

Stanfield hires two new principals

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Stanfield School District will welcome two new principals for the 2018-2019 school year, it was decided at Wednesday's school board meeting. The board unanimously approved the hire of Steve Sheller as the next principal of Stanfield Secondary School, and of Lacey Sharp as the principal of Stanfield Elementary School. Both will begin their positions July 1, 2018.

Sheller is currently an athletic director, science teacher and yearbook advisor at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School, and has been at that school for four years. He served as the football coach at Stanfield for the 2013-2014 school year. He has also taught in Umatilla and Hermiston. Sharp is the interim principal at Stanfield Elementary, and was the vice principal under superintendent/principal Shelley Liscom, who resigned at the end of 2017 and was placed on paid leave shortly after. Stanfield Superintendent Beth Burton said she posted the open principal position for two to three weeks, and got several applicants. A group of school employees, including the school counselor, two classified and two certified staff, were on the hiring committee, as well as board chair Scott Morris, in his capacity as a baseball coach. She said they screened applications in late February and interviewed the top three. She said she wasn't present for the interviews, but took each candidate on a tour of the school, then discussed them with the committee. She said the committee was united in their support for hiring Sheller. The position became vacant when Burton was



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appointed to the superintendent's position, after Liscom announced her resignation. Burton had previously served as the principal of the secondary school. She said the interim principal for the remainder of the school year was hired in late February. The interim, Wayne Kostur, is Burton's father and was the interim superintendent of Stanfield School District for the 2013-2014 school year. Burton said she cannot supervise Kostur directly, so an InterMountain Education Service District employee has been appointed as his immediate supervisor. Burton said that Kostur retired from the Molalla River School District six years ago, but many years ago he had worked in the Athena-Weston School District. She said she turned to him when the position became open because she couldn't think of anyone else who would be able to start the job immediately. "The board loved him when he was here," Burton said. Burton said the district had planned to dissolve the assistant elementary school principal role next year, even if Liscom had not left. "The plan was always to move her into that position, and have a full-time superintendent and two full-time principals," Burton said. "My options were to open the position and allow her to apply, or to appoint her."

HERMISTON
Cinco de Mayo moving to EOTEC

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

For the third time in six years, Hermiston's Cinco de Mayo celebration is moving to a new venue because it outgrew its previous one. A free community Cinco de Mayo celebration will be held at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 East Airport Road, on May 5-6. The two-day event will include live entertainment, food vendors, a beer garden, carnival, activities and will correspond with a bull-fighting competition in the rodeo arena. "Every year it's been growing and growing," said Hermiston Cinco de Mayo board president Moises Lopez. A discarded idea by Umatilla County in December to create a hotel assessment to fund more tourism highlighted struggles in Hermiston to create events that attract the kinds of crowds that Pendleton sees multiple times per year. Cinco de Mayo stands out as a modest exception — Hermiston parks and recreation director Larry Fetter estimated 8,000 people showed up to the two-day celebration held at Butte Park last year, just smaller than the city's Fourth of July celebration. In 2016 an estimated 5,000 people showed to a one-day Cinco de Mayo celebration downtown, which had become the new home of Cinco de Mayo after the event outgrew its 2012 home at McKenzie Park. Lopez said moving out to EOTEC will be a big change, but the facility was specifically designed for events like Cinco de Mayo. The carnival, for example, will be bigger than ever in the greenway built for carnival rides at the Umatilla County Fair. Last year the committee also wasn't allowed to host a beer garden due to a "no



Above: The Hermiston Cinco de Mayo court, Daisy Cardenas, Natali Armenta and Jaleslie Torres, waves from a convertible during the parade that kicked off the two-day event in 2017. Left: Isabel Vargas, of the Aztec Dancers, of Yakima, dances with her troupe members during the 2017 Hermiston Cinco de Mayo celebration at Butte Park. Staff photos by Kathy Aney

make Hermiston's Cinco de Mayo event the biggest in Eastern Oregon.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

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