

## Sandford wins state title, to try for national queen title

Denver, CO—Ivy Sandford, an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student at Ione Community School, has earned a position on the Oregon National High School Rodeo team and will be traveling with her teammates to Gillette, WY July 14-23 to compete at the 68<sup>th</sup> annual National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR) in the queen competition. Sandford won the title of Miss Oregon High School Rodeo Association in Prineville at the high school rodeo finals last Friday.

This is Sandford's second year attending the NHSFR with her team, and she says she is looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones while in Wyoming for the 12-day competition that accompanies the seven-day rodeo performances. She will compete in personal interview, horsemanship, impromptu questions, modeling, written test, appearance and speech. Last year, she competed alongside 44 other young ladies for the coveted title of Miss National High School Rodeo Association Queen, placing



Ivy Sandford

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## Time to hit the pool...



Despite the chilly weather this week, a few hardy souls took advantage of the Heppner pool, which opened for the season last weekend. The Ione pool opens this week (see PAGE FIVE for more information on the Ione pool). -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

## School district to conduct lead testing

By April Sykes

Testing for lead has been planned for all schools in the Morrow County School District, MCSD Superintendent Dirk Dirksen told the board at its regular meeting in Heppner Monday night.

Testing will begin at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, June 22, at Heppner Elementary and Heppner High School. Testing for A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon, Irrigon Elementary, Irrigon High School, Morrow Education Center, Irrigon, the north district office building, Sam

Boardman Elementary, Windy River Elementary, Boardman, and Riverside High School, Boardman, will get underway Thursday, June 23, beginning at 6 a.m.

Dirksen said that results should be available a week to 10 days following testing. Results will determine the action to be taken, if any.

Awareness of lead contamination was initially prompted by news stories of lead contamination in Michigan. The Oregon Department of Education and

By David Sykes

The City of Heppner has agreed to help Columbia Basin Electric Co-op (CBEC) in its effort to install an electric car charging station in front of the library on Main Street. Josh Coiner of CBEC asked the city council at its meeting Monday night if it would consider contributing some manpower and sidewalk work in installing the charger.

"We are asking for in-kind donation of labor from the city," Coiner asked the council. He said a portion of the sidewalk in front of

the museum and library car owners' smart-phone applications, and would have to be excavated and re-poured to accommodate the charger.

In a letter to the city CBEC General Manager Thomas Wolff said four of the units will be installed in the co-op service area including one each in Condon, Fossil, Heppner and Ione. He said each unit will cost about \$13,700 to purchase and install; however, after an Oregon energy tax credit application, that cost drops to about \$9,590 per unit, and according to the co-op that cost will drop even more.

"The cost of the car chargers will ultimately be lower than stated due to in-kind and cash contributions from city, county, and chamber entities," according to a co-op spokesperson.

"CBEC is asking the city council for financial assistance in putting this unit into place. We understand the city is on a very tight financial budget. Could the city contribute in-kind labor services? A short trench and re-pouring of a short section of sidewalk will need to be accomplished," Wolff said. "CBEC would provide all materials," he said.

Coiner told the council there are no ChargePoint brand charging stations for electric cars between The Dalles and Boise; however, there are other brands of chargers available for use between these two points. He said it takes between four and six hours to charge a car and the cars normally have a range of 170 to 200 miles.

Wolff said the locations of the charges will be published in all electric



Electric car charging stations like this are set to be installed not only in Heppner and Ione, but also in Condon and Fossil. -Contributed photo

on the Travel Oregon and Oregon Tourism websites, so those who own electric cars will know where they can recharge. After hearing the proposal, the council voted to assist in the placement of the car charging stations.

In other business the council learned it needed to set a second public hearing on the city budget, as a portion of the last published budget was left out and therefore incorrect. The council will meet next Monday, June 20, at 5:30 p.m. at city hall for the public hearing on the 2016-2017 city budget.

In other business the council heard that the Chase Street paving project will be moving forward. An exact date has not been set; however, residents of Chase will be notified when the paving is going to take place and asked not to use the street on that day.

