

Ione hires new agriculture teacher

The Ione School District has hired a new Agriculture Science teacher for the 2018-19 school year. Maggie Collins will start on July 1, 2018, and will also be the FFA advisor at Ione High School.

Collins, a graduate of Heppner High School, is currently finishing her masters of science degree in agriculture education at Oregon State University. She earned her bachelor of science degree from OSU in June 2017. An honor roll student, Collins

has been participating in OSU's Leadership Academy since May 2016 and is currently the vice president of the school's Agriculture Education Club. Collins has worked for the U.S. Forest Service and as a farm laborer in Lexington. In Heppner, she was the rodeo queen for the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Association in 2011-2012.

Collins said she is excited to return to the area to be near her family and to start her career as an

educator. "The uniqueness of this position will allow me to hone my teaching style and grow as an educator. I do not believe that there is a community more supportive of its agriculture program than Ione. I am ecstatic to have the opportunity to work with such amazing people in both the workplace and the community," Collins said.

Rollie Marshall, principal of Ione schools, said the district is looking forward to having Collins join their teaching team.

Budding scientists gain knowledge from the Northwest NOGGIN project



Student holding a brain: Cedie Dayandante. Other students pictured (R-L): Cameron Proudfoot and John McElligott.

Students filtered into the classrooms of Heppner and Ione schools last week and clustered around tables topped with pipe cleaners, jars of preserved small animal brains, 3D molded models of brains and a real human brain for study and touch.

Dr. Bill Griesar, instructor of psychology, Portland State University and affiliate graduate faculty of Behavioral Neuroscience, OHSU and Jeff Leake, instructor of neurology and psychology at PSU and Washington State University are co-founders of the Northwest NOGGIN Project (Northwest Neuroscience Outreach Group: Growing in Networks), a creative, and largely volunteer driven non-profit organization that brings scientists, artists and students of all ages together to share their expertise and

teach young people about science and art.

The February visit to Morrow County, distant from the biomedical hub of Portland, brought undergraduate and graduate student volunteers who are studying neuroscience, psychology, mathematics and art to teach as "near peer" role models for students. NW NOGGIN volunteers described their research (everything from Parkinson's disease to adolescent brain development to Alzheimer's, drug addiction and ADHD) as exposing students to emerging neuroscience research and careers in science. They also explained how brain functions are localized to specific lobes, provided descriptions of brain cells and how electrical impulses travel throughout the body.

Students then worked alongside their classmates

twisting and forming pipe cleaners into colorful depictions of neurons and much more complex networks of nerves, while others explored electrophysiology with the Mind Flex Game. As students worked their way around the classroom, some kids squeamishly wrinkled their noses, shielded away and whispered "that's gross," while others donned gloves, held their noses and wondered at the folds and inner structures of the brains before allowing the next kid in line his turn.

Heppner and Ione students were encouraged to further their interests by continuing their education through college and beyond. Hearing about research, clinical educational and career options from other young people actually pursuing the work is a powerful and beneficial experience. "For college students and professionals," as described by one volunteer from NW NOGGIN, "ultimately the most rewarding aspect is the multidisciplinary nature of the outreach, with young scientists and artists working together and discovering similarities in their process and watching kids marvel at the structure and function of the brain." Anyone interested in learning more about the integration of art and science, may visit the Northwest NOGGIN website at <http://nwnoggin.org>.

Natural Resource Conservation Service announces sign-up deadlines

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will accept applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program through Mar. 2nd. To participate in CSP, applicants must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements and have current farm records with USDA Farm Service Agency. Applicants must have effective control of the land for the term of

the proposed contract, be actively engaged in the day-to-day management of the agricultural operation and share in the risks associated with agricultural production. Contact the Heppner NRCS field office at 541-676-5021 to learn more about the program and determine if you meet these requirements.

