

Ione FFA performs well at fair



Pictured (L-R top): Serenity Rodriguez, Larysa Burrigh, Morgan Orem, Emily Taylor, Eva Martin, Grace Ogden, Erin Heideman. **(L-R bottom):** Austin Carter, Gary Walls, Colt Parker, Logan Burrigh, Jacob Heideman, Matthew Orem, Gage Heideman. -Contributed photo

By Jake Heideman, Ione FFA Chapter Reporter
Ione FFA members placed well at this year's fair. Emily Taylor earned

second in floral design, Eva Martin earned first for market hogs, Grace Ogden earned first for market

lamb, Austin Morter (not in picture) earned third for advanced tractor driving, Jacob Heideman earned

first in beginning livestock judging and third in beginning tractor driving, and Matthew Orem earned first in champion female cow and second in beginning tractor driving.

The advanced tractor driving team consisting of Emily Taylor, Morgan Orem, Logan Burrigh and Morgan Orem earned second overall high point individual.

The beginning team, consisting of Jacob Heideman, Matthew Orem, Grace Ogden, Larysa Burrigh, Colt Parker, Gary Walls, Eva Martin and Serenity Rodriguez, earned first.

CBEC

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was a matter of interstate power sales, which it said falls under FERC's federal jurisdiction [UM 1823] (CU No. 1783 [21]; 1807 [11]).

After several months with little headway, Columbia Basin, UEC and Wheatridge on June 29 asked OPUC for a limited stay of the procedural schedule to conduct settlement discussions. They set July 31 as a deadline for resolving matters, if possible.

On Aug. 1, when status reports were due from the two utilities, Umatilla said no settlement had been reached with Columbia Basin. However, Columbia Basin requested that the case be closed, saying it had reached a deal with Florida-based NextEra Energy, which acquired Wheatridge in April (CU No. 1801 [9.1]).

Thomas Wolff, CEO and general manager of Columbia Basin, told Clearing Up he wasn't at liberty to discuss details of the settlement at the moment, but said it addressed the utility's concerns.

"We're moving forward in the construction of a transmission line within our service territory," Wolff said. "At the end of the day, Columbia Basin will own that transmission line and its underlying easement."

In an email, NextEra spokesman Steven Stenghel said, "We don't really have anything to add at this time other than to say we are continuing to develop the project."

Robert Echenroad, Umatilla CEO and general manager, said the settlement details have not yet been shared with him.

"I believe that Columbia Basin and the Wheatridge developer plan to divide up the ownership of the line according to the territory lines, so one doesn't cross into the other, but I don't have that formally or in writing," Echenroad told

Clearing Up.

"We believe the question of wholesale transmission is addressed at the federal level," he continued, "and is not contingent on the retail service territory of a distribution utility; Columbia Basin takes another view of that."

Umatilla raised this issue—that OPUC hadn't settled the matter of whether state rules on service jurisdiction had precedence—in the protest it filed Aug. 2 to Columbia Basin's notice of dismissal.

CBEC, in turn, noted on Aug. 3 that as the party initiating the complaint, it has a right under state rules to dismiss the case.

Finally, on Aug. 11, OPUC granted CBEC's request and closed the case, saying the utility had complied with state law. However, it also noted that Umatilla could "file its own complaint," but would "have the burden of proving that the relief requested should be granted."

Umatilla isn't ruling out pursuing the matter sometime down the road, Echenroad said; but the utility is currently trying to work with the developer to "ensure a reasonable outcome" that, among other concerns, meets the needs of the utility's employees, "particularly on the safety aspect."

Building a 230-kV transmission line that "is owned by two separate entities, and operated and maintained by two separate entities, poses a significant safety concern we're attempting to address before we attempt to do anything to the contrary," Echenroad said.

He noted that prior to the OPUC filing, the two utilities had tried to develop terms that included compensation for having the line in their territory, but gave a single operator control of the line, the interconnection process, and operation and maintenance.

However, he said, neither utility found the approach to be acceptable.

Overlaying the line dispute is the desire of stakeholders in the Umatilla Basin to reduce impacts to agricultural lands by avoiding the unorganized proliferation of transmission lines. An advisory committee that Gov. Kate Brown established in 2015 to develop solutions to this potential problem issued its final report in February.

Among the report's recommendations was a "key next step" involving a pilot project in Morrow County that would "use an open, public process to create a transmission corridor" that could further the state's renewables development, the report stated. The county is currently working with the state Department of Land Conservation and Development to establish the pilot "green energy corridor."

In addition to Wheatridge, projects such a corridor could benefit include Idaho Power's 500-kV Boardman-to-Hemingway transmission line, which will traverse the territories of both Columbia Basin and Umatilla on its way to a BPA substation at Boardman.

Both CBEC and UEC view their proposed lines as consistent with the pilot project's concept.