The council also passed a motion accepting a three-year contract with Barnett and Moro, PC to audit the city's financial statements. The price will be \$10,600 per year, with adjustments made each year for increases in the consumer price index.

The council also heard from City Attorney Bill Kuhn, who praised the city staff for their good job in helping Community Counseling Solution locate their new facility on Sperry St. in Heppner.

"This is a \$2 million building that could have been located outside of Heppner. I think it speaks highly of the city administration." -See *CITY COUNCIL/PAGE THREE*

## Lankford promoted to EUC engineering manager

Joshua Lankford of Lexington has been promoted to Manager of Engineering at Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC).

Lankford oversees a staff of 10 providing engineering and related services for UEC's 2,300-mile transmission and distribution system.

The utility is expanding and rebuilding its system as power sales have increased 70 percent in the last five years. UEC completed its 30<sup>th</sup> substation, located at the Port of Morrow, in 2015. Planning for its 31<sup>st</sup> substation, in east Hermiston, is underway.

Lankford joined UEC as a distribution engineer in 2009. He has a bach-

elor's degree in electrical and computer engineering from Portland State University, and a Master of Engineering degree in transmission and distribution from Gonzaga University. In May 2016, he completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Management Internship Program

at the University of Wisconsin. He is a registered professional engineer in Oregon.

Lankford is a Heppner High School graduate. He and his wife, Kaley, live near Lexington.

Lankford succeeds Robert Echenrode, who began his new duties as UEC's general manager and CEO in March 2016.



Joshua Lankford

## New practitioner at Heppner clinic

By Andrea Di Salvo

The Morrow County Health District has a new doctor—though not an MD. Family nurse practitioner Betty Hamill holds, among other accreditations, a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (DNP), as well as being a certified nurse practitioner (FNP-C) and a registered nurse (APRN).

Hamill, 57, was hired by the health district in April to begin work at MCHD clinics June 1; she will help fill the gaps left by the departure of Dr. Betsy Anderson last year and the impending retirement of physician's assistant Sheridan Tarnasky. Hamill says she will work mainly at Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner, with the understanding that she will fill in at Ione and Irrigon clinics as needed.

"I haven't visited the other clinics yet," she says, "but I'd like to. I'd like to meet the other practitioners."

She also says that, after some recertification and

additional training, she will most likely cover some on-call duties for the Pioneer Memorial Hospital emergency room.

Among some of her areas of expertise are learning and evaluating research.

"Research is being done and it's taking sometimes as long as 17 years to be used. My job is to integrate research faster," she says, though she adds that some research, while looking good on paper, turns out not to be practical for real-life application, something she also has to consider.

She also says she works with evidence-based medicine, "Why are we doing this? Is there a better way?" she explains.

Hamill is used to wearing many hats. She comes to Morrow County most recently from Eugene, OR, but has a history of work and training throughout the western United States. She was raised in Arizona, where she spent time as a

teen working with nurse practitioners, most notably on the Navajo and Hopi reservation near Tuba City. In 1979, at the age of 20, she earned her associate degree as an RN from Northern Arizona University.

"I wasn't able to go in bars and buy a drink, but I could give IV morphine to patients," she recalls. "I don't have a habit of spending time in bars, but I always thought that was funny."

She then moved to Durango, CO, where, among other things, she worked with members of the Ute tribe. She then spent some time back in Arizona helping out family before going on to attend Southern Oregon University in Ashland.

"My husband and I took turns going to school," she says of that time. She spent some time working at Rogue Valley Medical Center, mainly in different intensive care units, and obtained her bachelor's



Betty Hamill

degree in 1988. The couple then moved to Portland so Hamill's husband could finish his own master's degree.

Over the years she says she got a variety of experience, working not only in hospitals, but also at Washington County Jail, in community health and in home health. She also took some time to raise her sons before returning to school at the University of Portland. Not only did she spend five years completing the doctorate program there and doing clinical rotations for school, she also worked part time and then went through a divorce, having to transition to life as a single parent.

"It was a very busy time," she says. "It was

-See *NEW PRACTITIONER/PAGE FIVE*

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