

Knop takes over as county finance director

By Andrea Di Salvo

Kate Knop has been hired as the new Morrow County Finance Director, the Morrow County Court told the Gazette-Times last week. Knop, 46, took over the role June 28, replacing previous finance director Rick Worden.

As finance director, Knop is responsible for budgetary planning, financial reporting, payroll and accounts receivable for the county, among other financial duties. She will work out of the new Bartholomew Building in Heppner.

Knop is familiar with Morrow County, born Kate Doherty and raised in the Sand Hollow area. She graduated from Ione High School in 1989 and then attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in history in 1995. She later returned to school and in 2007 earned a post baccalaureate certificate in accounting from Linfield College in McMinnville, OR.

Knop also has a long history of financial expertise. She entered the financial field early on, first working with a Spokane stockbroker before moving to Pendleton and working in accounting for the State of Oregon.

It was while in Pendleton that she met Pendleton native Todd Knop; they were married in 1997. They have two daughters—Frances recently graduated from Ione High School and Sarah attends school in Ione.

After their marriage, the couple moved to the Portland area, where she

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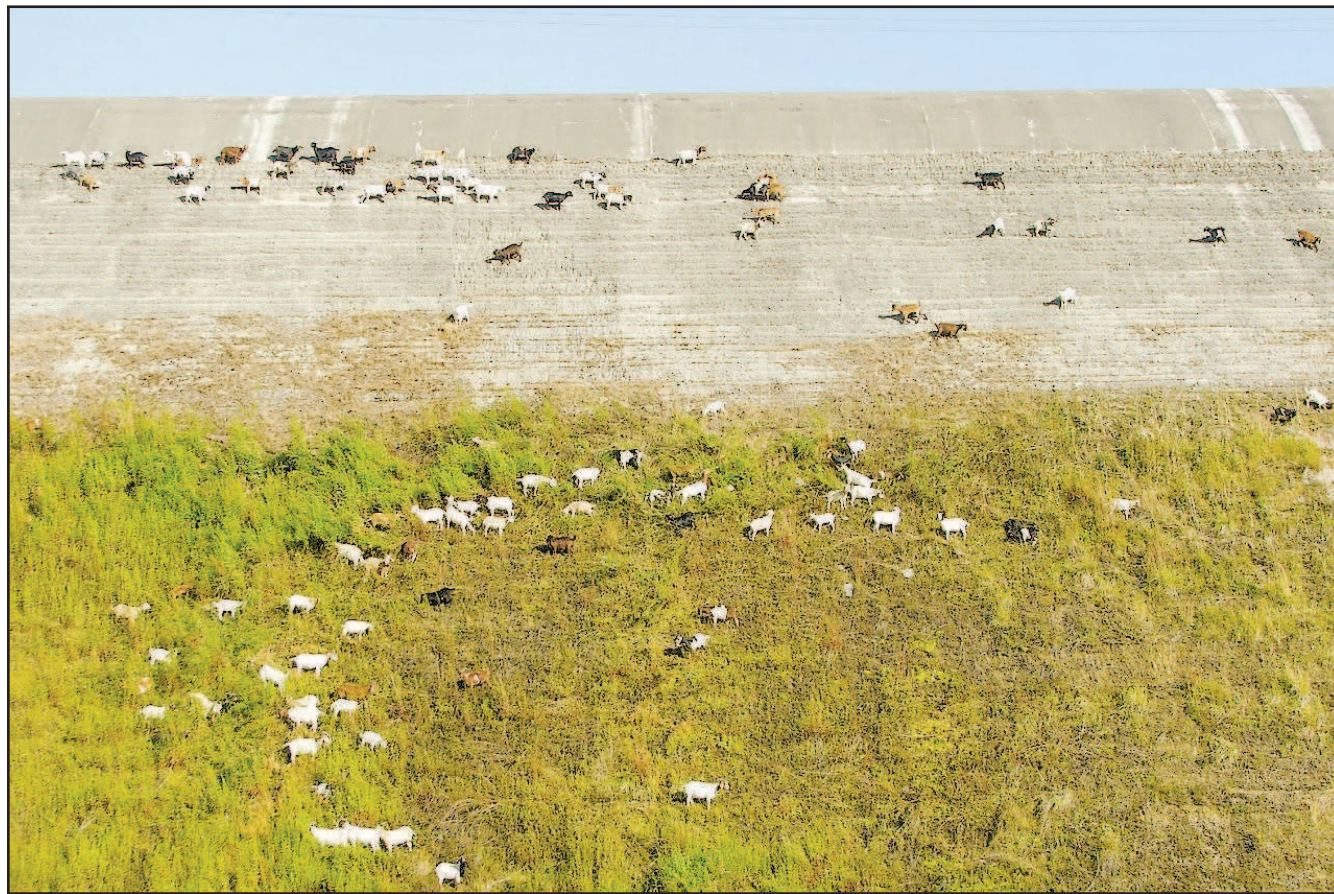
Chip seal work shifts to Hwy. 206

HEPPNER—The pavement chip seal project that Oregon Department of Transportation crews have been constructing along Highway 74 north of Heppner since July 11 moved to OR 206 this week.