The NRCS is also accepting applications for the Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

through Mar. 16th. EQIP focus areas are forest health in the Kahler watershed, Russian olive control in the Boardman area, forest health in Penland Lake and Blake's Ranch locations and post-harvest pest management south of Ione. If you are located within these areas and are interested in EQIP assistance please call the Heppner NRCS field office at 541-676-5021. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ione FFA hosts National FFA advisor



Ione FFA Chapter officers hosted National FFA Advisor, Dr. Steve Brown during National FFA Week.

Pictured back row: Chapter president, Morgan Orem; vice president, Sonia Medina; secretary, Emily Taylor; treasurer, Sarah Knop and reporter Jake Heideman. Front row: Wade Rynearson, Oregon FFA state treasurer; Dr. Steve Brown, National FFA advisor and CTE Director at the US Department of Education and Gaby Santa-Cruz, Oregon FFA state sentinel. - Contributed photo.

Road bowling event planned

Road bowling returns to St. Patrick's weekend with a new day and a new time. Heppner's Irish road bowling event has been moved from Sunday to Saturday and will be part of the Saturday celebration on Mar. 17th. Participants in this event are asked to gather at the starting point on Balm Fork Road. Registration will be at 2:30 p.m., with play to start at 3 p.m.

This Irish sport, that dates back to the 1600's was played in America by the Irish troops in West Virginia during the Civil War. In

recent years, a resurgence of interest in the sport has developed in both Ireland and the United States.

Heppner's event has gained popularity since it was first offered in 2006. Entries are limited to 20 teams and entry forms can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce office or by calling 541-676-5536. Entry fees are \$20 per team and the purse will be divided, with half going into the St. Patrick's weekend fund and the other half being divided among the top three teams.

Teams of two to four

members compete over a course of approximately one mile by tossing the iron-and-steel bowls that are slightly smaller than a tennis ball and weigh 28 ounces. The team that completes the course with the fewest tosses wins. The winners name will be put on the trophy that is kept at the Chamber office.

Spectators are welcome to attend, but are cautioned to remain a safe distance from the action as the bowls are heavy and can cause injuries.

St. Patrick's buttons go on sale



The 2018 St. Patrick's buttons in honor of our local Leprechauns are now available for sale at Community Bank, Heppner Chamber, Heppner City Hall and Murray's Drug. The buttons

sell for \$3 each and includes a chance to win \$100.

Koozies are also for sale and may be purchased for \$3 at Heppner Chamber and Heppner City Hall.

TWO DAYS ONLY! The "I Am Not Invisible" exhibit will be COMING TO THE SAGE CENTER



WE ARE MORE THAN 28,000 OREGON STRONG. WE ARE MOTHERS, SISTERS, FRIENDS, PARTNERS, AND WIVES. WE ARE ADVOCATES, BOSSES, STUDENTS, AND SURVIVORS. WE ARE ALL ERAS AND BRANCHES OF SERVICE. WE ARE WOMEN. WE ARE VETERANS.

SINCE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY AS PART OF THE ARMED FORCES. WHILE THERE WERE ONLY A FEW DOZEN THEN, WOMEN ARE NOW 15% OF THE MILITARY AND 18% OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES. IN OREGON, WOMEN VETERANS ARE NEARLY 10% OF THE VETERAN POPULATION.

EACH YEAR WE HONOR THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH WHICH IS DESIGNATED WOMEN'S MILITARY HISTORY WEEK, WITH EVENTS HELD AROUND OREGON TO RECOGNIZE WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COUNTRY.

Please join us at The Sage Center to honor and celebrate the active duty and veteran women of Eastern Oregon.

Scheduled Events:

Friday March 23
12:00 p.m. Display open for public viewing
4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Reception
Buffet - 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (RSVP REQUIRED)

Saturday March 24th
11:00 - 5:00 Display open to the public
11 a.m. - 1p.m. Screening of the documentary "Lioness" followed by discussion featuring guest speaker Elizabeth Estabrooks, Oregon Women Veterans Coordinator, Exhibit curator

RSVP by MARCH 13 to Linda Skendzel
541-922-6420 or mcvets@co.morrow.or.us



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