

TEACHERS

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into a quickly growing field at the high school.

"We've totally revamped the program," said Parks, a 2007 Hermiston graduate. "We've switched over from a traditional woodshop to a construction program."

It's a new approach for Parks as well. After graduating from Oregon State University with a degree in animal science, Parks has had about two years of experience as a substitute teacher.

"I've done different construction jobs, but as far as teaching (construction), absolutely not," he said.

The program, which this year had 220 students vying for 150 spots, will allow students to learn about 20 different trade skills before honing in on the ones that interest them.

"It's not your typical class, sitting and reading a book the whole time," he said. "We're getting to put our hands on it, figuring out where kids' interest really lies."

Parks will teach an "intro to woods and construction" course, which will cover subjects including framing, roofing, green energy, electrical work, plumbing and sheet rock, before students move on



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Janci Spoo calls on a student while teaching an intro to health services class on Monday at Hermiston High School.

to other programs — such as the Columbia Basin Student-Built Homes program.

Parks said the course will teach students skills that will help them land jobs post-high school.

"There's a huge labor shortage in the United States," he said. "The class will teach skills every student should have, but it'll absolutely get you a job."

Janci Spoo, another Hermiston High School alumna, will start teaching Health Services this year. The course will allow students to explore different careers in the health field, touching on laws and ethics, and specific areas of study like sports medicine. In addition to some anatomy and physiology concepts like blood pressure and heart rate, students will have the chance to get certified in CPR (cardiopul-

monary resuscitation).

For Spoo, the job at Hermiston High School feels like home. The daughter of HHS principal Tom Spoo and a 2012 graduate of the school, she has been a long-term substitute in the Hermiston and Umatilla school districts, and has been the assistant coach of Hermiston's girls golf team for two years.

"The school culture and atmosphere are awesome," she said.

Spoo said she plans to give an understanding of lifelong fitness — activities and skills to stay healthy in their own lives — as well as careers helping others.

The students will log volunteer and internship hours throughout the term, and tour different local medical facilities.

Theresa Stangel will help equip students with

another type of skill. The new family and consumer sciences teacher will teach several courses — hospitality and tourism, Bulldog catering, and principles of food and nutrition.

Originally from Enterprise, Stangel studied at Oregon State University, and then taught for three years at small schools in Texas. She taught basic sewing, cooking, food science and child development, but had more ground to cover at those schools.

"It wasn't quite as specific as here," she said.

She said she's happy to be back at a bigger school, especially one that's supportive of career and technical education.

"It helps them get experiences in the industry prior to being in the real world," she said of the catering program. "It's an actual situation where they show up, and make a product they get paid for or not based on the outcome."

Stangel said she feels fortunate to come into a program that's already established, but she hopes to impart a few new concepts upon her students.

"I have some experience with game meats — my family has a bison ranch," she said. "I'm hopefully going to use that to let the kids experience some different foods."

MAIOCCO

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absence," he wrote.

In March of 2017, the board approved a three-year employment contract with Maiocco, with an annual salary of \$165,753.95. Interim superintendent Tricia Mooney said Maiocco does not get paid by the school district while he is on military leave, and that his contract is on hold during that time.

According to documents provided by the school district, Maiocco received a letter from the U.S. Army dated June 29, 2017, stating that he was required to report by July 27. He informed the school board of his impending leave on July 10, 2017, at a board meeting. Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), Maiocco's contract is protected while he is on active duty, and guarantees him re-employment for three years from the date of his return. Had the district refused to approve his leave when he was called to duty in July 2017, they would have had to buy out his contract.

Goller said the full buy-out of Maiocco's contract would have been somewhere in the neighborhood of \$786,000, including benefits.

To arrive at the agree-

ment of \$281,346, board vice-chair Ginny Holthus said it was the equivalent of one year's worth of his contract, plus some money from benefits.

Mooney said the purpose was to offer the district some more stability.

"I am not speaking for the board, but I know that Hermiston School District is the largest district in Eastern Oregon," she said. "When you have an organization of our size, it requires some stability and leadership."

She said while the board's job is to represent the community, their main task is to hire and evaluate the superintendent.

"This is out of an intention to move the district forward and do what's best for our community," she said.

Goller added that the board is pleased with the job Mooney has done, but the situation has put some uncertainty on her role, too.

"It's a difficult position for an interim superintendent to be accountable to both the board of directors and the superintendent when he returns," Goller said.

Mooney's contract as interim superintendent ends June 30, 2019. Sherman said that the board's two options are to appoint Mooney as full-time superintendent, or search for another permanent superintendent. She said the board would discuss it at their next meeting, on September 10.

BTW

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Tillamook and Madras were also chosen.

"I look forward to our participation in that," Drotzmann said. "Hopefully we are able to come up with some ideas that can carry across the state."

Members of **Altrusa International of Hermiston** continue to encourage people to turn the page on

illiteracy. The service organization promotes reading through sponsoring "Little Red Libraries."

People are encouraged to visit the little libraries — which are located in several communities in the area — and take a book to read and replace it with another for someone else to read. Books are available for all ages. To further promote reading, Altrusans took to the streets and handed out children's books during the **Umatilla County Fair** parade.

The international organization, which recently celebrated 100 years, strives to improve a sense of community and working together. The club's name, "Altrusa," is derived from combining altruism and USA.

For more information, including locations of the "Little Red Libraries" or to visit a meeting, contact club president **Dawn Long** at hermistonaltrusa@gmail.com.

Rep. **Greg Walden**,

R-Hood River, encourages Oregon students who are interested in attending one of the prestigious United States service academies to apply for an official nomination through his office.

The service academies include the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; the Military Academy at West Point, New York; the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; and the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York.

"It is always an honor and privilege to nominate outstanding young Oregonians to our nation's service academies each year," Walden said in a statement. "I encourage students who are eager to grow intellectually, lead by example, and serve our country to apply for a nomination to one of the prestigious service academies through my office."

Nomination applications must be submitted to Walden by Wednesday, Oct.

31. Walden's formal nominations will be announced in late December. Final selection for admission to the service academies will be determined by officials at each respective academy in early spring.

For more information or to request a service academy nomination, visit www.walden.house.gov/academynominations. For questions, contact Margie Anderson at 541-668-7104 or margie.anderson@mail.house.gov.

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