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## New CEO plans to continue tradition of success

■ Northeast Oregon native will work to meet needs of community, GRH

By **Cherise Kaechele**  
The Observer

Grande Ronde Hospital will be ringing in the new year with a new chief executive officer, Jeremy Davis, who transferred from a town in Wyoming but was born and raised in Baker City.

Davis said his interest in the medical field began in high school when he wanted to be a doctor.

“I loved the idea of helping people,” he said. “I wanted to make a difference.”

The slight veer in his career path happened when he realized he loved his business classes just as much — if not more — than his biology and chemistry classes. Davis said after talking with someone he knew who was in administration in the medical field,

“the stars aligned.”

Davis never thought he’d be able to work in Northeast Oregon and he’s delighted to again call this neck of the woods home.

“I’m very humbled to be back here,” he said, noting that his decision to transfer to GRH was “personal — it’s not just professional.”

Davis said this is his dream job, helping the community and region where the choices he makes in his position as CEO will affect his family and friends. “I wouldn’t want for

another job,” he said. “I’m going to retire here.”

Davis just finished up his first month in the position and will be closing on his new home this week, he said. His wife and four children are still living in Evanston, Wyoming, where he was the CEO at Evanston Regional Hospital.

Davis has nothing but positives to say about Grande Ronde Hospital and the community.

“I’m getting to understand the culture (at GRH).”

See **GRH** / Page 5A



Grande Ronde Hospital’s Dr. John Page talks with new CEO Jeremy Davis, right, last week. Davis is celebrating his first month in the position.



## Cove native, commissioner brighten courthouse experience with mural

■ The mural will be the final touch on a youth room at the courthouse

By **Max Denning**  
The Observer

Cove native and Enterprise resident Hannah Hulse was tagged by her father in a Facebook post by Union County Commissioner Donna Beverage seeking an artist to paint a mural in the Union County Courthouse.

“I thought, I could probably do that,” Hulse, 22, said.

The mural is part of a project by the Union County Commissioners and Union County District Attorney’s Office to create a youth room where children can go during court proceedings.

“We wanted to create a safe place for kids,” Beverage said.

The room will accommodate children of all ages and Beverage hopes it will be more comfortable than a standard courthouse room. It will include furniture, stuffed animals, toys, coloring books and DVDs. The room will be pulled together by the finished mural of Mt. Emily and a number of other images representing Union County.



Cherise Kaechele photos/The Observer

Hannah Hulse, a 22-year-old Cove native, paints a mural in the Union County Courthouse’s new youth room. The room will be equipped with toys, books and DVDs.

“There’s a little taste of everything,” Hulse said. “Growing up in the valley, it’s easy to know what represents the area.”

The idea for the room was sparked by Beverage reading a county magazine more than six months ago about creating a youth room in local courthouses to help calm children, who are often intimidated by courtrooms. Beverage said she took the idea to Union County DA Kelsie McDaniel who told her there was a grant available from the DA’s office for a project like this. Beverage posted on Facebook look-

ing for someone to paint the mural, and Hulse, who recently graduated from Pacific University in Forest Grove, volunteered. Beverage said a number of courthouse employees have contributed.

“Everybody that I’ve talked to has been pitching in,” Beverage said.

Hulse began her painting of the mural on Dec. 17 and hopes to be finished by Friday. While Hulse has been doing all of the painting for the mural herself, some of the design ideas were contributed by children in the Union County Juvenile Department. In

addition to Mt. Emily, the mural includes paintings of farms, a plane, silos, hot air balloons and an eagle.

“It’s just a cool opportunity to bring those ideas to life in a painting,” Hulse said. “It’s cool to have an impact on the community since I don’t live here anymore.”

Hulse compared the impact this mural might have to the substitute teaching she does in Enterprise in the winter. Hulse is a wildland firefighter during fire season.

After more than six months of planning and

See **Mural** / Page 5A

## Sierra off-roaders sue US over grouse in Nevada, California

By **Scott Sonner**  
The Associated Press

RENO — Off-road vehicle enthusiasts are suing the U.S. Forest Service over the bistate sage grouse in Nevada and California, arguing that a protection plan enacted this year could increase fire danger across rangeland habitat of the bird already proposed for threatened status.

The California Four Wheel Drive Association and off-road groups in the Sierra and Nevada’s Pine Nut Mountains say the protection measures in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest weren’t included among the alternatives subjected to scientific scrutiny and public comment as required by federal environmental laws.

Their lawsuit was filed Dec. 18 in U.S. District Court in Reno.

The bistate grouse is distinct from and doesn’t live across as big an area as the greater sage grouse, which is at the center of a dispute over Trump administration efforts to roll back protections adopted under President Obama in a dozen Western states.

But there are similarities in the ongoing legal battles over development near bistate grouse habitat.

A formal proposal to list the bird as threatened under the Endangered Species Act was rescinded by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2015, only to be reinstated by a federal judge earlier this year.

The off-road groups say that between the draft stage and final adoption of guidelines regarding off-road travel, the agency nearly doubled the size of buffer zones around bird breeding grounds, known as leks, and extended the season when motorized traffic is banned.

“These changes were not specified in any alternative

See **Sage Grouse** / Page 5A

## A new start in Baker

By **Chris Collins**  
WesCom News Service

Snuggled on the couch and warmed by the flames flickering in the fireplace of her south Baker City home on a recent snowy day, Miranda Marble welcomes visitors with a smile.

She doesn’t rise to greet the visitors, however. The 27-year-old was especially tired that day, for one thing, and her legs were bothering her, which might have caused her to fall had she tried to stand. And when she falls, there’s the risk that she might break one of the bones in her body. But at least she wasn’t vomiting that day, she noted, optimistically.

Miranda and her husband, Daniel, who’s also 27, seem to look at the world with an unending optimism that is hard to fathom.

Miranda has an illness known as dysautonomia, as well as other medical maladies. Dysautonomia prevents the autonomic nervous system from working properly. That’s a serious condition, a quick scan of Google sources reveals.

The autonomic nervous system is the part of the nervous system responsible for controlling bodily functions not consciously directed, “such as heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, dilation and constriction of the pupils of the eye, kidney function, and temperature control,” according to Dysautonomia International.

See **Marble** / Page 5A

INDEX

Business.....1B    Horoscope.....4B    Sports.....6A  
Classified.....4B    Lottery.....2A    Sudoku.....3B  
Comics.....3B    Obituaries.....4A    Wordenword...3B  
Crossword.....5B    Opinion.....4A  
Dear Abby.....8B    Record.....3A

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