

PMH Foundation awards scholarships

The Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation has announced the scholarship recipients for 2016.



Eva McMasters

The foundation announced it has awarded the Dr. Wallace Wolff Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 to Eva McMasters. This scholarship was established in memory of Dr. Wolff, who was a long-time physician serving the area and Pioneer Memorial Hospital. The scholarship was established by Dr. Wolff's children to assist students wishing to enter the medical field.

Eva is working as a receptionist at Pioneer

Memorial Hospital and has completed her prerequisites and been accepted in the diagnostic imaging program at Linn Benton Community College.



Rebecca Jepsen

Stacey Halverson was awarded an Earl and Hazel Wilson Scholarship in the amount of \$1,250. Halverson has been accepted in the radiologic science program at Oregon Institute of Technology with the goal of obtaining bachelor degrees in radiologic science and health care management.

Rebecca Jepsen also was awarded an Earl and Hazel Wilson Schol-

ship in the amount of \$1,250. Jepsen is a graduate of Whitworth University and has entered the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Eastern Washington University.

Ryan Dougherty also received a Wilson Scholarship in the amount of \$1,250. Dougherty will be a junior in the speech and language science program at Arizona State University with the goal of becoming a speech and language pathologist.



Lillian Sandford

Lillian Sandford was awarded a Wilson Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. She is

attending Colorado Northwestern Community College in the dental hygiene program.



Ian Murray

He is attending the University of Portland in the Bachelor of Science nursing program.

The foundation also awarded \$500 scholarships to seven students who graduate from high school this year.

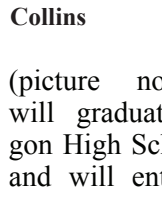


Stephanie Stokoe

Stephanie Stokoe will graduate from Riverside High School this year and will enter college with the goal of becoming an EMT and work-

ing in emergency medical services.

Alma Angulo (picture not provided) will graduate from Irrigon High School this year and will enter college with the goal of becoming a registered nurse.



Patrick Collins

Beatriz Aguilera (picture not provided) will graduate from Irrigon High School this year and will enter school in the nursing program with her long-term goal of becoming a traveling nurse.



Tommy Bredfield

Tommy Bredfield will graduate from Heppner High School and will start his college career in pre-physical

therapy with the goal of becoming a physical therapist. Patrick Collins will graduate from Heppner High School and will enter Eastern Oregon University this fall with the long-term goal of working in physical therapy.

Kaelyn Lindsay will graduate from Heppner High School and will enter Blue Mountain Community College this fall with the goal of becoming a dental hygienist.

Jessica Kempken will graduate from Heppner High School and will also enter Blue Mountain Community College this fall with the goal of receiving her Associate Degree and transferring to Oregon State University's dental program.

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FARM WORKER HOUSING

-Continued from PAGE ONE that the new project met all the state and local land use laws for seasonal accessory farmworker housing, and should therefore be approved by the planning commission. Perkins Coie is representing PROffutt, a Fargo, ND-based LLC, which actually made the application. PROffutt is the development and construction arm of Threemile Farms, which operates on 93,000 acres west of Boardman.

Threemile currently raises organic crops on 5,200 acres there, including potatoes, onions, peas, corn, triticale, alfalfa and carrots. It currently has 150 seasonal workers, but as stated in its application, plans to increase that number with its expanded organic farming plans.

The entire farming operation presently includes 37,000 acres of irrigated farm ground and a farm payroll of \$12 million annually with over 300 full-time employees. Its conventional crops include corn, wheat, peas, alfalfa and mint. It also runs a 24,000-cow dairy operation with 25,000 replacement heifers on its property and, according to the farm's website, contributes over \$420 million

annually to the economies of Morrow and Gilliam counties.

Boardman resident Kelly Doherty, wife of newly-elected county commissioner Jim Doherty, spoke at the public hearing and was adamantly in opposition to the zone change application and proposed housing project. The Dohertys lease additional city land located next to the proposed house project and say it will disrupt a family cattle business and bull testing area they have there. They also have a homestead on Wilson Lane and additional property on Kunze Lane.

