



Weather doesn't stop annual Heppner Christmas event



Zaleta Masterson, Irelynn Kollman and Zandra Masterson serve as Santa's helpers at the annual Celebrate Heppner Christmas event last Thursday. See full story PAGE THREE -Photo by David Sykes

Getting to know your exchange students

**Daniel Kelly**  
Age 16, Junior at Ione  
From: Clyde North, Australia  
Host Parents: Keith and Yvonne Morter  
What do you think of Ione? "Really like it. It's a small community compared to what I'm used to, but I really like it because everyone knows everyone. A lot more buttes than what I'm used to because (home) is more flat."  
How has the experience been for you? "It's been awesome. I've been able to fit into the community easily. Plenty to do if you're up to the drive."  
What has been the most difficult thing about this experience? "The days going by too fast. Having to look forward to leaving. Having Coach Rietmann understand my accent."  
What have you liked best? "The family. The community as a whole. Everyone's accepted us, really. It's been easy. Plus, having snow on your doorstep and not having to go up to the mountains."  
What special events or holidays have you experienced while you were here? "Thanksgiving. It was really good to meet the extended host family. Some good food, really nice food I hadn't tried before."  
-See EXCHANGE STUDENTS/PAGE TWO



Daniel Kelly

Idaho company looks at Heppner co-gen plant

Has year option whether to purchase

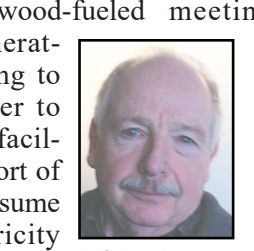
By David Sykes  
The company that did the original rehabilitation on the Kinzua Mill co-gen plant has come back to take another look with an eye on possibly purchasing and restarting the plant.



Precision Energy Services of Hayden Lake, ID is looking into purchasing and starting up the long dormant wood-fueled power plant at the former Kinzua Mill site in Heppner.

Officials from Precision Energy Services, Inc. (PES) out of Hayden Lake, ID were in town recently looking over the long-dormant wood-fueled electrical generating plant trying to decide whether to purchase the facility from the Port of Morrow and resume making electricity there.

Company President Michael Oswald attended the Dec. 14



Michael Oswald

meeting of the Morrow County Court and said his company is inspecting the plant, looking for fuel sources and seeking a buyer for the electricity if it is put back on line. He and several others recently toured the plant inspecting its condi-

tion. "We did an inspection yesterday," he told the court. "There has been equipment taken off and there is some wiring missing."  
He said the Heppner plant is a long-term project and at this time there is no projected start date. "I cannot tell people this will be online next year; we just don't know."  
He said the plant would employ 15-16 people plus truck drivers and support personnel if the plant were to be operational.  
"I have done this before and it is very costly to run a facility like this because of the inconsistency of the wood fiber. We will use 100,000 tons of wood waste a year," Oswald said.

Also at the meeting was Corey Bitton, of Willow Renewable Energy out of Pasco, WA, whose company would provide the wood waste to operate the plant. Bitton said they are contacting the Forest Service to

-See IDAHO COMPANY LOOKS AT MILL SITE/PAGE SIX

Getting to know your exchange students

**Tiarna Church**  
Age 15, Junior at Ione  
From: Wodonga, Australia  
Host Parents: Rick and Sylvia Sandford  
What do you think of Ione? "I really love it here. I like the small community. It's really nice to get along with everyone. I live in kind of the same terrain, but it is much smaller than what I'm used to."  
How has the experience been for you? "My experience has been amazing. My host family has been incredible. They've been taking me all these places, and I've been able to experience so much I wouldn't be able to if I was in Australia."  
What has been the most difficult thing about this experience? "Missing family. And, as much as the culture's similar, there's still a bunch of differences we have to make our way through. And the accent. Rick never understands it."  
What have you liked best? "Family. They've been wonderful and given me every experience I ever could have wanted. The school spirit, the dressing up and fun days. And definitely the snow. It's going to be great to have a white Christmas."  
What special events or holidays have you experienced while you were here? "Thanksgiving. I really liked Thanks-"  
-See EXCHANGE STUDENTS/PAGE TWO



Tiarna Church

New scanner adds to services available at Pioneer Memorial

By Andrea Di Salvo  
Pioneer Memorial Hospital staff are receiving training on a new piece of equipment this week, a Horizon DXA scanner that will be used primarily to measure bone density in patients.  
Clinical Applications

Specialist Susan Bitner, who traveled to PMH to train staff on the use of the new machine, said the scanner can measure bone density to determine how healthy bones are, and if they're at risk for breaks or diseases like osteoporosis. Scans primarily focus on the lumbar spine and hips; the nature of those bones makes them the best indicators of bone health throughout the body, though other bones can be scanned if necessary, she said.

"And it doesn't hurt at all," she said.  
Bitner also said that this particular model can also look at body composition, including the amount of body fat on a patient and its distribution throughout the body. It can even assess visceral fat—the fat wrapped around internal organs, which isn't visible to the naked eye. Visceral fat can be an indicator of conditions like heart disease, diabetes or metabolic syndrome.  
"Not every machine has this capability. It's exciting that they have this,"



PMH technician Oscar Holguin performs a bone density scan on health district employee Nicole Maahs during staff training on the new Horizon DXA scanner this week. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

said Bitner.  
The new scanner cost Morrow County Health District \$45,900, which MCHD CEO Bob Houser said was budgeted from operating expenses. He indicated the health district mainly purchased the machine for its bone density scanning functions.  
"It's a service they've never had in this community before," Houser said. "Given the age of our population, a bone density scanner makes sense. It's needed in this area."  
Houser said that, before acquiring the DXA scanner, physicians at Pioneer Memorial who needed bone density scans for their patients had to send them out of town, when the procedure was something that could be done at PMH in a matter of minutes.  
"With the referral numbers we've been tracking, it was definitely a wise decision," Houser added.

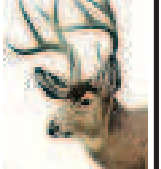
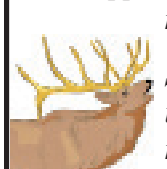
G-T Trophy Corner



Kenneth Troxell, 13, of Heppner took his first cow elk this season in one shot at 479 yards. -Contributed photo

Your Trophy Photos Wanted!

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Here's how:  
Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, mail them to PO Box 337 in Heppner, email them to editor@rapidservice.net or text cell phone photos to 541-980-6674.



OSP seeks info on poaching

Oregon State Police is seeking information on a poached mule deer buck at the Wilkinsons' property on Willow Creek Highway across from the hay barn.  
The incident was believed to have occurred over the weekend of Dec. 17-18. Only the head and backstraps were taken, with the rest of the animal left to waste.  
Anyone with information -See POACHING CASE/PAGE EIGHT

**2016 HOLIDAY HOURS:**  
CLOSING AT NOON CHRISTMAS EVE  
CLOSED DECEMBER 25TH AND 26TH  
MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Morrow County Grain Growers**  
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