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Gazette Times

VOL. 138 NO. 44 6 Pages Wednesday, October 30, 2019 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Wolff to retire from Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op

Thomas Wolff, CEO/General Manager of Columbia Basin Electric Co-operative, Inc. and CEO and manager of Columbia Fiber, LLC, has notified the CBEC Board of Directors of his intention to retire early next year.

Wolff, who was raised in Heppner, has spent 22 years at the utility, beginning as chief financial officer in 1998. A CPA, Wolff had audited several Oregon electric co-ops prior to coming to CBEC.



Thomas Wolff

Wolff said, "My roles at CBEC and at Columbia Fiber have been an engaging experience. I am grateful for my 22 years of employment at CBEC. I have evolved professionally and personally. Many improvements to the Co-Op infrastructure have been accomplished."

Wolff has served on several industry-related state and regional organizations and forums and is particularly proud of being elected by his peers to the Northwest Public Power Association Board of Trustees.

Wolff and his wife Karen expect to remain in Heppner, while looking forward to some travel, warmer winters and enjoying more time with their grandson.

Jamie Houck on board as MCHD chief nursing officer

Newly hired Chief Nursing Officer with the Morrow County Health District, Jamie Houck, 40, not only has a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, but also a bachelor's in business.

into the homes of these patients and complete assessments, make sure they were taking medications as well as communicate directly with their providers.

She obtained her bachelor's in business from Emporia State University in 2002 and her bachelor's in nursing from Emporia in 2012. She started her employment as CNO at Morrow County Health District on May 22 of this year.

In 2015 she accepted the School Nurse/Food Service Director position at Dubois K-12 school. While she was working at the school, she cared for all the medical needs of the students. She helped implement the backpack program so kids who needed meals on the weekend had them.



Morrow County Health District CNO Jamie Houck

After graduating from nursing school, she worked as a registered nurse at Morris County Hospital in Council Grove, KS. Morris County Hospital is a 25-bed critical access hospital that has a lot of similarities with Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

She also started the Summer Food Service Program where kids could come to the school and eat lunch for free during the summer. In 2017, she started the Farm to School Program which works with local farms and producers to get local food into the schools.

the entire district and the patients we serve. I want to display commitment and develop the highest level of competency for the nursing staff."

In 2014, her husband Brandon accepted a position as the wildlife biologist with the US Forest Service on the Shoshone National Forest in Dubois, Wyoming. In August of 2014 they packed up and moved from Kansas, the "only place she had ever called home," to Dubois, WY, a small town near the south end of Yellowstone National Park.

In June of 2018 her husband accepted the district ranger job here in Heppner. She started working at Pioneer Memorial Hospital as an RN in September of 2018 and took the new role as CNO in May of 2019.

"With the planned remodel of the Heppner campus, I expect to see growth in the services we are able to offer our patients over the next few years," she said.

Dubois is 87 miles from the closest hospital and once people found out that she was an RN they started asking if she could help cover open shifts on the ambulance as well as at the local medical clinic. While working for the ambulance service she took and responded to 911 calls but was also able to work in a pilot program to help serve patients with chronic diseases who had multiple hospital visits in the last six months. The goal of this program was to keep these patients at home and out of the hospital. She would go

"I have a passion for fulfilling a leadership role with the Morrow County Health District," said Houck. "I would like to have all nursing vacancies filled at the hospital and home health. I want to be a positive mentor for all the nursing staff and continue to exhibit the values of patient-centered care. My goal in this position is to continue to push nursing toward excellence in quality, patient safety, and service. I want to implement strategies to solve existing problems that will benefit

She and her husband Brandon have two children, Hunter, 14, who is in the seventh grade at Heppner Jr./Sr. High School, and Reese, 10, who is a fifth grader at Heppner Elementary School. She has no extended family in the area, with most of her family living in Kansas.

Local teacher receives Community Bank award

Community Bank has selected Sarah Matheny, first grade teacher at Heppner Elementary School, as the winner of their Apple Appreciation award trophy this year.



Sarah Matheny

During the month of September Community Bank branches collected teacher nominations for their new Apple Appreciation Awards. The award acknowledges current K-12 teachers in the local community while also supporting school clubs. The winning teacher from each Community Bank location was presented with an Apple Appreciation Award trophy and asked to choose a club or student organization at their school to receive a \$200 donation from the bank.

Matheny chose the Heppner Parent-Teacher Club to receive the \$200 donation.

"She is so nice and lets us go on free recess and she's always happy," comments one of her students. She "goes above and beyond for all of her students," and "She helps her students succeed as students and individuals," said those who nominated her.

"We were overwhelmed with the out-pouring of kind words for so many teachers in the region. They do incredible work educating our youth and we want to thank all the amazing teachers investing in our future," said Community Bank President Tom Moran.

Voters say yes to mayor recall

Kemp had already resigned

Voters in Lexington said yes to recalling mayor Marcia Kemp in an election that ended last Tuesday. Kemp had already resigned the position, but the ballots had been mailed out, so the election was concluded. Of

the 189 ballots sent out 62 voted to recall and 42 voted no for a total voter participation of 55 percent.

After the ballots were mailed out Kemp had sent a letter to the news media announcing her resignation. The town council did not receive a formal letter stating her resignation but according to legal counsel the letter to the media was enough to take Kemp out of the position.

JV volleyball team finishes season



The Heppner High School JV Volleyball team has finished their successful 2019 volleyball season for the year. Pictured left to right: top row-Katie Wilson, Brook Wilson, Dusty Robinson, Ireland Martin, Madison Ashbeck, Hailey Cimmyotti, Hailey Wenberg, Kennisyn Wilkins, Aubri Rodriguez, Tiffany Hollis; front row-Camryn Scrivner, Hailey Holmgren, Sage Ferguson, Daralynn Teeman, Julianna Teeman.

Heppner group holds Fall Festival



The Heppner Outreach Council hosted the first Heppner Fall Festival on Saturday. The event boasted carnival games, tractor rides, a haunted house, vendors, food, beer and music. -Contributed photos.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Polaris advertisement for snowmobiles with 'UPGRADE YOUR ADVENTURE!' and '\$1,700 REBATES' text.



Morrow County Grain Growers advertisement with contact information for Justin Bailey.