

DANCING:

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val will dance the salsa to "Dirty Dancing." Each said, in all seriousness, their rivalry is all fun and games, but each wants to out-do the other.

"There can only be one E," both said fiercely to one another during their third practice Wednesday night.

Reise said he doesn't have a lot of dancing experience, though he has participated in some yoga and a couple of dance classes. Sandoval, on the other hand, has a history of dance experience. She said she participated in "Stardust" at Hermiston High School as a student there and also did a bit of tap and quite a bit of hip hop — her specialty.

The E rivalry wasn't the only one in the works. John Wambeke, who will be performing the foxtrot to "Pink Panther," said he was going to make it his mission to at least beat Dave Smith, who will be swinging dancing to "Jailhouse Rock."

"Oh yes, I have to beat Dave," he said. "There is definitely some competition there."

Wambeke said he has a bit of dancing experience under his belt. He said he and his wife, Jordawn Wambeke, who competed in the first year of Dancing with the Hermiston Stars under a different name, Sophie, go out and dance the country two-step from time to time. So it shouldn't be that difficult, he said.

"But it's all fun," he said, adding that practices always go by quickly.

Smith said he doesn't have a lot of dancing experience, but he brings his athleticism to the table. He said his dancing partner, Dani Dunmire,



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Dancing with the Hermiston Stars contestant Erica Sandoval learns a few steps of her ballroom dance routine with the help of her partner, Brian Gonzales.

If You Go

Dancing with the Hermiston Stars begins at 7 p.m. today in the Hermiston High School auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Ticket prices at the door are \$35 for adults and \$20 for children younger than 18.

noticed he had quite a bit of energy and that he was strong, but he has difficulty memorizing specific moves, so they played to his strengths.

"The hardest challenge was remembering the foot work and timing," he said. "We do a lot more acrobatics, if that is fair to say."

Dunmire joked that, because they are doing so many technical moves, her partner was going to drop her, but Smith assured her that would never happen.

"It might not look pretty, but you will never hit

the floor," he said with a laugh.

The show's two other contenders, Kristi Smalley and Dawn Kennison-Kerrigan, said they don't have very much dance experience to their credit, but they are also going to play to their strengths.

Smalley said she did a year of dance back in high school, but she will rely greatly on her partner, Seth Ward, to show her the works when they

dance the waltz to "Cinderella" tonight.

"Because of Seth, it is going really well," she said. "I now have such a respect for people who do ballroom dance. This is an art."

Smalley said the audience can look forward to at least one grand lift, which makes her feel like she is flying.

"It feels like I am on top of the world," she said.

Kennison-Kerrigan,

who will be dancing the Charleston to "Chicago,"

is relying on her stamina built from running and doing aerobics as a tool to outdo others. She said the dancing may be a bit of a workout, but it isn't too bad.

She has struggled with some of the steps, however.

She said the Charleston basic step, in particular, which is a twisting fast movement of the feet, was challenging her in Wednesday's night's rehearsal.

"That's been the hardest thing, but I know the Charleston kick," she said. "We do that in aerobics."

Everything else, however, has been a blast, she said, even though her dance is different from her competitors' in that she and her partner, Andre Farque, spend most of their performance apart.

"This dance is a little harder to teach because the partners are separated for most of the dance," Farque said.

Happy New Year

From Dr. Hibbert, Lacey, Jessica, Bailey, Heather, and Sarah

541-612-3707



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Kristi Smalley learns how to glide as one with her dancing partner Seth Ward Monday night at Hermiston High School.

Do you know of a Hermiston business that embodies Rotary International's belief in service above self, values community benefit as much as profit, and contributes to a stronger Hermiston? (Hint: Yes, you do. There are many.)

Nominate a business for the Bob Severson/Hermiston Rotary Club Business of the Year Award, to be presented at the February 4, 2015 Distinguished Service Awards ceremony.

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.....Spanish 7:00 pm
SUNDAY.....English 9:00 am
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.....Spanish 1:00 pm
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