Work on Hwy. 206 began near the Gilliam County Line at mile post 54.8 and will move east toward Heppner. The project is expected to reach Heppner during the first week

Goats clean vegetation off the dam

Herd brought in to replace spraying



One hundred and fifty-eight goats were brought in last week to clean vegetation off the Willow Creek Dam. The US Army Corps of Engineers decided to use the goats this year instead of manpower and spraying. -Photo by David Sykes

By David Sykes

Local residents got a bit of surprise last week when they discovered a large herd of goats wandering across the face of the Willow Creek Dam.

Brought in to eat down the vegetation that grows in the concrete face of the dam, the animals are sure-footed enough to climb all over the structure—except for the very smooth cement at the top of the spillway—without falling. There are 158 of the goats, contracted by the US Army Corps of Engineers to do the job normally accomplished by a crew of humans rappelling over the face of the dam and using herbicides.

Tim Linquist, owner of We Rent Goats out of Wilder, ID, brought the animals in last Thursday and said he expects the job to be completed this Thursday. He has erected electrical fence around the base of the dam, and will move the fencing around as the goats work each of the three sections on the face of the structure. They have been working the spillway since last week and, as one can see, by Monday were almost done with that sec-

tion.

The animals are amazingly sure-footed, a fact Linquist says he was “pretty sure of” when he took on the project, but he adds that, although his goats have worked steep and difficult



Tim and Lynda Linquist, owners of “We Rent Goats,” stand in front of the Willow Creek Dam in Heppner while their “crew” goes to work in the background. -Photo by David Sykes

terrain before, “we’ve never done a dam before.”

The goats spend all day and night on the dam eating the grass and weeds, coming down to drink at the base and then going

Health district makes strides filling staffing gaps

By April Sykes

Morrow County Health District CEO Bob Houser told the board, at its regular meeting Monday night in Ione, that MCHD has hired Terri Brandt-Correia as the chief nursing officer, replacing long-time CNO Molly Rhea, who resigned.

Houser said that Brandt-Correia, who has been serving as chief nursing officer/vice president at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City, is scheduled to begin Aug. 8. She has a bachelor of science degree in nursing, is

a certified operating room nurse, has a master’s degree in business administration, and has been a chief nursing officer.

Houser said that Matthew Tiemann, PA-C (physician’s assistant), has accepted an offer as a provider at the Irrigon Clinic, replacing John Adair, PA-C. Currently employed at the Mirasol Family Practice clinic in Hermiston, Tiemann will begin Sept. 1. Houser said that Tiemann hopes to meet with Adair before he leaves, as schedules permit. Adair’s last day

will be Aug. 19.

Last month Houser reported that Amanda Fabian, PA-C, had signed a contract to work for the district and planned to be in Heppner by the end of the month and Betty Hamill, Family Nurse Practitioner, was appointed to the medical staff contingent on completion of her credentialing. Long-time MCHD physician’s assistant Sheridan Tamasky is retiring at the end of this month.

In addition, Houser said that the district has hired Luz Martell, RN, as a part-time quality improvement employee. From the Hermiston area, Martell graduated from Gonzaga University with a master’s degree in nursing science and has been working as a staff nurse at Two Rivers Correctional Institution since 2010. She has worked at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston in several nursing positions and has been a clinical nursing instructor at Walla Walla Community College. She was expected to start with MCHD this week.

Houser said that Patty Rill has been appointed as dietary manager, effective immediately, and plans to enroll in a certified dietary manager’s course. Rill has had dietary and cooking experience through employment with the school district, said Nicole Mahoney, chief financial officer.

The board also learned that Julie McDonald has been hired as a part-time marketing employee.

“It looks like things are looking up as far as qualified employees,” commented board member Jill Pambrun Parker.

Also at the meeting, Houser reported that after speaking to Good Shepherd Hospital CEO Dennis Burke, Good Shepherd has agreed to donate a digital computer radiography machine unit to the Irrigon Clinic, since Good Shepherd is no longer using the machine. According to Houser, the unit converts x-ray images to digital so they can be sent to the district’s radiologist for reading. The machine has been installed in the x-ray room at the Irrigon Clinic.

In other business, the board:

- accepted notice of resignation from long-time Home Health and Hospice nurse Cheryl Tallman. Tallman, who began working with the district in 1992, will retire on Sept. 8. The board noted their appreciation for her long service to the district.

- directed a sympathy card to be sent to former board member and budget committee member Linda

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back up. They even sleep up on the face of the dam. Although he has seen a few small rocks coming down, he said none of his goats has taken a tumble down the front of the 160-foot concrete structure.

“and not making a lot of money,” when he decided in 2007 to buy 20 goats and do a small clearing project. From there he said he bought 200 more.

“Then I decided I had to either go all in or get

Asked how he got into the goat business, Linquist says he and his wife Lynda were in the cattle business,

out,” so both he and his wife quit their jobs in 2010 and

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Heppner gets ready for a ruckus this weekend

Heppner is getting ready for a ruckus at the annual Ruckus in the Boonies music festival this weekend, July 29-30, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

The festival, now in its third year, has become

a popular attraction not only for locals but also for crowds and entertainment from throughout the region. More than 30 singers and bands are expected this year and include names like Gary Lindsey, Pine Box

Boys, Sarah Gayle Meech, JB Beverley and more—including, or course, hometown boy and festival founder Aaron “Dog Bite” Harris. Tattoos will be provided by

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