

New city manager takes the reins in Stanfield

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Stanfield has a city manager once again.

Ben Burgener started the job about three weeks ago, and said he was excited to be chosen to help the city in its next chapter.

"This is the perfect spot, with a lot of opportunity," he said. "Stanfield is primed for growth."

Burgener has an undergraduate degree in recreational management and a master's in public administration from Brigham Young University. He most recently served as a city administrator in Ada, Minnesota.

Burgener was born and raised in Utah, but said he was drawn to the Stanfield job because he had previously spent some time living in Corvallis and was interested in returning to Oregon. His wife and three daughters moved to Stanfield with him.



Burgener

He was busy Friday livestreaming the grand opening of Mama Bear's Quilt Shop on the city's Facebook page. Burgener said he hopes to be able to help Stanfield attract new economic development, particularly on the land just south of Interstate 84, which the city recently brought into its urban growth boundary.

"It's a great spot, and

being able to develop that will be fun," he said.

He said an Oregon Department of Transportation project to revamp Main Street should help revitalize downtown, and he also hopes to see more housing projects come into Stanfield. He plans to use his expertise in recreational management to develop new parks and recreation offerings in town.

Burgener replaced former city manager Blair Larsen, who resigned in May to take a job in Sweet Home. He said he hopes people will feel welcome to give their input as he gets settled into the new job.

"I have an open door policy," he said. "I'd love to talk to people about their ideas."

Schools warn students to think twice about honors invitations

By **JESSICA POLLARD**
STAFF WRITER

The invitations come on high-quality paper, sealed in gold. But that doesn't convince biology teacher Shelle Bixler that National Society of High School Scholars is the real deal.

Bixler, who also advises the National Honor Society at Pendleton High School, is one of a few area educators who are warning students to be wary of prestigious-seeming organizations that look to recruit students for a fee, like NSHSS.

"Our high school does not recognize NSHSS or allow students to wear cords from them at graduation," she said.

The National Society of High School Scholars is listed as a nonprofit organization. They have a website and tout the motto "Be Honored. Be More." They recruit by sending mail and emails to students, asking them to accept invitations to the society for a one-time payment of \$75.

The organization advertises that in return, students will gain access to scholarship opportunities and exclusive events at different college campuses. High schoolers have the opportunity to become ambassadors for the organization as well.

"It's always a mystery to us how they get their mailing list," said Liz Marvin, Project College Bound coordinator at Hermiston High School. "Over the years, many students have brought in their letter and asked what it is."

Marvin and Bixler both seem troubled by the organization's recruiting techniques, standards for qualification and the fact that it requires payment to join.

Marvin said that the National Honor Society is more credible and has tighter requirements. Both schools have NHS advisors,



HH file photo

The 2019 Bulldogs tassel hangs from graduate René Ceniceros' mortar board at the Hermiston High School commencement ceremony in Kennewick in June.

so the application process is done in conjunction with the schools.

Nationally, the NHS has a GPA requirement of 3.5, although different schools are allowed to increase that requirement. Schools look at the pool of students who meet the GPA requirement, and offer candidacy based on demonstration of leadership and service at the school.

Selected candidates may then apply to be part of NHS, but not all are granted membership. Last year, the Hermiston High School NHS chapter inducted 27 new members.

According to Karen Kane, director of communications and scholarships at NSHSS, the society offers membership to students if they meet one of the organization's seven criteria, such as a 3.5 GPA, an SAT score of 1250 or higher, or a score of four or higher on an Advanced Placement exam.

Kane said the organization offers fee waivers to interested students who can't afford the payment, so they can gain access to the events and scholarship

information NSHSS offers. She said she feels the organization is misunderstood.

"There's a network here to support students. The membership fee helps us stay in business so that we can be a functioning entity," she said. "Every day, I read scholarship applications and get to communicate. The impact we're having on these kids is profound."

She said that NSHSS encourages students to be a part of other honor societies as well, and that the organization is much different from the NHS.

Bixler compared the NSHSS to the Who's Who of American High School Students, an annual publication that at one time published the names and achievements of high school students, which people could purchase. The company behind the product, Education Communications Incorporated, shut down in 2007, according to the Austin Business Journal.

"Some of my students say they receive emails from NSHSS almost monthly," Bixler said. "From what I understand, colleges and universities do not seem to put much value in membership because (the) standards of eligibility are low and because students must pay for the honor."

Marvin said parents and students should keep in mind what college preparation opportunities and honors exist already at their school at no cost. She said over the years, she's seen various honor societies and groups that recruit students for a fee.

"To be a good candidate for their next steps, students should get involved in their high school and their community," she said. "And really be involved. Don't just get involved because you want the name. Go to the meetings, participate, do volunteer work."

Saturday crash kills one, sends two to hospital

HERMISTON HERALD

A two-vehicle crash on Saturday afternoon left a Washington man dead, according to Oregon State Police.

Lynn Dale Hiatt, 73, of Pasco, Washington, was pronounced dead at the scene after the crash at the Interstate 84 and US 395 interchange in Umatilla County.

A preliminary investigation revealed that the pickup driven by Hiatt had been traveling westbound on I-84 about 2:15 p.m.

and had taken Exit 188 and failed to negotiate the turn onto US 395 northbound. He went across the southbound lanes of 395, hitting the left-hand side of a semi-trailer.

That driver — Andrei Ceban, 30, of Vancouver Washington — was attempting to get on I-84 heading westbound, OSP said.

Hiatt's passengers — Remedios Hiatt, 76, and Lucia Casey, 54, both of Pasco, Washington — were both transported to Good Shepherd Med-

ical Center by ground ambulance.

Ceban was not injured in the crash.

The I-84 westbound off-ramp, westbound on-ramp and US 395 milepost 12 was closed for approximately two hours during the investigation.

