



Princess Marlene Bodmer



Princess Makenzi Hughes



Princess Ashley Moore



Princess Eliza Wagner

Round-Up Association crowns new court

East Oregonian



Queen Kylie Willis

The Round-Up Association named a new queen Saturday, but you can still call her Kylie.

2015 Round-Up Queen Kylee Jensen will cede the crown to the 2016 queen — 21-year-old Kylie Willis.

The Enterprise native and 2014 Round-Up princess is a dean's list student at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho and has deep Round-Up roots. Her mother was a Round-Up princess, her grandfather a stock contractor and her grandmother a longtime Round-Up secretary.

Willis will be served by four Round-Up princesses.

Marlene Bodmer, 19, is a Blue Mountain Community College student and a Round-Up volunteer, continuing a family tradition going back to her grandfather and great grandfather, who were on the Round-Up Board of Directors.

One of Bodmer's volunteer duties was carrying the flag in the 2015 Round-Up grand entries.

"No thrill ride can compare to the adrenaline rush of hearing the firing of the cannon and taking a leap over the rail," she said.

Makenzi Hughes, 18, is a BMCC student and is active on her family's ranch in Heppner.

In addition to volunteering at the Round-Up, Hughes participates in Future Farmers of America and 4H and will follow in the footsteps of her sister, who was a princess in 2012.

Ashley Moore, 20, is an honor roll student at Oregon State University and an accomplished equestrian, having won English, western, dressage and barrel racing competitions.

Eliza Wagner, 19, has been volunteering at the Round-Up since she was seven and was a pennant bearer from nine to her freshman year in high school.

BOARD: DeGrofft third female member in rodeo's 105-year history

Continued from 1A

Marketing.

In her youth, DeGrofft volunteered to paint, clean stock pens, saddle horses and drive a shuttle at the Round-Up. She was also a Round-Up princess in 1999 and the Round-Up queen in 2001.

DeGrofft is only the third female board member in the rodeo's 105-year history and will join the second, Queen and Court Director Jayne Clarke, on the 2016 board.

DeGrofft takes over as sponsors director from Bill Levy, who was voted the Round-Up president. Levy, the CEO of Pacific Ag Solutions, replaces 2015 President Bill Quesenberry.

Incoming Ushers and Programs Director Rob Burnside, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation fire chief and former Board of Trustees vice chairman, is also a new

face to the board.

Burnside has been enmeshed in the Round-Up for practically his whole life, his first exposure to the event having come as a five-month old in full regalia for the tribal dance.

He continued to stay involved in the event by moving cattle, feeding livestock, untying steers for slack, leading tours and installing signs around the arena. Burnside also served eight years on the Happy Canyon Board of Directors and is currently the vice president of the Happy Canyon Foundation.

"I believe in honoring the history and culture of the old west," he said. "Round-Up honors both the Indian and cowboy way of life. It brings thousands of people to our town and is both a portrayal of our regional history and source of revenue for our community."

Dr. Brad Adams has

spent the past 15 years as a member of the Round-Up's medical team and now he will get the chance to lead it as the medical director.

Adams joined the Eastern Oregon Orthopedic Surgery & Fracture Clinic in 2001 and is a member of the American Academy of Orthopedics and the Orthopedic Trauma Association.

Security Director Tim Bennett is new to the board but is no stranger to Round-Up security.

His Round-Up jobs include 35 years on the arena fence crew, 25 years providing night shift security as a Umatilla County reserve deputy and three years assisting with security as a volunteer.

Bennett grew up in Pendleton but made a career in Walla Walla, where he works as a spokesman for the police department.

He has also served as a D.A.R.E. officer and as a

member of the Walla Walla Crime Watch, the Washington Council of Police and Sheriff's Executive Board and the local SWAT team's Crisis Negotiation Unit.

Bennett replaces retiring security director John Trumbo, the former Umatilla County sheriff. The other retiring board members are Troy LeGore, Tygh Campbell and Quesenberry.

Other board members were assigned new roles — Nick Sirovatka, office, Randy Thomas, publicity, and Carl Culham, competitive events.

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HERMISTON City seeks to prioritize livability projects

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

A community activity center and indoor aquatic center are residents' top priorities for increasing Hermiston's livability, according to the results of a city survey.

Now the city wants to hear another round of feedback on those and three other top priorities before deciding which amenities should be the highest funding priority in the next 10 to 15 years.

Clark Worth of consulting firm Barney & Worth, Inc., hired to conduct the surveys, said the new survey would specifically ask if people would be willing to contribute financially to any of the projects through higher taxes, donations or other means.

"What we find when we do these types of surveys is that some concepts may sound like they have a lot of community support, until you specifically ask if people are willing to pay for it," Worth said in a statement. "This follow-up survey will help to determine what concepts truly are supported by the community to a level that a large-scale project may be viable."

More than 1,000 people took the original survey, which will help the Livable Hermiston committee compile a report for the city council to consider while developing a long-range plan and budgets for the next 10 to 15 years.

After being asked an open-ended question about what the city should do with a hypothetical gift of \$1 million, residents' top answer was building some sort of community center with activities for youth. Other top answers were an indoor aquatic center,

"Some concepts may sound like they have a lot of community support, until you specifically ask if people are willing to pay for it."

— Clark Worth, consultant for Barney & Worth, Inc.

cultural center offering space for musical performances and art displays, revitalization of downtown and an expansion of the city's parks, trails and sports fields.

"A Community Activity Center, like a YMCA or a Boys & Girls Club, and a year-round aquatic center were by far the two most popular responses in the first survey," Worth said. "After that the concepts started to get a bit broader, but there were still several distinct themes that emerged to form the rest of the top five."

During the Livable Hermiston committee's Nov. 16 meeting Worth said Hermiston's top strengths seem to be its young population, welcoming small-town character and prime crossroads location. Perceived weaknesses for the city are a lack of retail options, low educational attainment and limited housing options.

The newest Livable Hermiston survey can be found online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/HermistonCommunity. The survey will be open until Dec. 10.

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

HERMISTON Bare Necessities boutique under new ownership

East Oregonian

Bare Necessities Children's Boutique in Hermiston has made changes after coming under new ownership.

The resale boutique buys and sells gently used maternity clothing, children's and toys. Amber Powell took over ownership and management in August.

Powell said the store's hours are still 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. but one of the biggest changes people will notice is that the buyer will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day instead of only a few hours a week.

"In the past it's been a drop-off service, but now we have the immediate turn-around," she said. The store offers cash or in-store credit for items purchased.

Powell also cordoned off a children's play area in the store, where her own three young children play during the day while she helps customers. She said customers who come in to shop or sell items can let

their children play instead of follow them around the store, bored.

She said the goal of the store is for people to be able to recoup some of their investment in quickly-outgrown clothing and to be able to afford to send their children to school in nice clothing when there isn't

much money in the budget.

"We only take gently used, good quality items you can be proud you're wearing," she said.

Powell said that, for safety reasons, the only baby-related items the store doesn't take is car seats.

Bare Necessities is located at 1565 N 1st St.

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