"This transmission line as it's built will serve not only [Wheatridge's] needs, but potential future wind projects and renewable energy projects in the foreseeable future," Columbia Basin's Wolff told Clearing Up, referring to the segment the utility has agreed to build for the wind project.

But Umatilla's Echenroad—who served on the transmission advisory committee along with 26 other representatives of landowners, farmers, utilities, project developers, and agencies ranging from the local to the federal levels—said dividing the ownership

of transmission lines "is not consistent with the 'green energy corridor' that Morrow County needs," and that the solutions must be "acceptable to all" stakeholders.

"We worked very hard over many years to remove the roadblocks that are often presented with transmission projects, assisting the developer, landowners, state and federal agencies, to identify a corridor that's useful not only for a single project," Echenroad said. "We hope the agreement reached between Columbia Basin and Wheatridge fits within that understanding that so many people have worked with over the past several years."

The Wheatridge developer has recent urgency to resolve the transmission issues, because a "potential buyer" of the project is "very concerned" about it, and "is starting to hesitate on the purchase," former project co-owner Jerry Rietmann told the Morrow County Board of Commissioners at its June 7 meeting, which was recorded. "I think it's an issue we've got to get resolved quickly."

Rietmann was before the board to introduce Melissa Hochmuth, NextEra's project director in charge of wind development. Hochmuth agreed that the transmission issue was "one of our number-one things we want to get resolved here in the short term."

Both Rietmann and Hochmuth supported the idea of a single transmission corridor as a way to not only help Wheatridge, but to also encourage other transmission and generation projects, and to attract the development of businesses such as data centers.

Rietmann said NextEra was brought into the picture because "the potential buyer wanted someone of bigger stature" to take the project over the finish line.

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PIRATE FOOTBALL

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Norton said at his school there are currently 11 to 15 boys out for football and 31 boys out for junior and varsity soccer. He added that with the low football numbers they didn't know if the team would have enough players to finish the season.

Ione Superintendent Rollie Marshall told the Gazette-Times Tuesday that Ione has had up to 10 boys out for football practice, but that number had dropped to nine. He said they expected to get a maximum of 11 boys out for the team, with four of them being freshmen. He said with those low numbers it could mean there might be a game scenario where eight players suit down, with a number of those being the younger freshmen players. This would require long playing times going both ways on offense, defense and special teams, which would increase the chance of injury to the boys when fatigue sets in from so much

playing time.

If approved the combined football team would play in the 3A league as the Riverside Pirates, and would play the Riverside schedule that was set up for this year. Dirksen said the Ione boys in grades third through sixth have in previous years already been playing with the Boardman kids. Ione would bus its players to Boardman for practices and games.

The Morrow County School Board unanimously approved the proposal, which now goes before the Ione board Tuesday night (after the Gazette-Times deadline) where it must be approved. It then goes before the Oregon Schools Athletic Association for final approval.

"I think it sounds great," Morrow County School Board Member Barney Lindsay said. "I'm all about opening doors for kids. I would like to see more of that for kids," he added.

MASSAGE

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and a chance to let go and heal if need be."

During her education in Portland, she spent three months in an internship with cancer patients who were receiving both chemo and radiation treatment.

"Massaging feet and hands gave me an opportunity to get a glimpse of reflexology and how it works," she says.

Her first "real" job was renting a room at a salon in Ontario, OR in May 2006; she spent two years there. In June 2008 she moved to La Grande.

"I met and learned from some great therapists; I taught massage theory and practice, anatomy and physiology and ethics at a massage school for two years, and continued to grow a very special practice with amazing people," says Patterson.

In May 2013 and again in October 2015, her full-time job changed to being a mom, as she and her husband Coy welcomed children Cooper and Colbie. The family relocated to Heppner recently when Coy's job with JS Cattle Company moved him here.

Even though massage became a part-time pursuit, she says it continued to be a big part of who she

is, and she continues to take classes and learn new skills.

"Continued education has greatly helped me continue to grow my understanding and appreciation for the human body," she says, adding that her skills now include hot stone, Thai, Ashiatsu, Reiki, and spa treatments; specifics for the neck and sciatica; and neuromuscular therapy for shoulder to hand, lumbar and thoracic region of the back. She also says she looks forward to learning more about reflexology, esalen massage and acupuncture.

"I consider myself an eclectic therapist, meaning I take a little from everything I learn to make a massage I enjoy giving as well as one that can be appreciated being received," Patterson says. "I look forward to working with everyone here in Heppner by sharing massage."

Patterson has Thursday hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and plans on adding Wednesday hours starting in October. She can be found at Dickenson Chiropractic Clinic on May St. in Heppner, and can be reached at 541-219-1662, 541-676-5292 or at kway-patterson@gmail.com.

WEDDING TABLES

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September 23, 2017

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