The crash remains under investigation. OSP was assisted by the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Stanfield Police Department, Oregon Department of Transportation and Umatilla Fire District 1.

Courts

Continued from Page A5

- Motorsports: seeks \$8,800.
- Credits Inc. vs. Kevin M. Chapman of Irrigon: seeks \$9,566.88.
- Credits Inc. vs. Courtnie Y. Hurford of Umatilla: seeks \$705.18.
- Credits Inc. vs. Stephanie R. Payne of Umatilla: seeks \$912.52.
- Credits Inc. vs. Sylvia Virgen of Umatilla: seeks \$1,723.16.
- Ray Klein Inc. dba Professional Credit Service vs. Katherine House of Stanfield: seeks \$1,222.31.
- Credits Inc. vs. Luis Alberto Navarro of Boardman: seeks \$1,138.57.
- Credits Inc. vs. Stormy McCarty and Patrick Barnes of Irrigon: seeks \$7,728.33.
- Credits Inc. vs. Nicolas Quiroga and Briseida Vargas of Boardman: seeks \$1,363.52.
- Credits Inc. vs. Janette Rivera of Hermiston: seeks \$619.60.
- Velocity Investments LLC vs. Jacqueline K. Abbott and Richard A. Brooks: seeks \$1,685.33.
- Quick Collect Inc. vs. Juanita and Daniel Sinnett of Boardman: seeks \$1,355.19.
- Credit Acceptance Corp. vs. Briann Lancaster and Zyna Richardson: seeks \$11,359.23.

- Midland Funding LLC vs. William Laffen of Umatilla: seeks \$1,580.82.
 - Crown Asset Management LLC vs. Edith Trujillo of Stanfield: seeks \$2,086.14.
 - United Finance Co. vs. Omar Luna Guijarro of Boardman: seeks \$2,081.92.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Shawn C. Fitzgerald of Umatilla: seeks \$1,226.55.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Belinda S. Jackson of Stanfield: seeks \$1,985.41.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Travas R. and Christy Kammerzell of Hermiston: seeks \$646.61.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Chelsea and Dustin Rogers of Hermiston: seeks \$949.88.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Inez Tenorio of Hermiston: seeks \$3,693.49.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Heather D. Tuning of Hermiston: seeks \$8,374.14.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Brandon L. and Alana Wilson of Umatilla: seeks \$2,205.20.
- Judgments**
PENDLETON — The following judgments have been rendered in Umatilla County courts (interest, court costs and fees not listed):
- LVNV Funding LLC vs. Karen Mendoza of Hermiston: judgment for \$1,983.28.
 - Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Morgan Barber: judgment for \$3,183.11.
 - LVNV Funding LLC vs. Cindy

- McCallister: judgment for \$2,237.13.
 - Synchrony Bank vs. Karol Westfall of Hermiston: judgment for \$748.27.
 - Velocity Investments LLC vs. Dominick Bush of Hermiston: judgment for \$8,865.71.
 - Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Tim Nolan of Hermiston: judgment for \$1,083.90.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Richard K. and Annette Stanley of Umatilla: judgment for \$688.44.
 - Credits inc. vs. Todd M. and Barbara Abercrombie of Irrigon: judgment for \$466.66.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Dylan Tadlock of Hermiston: judgment for \$3,482.49.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Angela M. Wilson of Umatilla: judgment for \$5,782.82.
 - Credits Inc. vs. Maria G. Navarro of Hermiston: judgment for \$562.48.
 - CSO Financial Inc. vs. Paige Rushelle Lyons of Hermiston: judgment for \$1,095.37.
- Divorces**
PENDLETON — Divorce decrees were signed in Umatilla County Courts for:
- Meagen E. Lemmon of Stanfield and Benjamin M. Lemmon of Spokane; David Fulton Burton of Johnson City, Tenn., and Faith Miranda Burton of Hermiston; Efrén Jaime Lopez and Marie Villégas DeLopez of Stanfield.

Win Cash, FreePlay, Treats or a 2019 GMC Sierra!
OVER \$10,000 IN CASH AND FREEPLAY EVERY WEEK!
Drawings every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

SWAIN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP **GMC**

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING
Three winners Sunday, November 3, 10pm

2019 GMC **\$5,000 CASH** **\$2,000 FREEPLAY**

\$100,000 TRUCK OF TREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
Doors Open 8pm • Concert 10pm

HELL'S BELLES
Female AC/DC Tribute Band

JOIN US FOR A ROCKIN' FREE HALLOWEEN CONCERT & PARTY

Drink Specials • Costume Contest • Prizes • AND MORE!

No masked costumes.

OUR BIGGEST BINGO OF THE YEAR!

\$40,000 BINGO

OCTOBER 19-20

DAUB BY HAND AND WIN A GRAND!

SECURE YOUR SEAT ONLINE!
Now through October 18 or buy-in at the door if seats are still available.

For session times and more info visit wildhorseresort.com

PAPER ONLY EVENT

CASINO • HOTEL • GOLF • CINEPLEX • RV • MUSEUM • DINING • TRAVEL PLAZA
800.654.9453 • PENDLETON, OR • I-84, EXIT 216, wildhorseresort.com. Owned and operated by CTUIR
Management reserves all rights to alter, suspend or withdraw promotions/offers at any time.

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DERMATOLOGY PLLC

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER TO OUR HERMISTON TEAM!

JEREMY PECK, MD

SPECIALIZING IN MOHS AND SKIN CANCER SURGERY

- Skin Cancer Surgery
- Full Body Skin Exams
- Mole and Cyst removal
- Mohs Surgery
- Allergy Patch Testing
- Mole Mapping
- Photodynamic Light Therapy

541.289.4601 | 1050 W. Elm Ave #220, Hermiston, OR 97838