to a new elementary school

"It's like winning the Irish Sweepstake," he

See SCHOOL/12A



Children play with the golden shovels at a ground breaking ceremony for the new Gib Olinger Elementary School on Friday in Milton-Freewater.

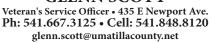
Prosecutors say that's precisely what the law was intended to do. In the past two months, judges in Linn

See POACHING/2A



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