Doherty's main objection to the housing project was that neither the city nor Threemile has demonstrated a need for the housing, thus justifying a zone change from Space Age Industrial (SAI) zone to Exclusive Farm Use, EFU.

"I don't think you have a compelling reason to change this and lose this SAI," she said. Doherty told the planning commission the land is marginal agricultural land and would be better left as SAI. She said the only need apparently is that the farm wants to put farm housing on the ground and can do this more easily if

the land is zoned farm use, under which farm housing is an allowable use.

On the subject of transportation Doherty says Tower Road, which is the main road out of the project and Threemile Farms, is not big enough to handle the increased traffic from the new farm workers. Robinson, however, had said the workers would most likely not be owning and driving cars, and would be given rides by bus not only to work, but also into town to go shopping once per week. Doherty said even if the workers are considered indentured to the farm, their employer is not going to be in a position to keep the workers from going to town more if they want to.

"These people are going to find a way to go to town. I don't see how you are going to say when they are and aren't going to go to town," she said.

She also said the housing project would be better suited to be built within the city limits of Boardman, where there is a greater need for housing. She said the housing could then also be used for construction workers in the area, while she says many now are living in travel trailers scattered "illegally" on ground around her property.

Doherty also said the

application for the zone change was not submitted correctly, contained other procedural errors and should have been advertised as an application for farm worker housing instead of just a zone change application. Doherty said notices to adjacent property owners did not mention farm housing, but only the zone change. She also said she and her husband have retained legal counsel in opposition to the project.

Also speaking against the project was Pat Suter of Tom's Camp Rd., who said the farm has plenty of land on which to put the housing and does not need to rezone this particular piece.

"Why change zoning when you have 90,000 of EFU already? They can put the housing on their own property," he said about Threemile Farms.

Under the H-2A Visa program employers are allowed to bring foreign nationals into the US for temporary or seasonal agricultural work. The program establishes a means for agricultural employers who anticipate a shortage of domestic workers to bring non-immigrant foreign workers to the U.S. to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature. In 2015 there were approximately

140,000 total temporary agricultural workers in the U.S. under the program.

Terms of work can be as short as a month or two or as long as 10 months, although there are some special procedures that allow workers to stay longer than 10 months. All of these workers are covered by U.S. wage laws, work-

ers' compensation and other standards. Additionally, temporary workers and their employers are subject to the mandates under the Affordable Care Act. Employers are also required to pay inbound and outbound transportation, and provide free housing and meals for the workers.

FFA elections are here again

FFA says goodbye to 2015 officers, hello to 2016 officer team

By Taylor Nelson

The Heppner FFA chapter elected new officers for this upcoming year on April 28 in the Ag room at Heppner High School. The election process was a simple one this year, containing an application, a speech and a vote.

The new officer team is Tim Gould as president, Kolby Currin as vice president, Keegan Gibbs as secretary, Logan Grieb as treasurer, Kane Sweeney as reporter, Emily Cecil as sentinel and Jake Lindsay as historian.

The new officers had their first official duty on May 12 at the Heppner FFA's 10th annual banquet at the Morrow County Fairgrounds at 6 p.m., when the retiring officer team officially handed over their positions to the new officers

at the end of the banquet.

"We had an amazing year and have accomplished more this year than any of the other three years I've been on the officer team," Gould said. "I am glad to have served with the four seniors Rylee Kollman, CJ Kindle, Caitlynn Bailey and Patrick Collins.

"My only regret was not going to the officer retreat to bond with my fellow officers. I am glad to see what's ahead for the chapter and the new officer team. I see great potential for the new officer team and I'm glad to be a part of the team."

FFA advisor Beth Dickenson said, "I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the retiring officers and look forward to the accomplishments of the newly-elected officers."

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