

Medicare reimbursement available

Home Health gains certification

Home Health care in the tri-county area took a major step forward last week when the Heppner-based Home Health Agency received official notice of Medicare certification, providing reimbursement for Medicare-covered services.

The certification, according to agency director Sheridan Tarnasky, culminated months of paperwork and a five-day certification visit from the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources in January. It will allow the agency to continue providing home health care in Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties after current grant funding expires June 30.

Since its inception in January of last year, the agency has been operating through part of Tri-County Health's three-year Rural Health Initiative Grant.

Tarnasky said the Medicare reimbursement is retroactive to Oct. 18 of last year and is valid for services involving the need for skilled nursing care. She said two payment plans are available: Plan A covers 100 per cent expenses for up to 100 home visits if the beneficiary comes under home health care within 14 days of hospital discharge; Plan B carries similar requirements and covers the same expenses after a \$60 deductible is paid.

The Home Health Agency is

designed to provide part time skilled nursing services in the patients' home. Because the agency has neither the time nor the staff to make daily visits, Tarnasky described the role of home health care as "partly a teaching process, providing diet information and psychological support among other things".

"It's a means of taking the strain off the family," Tarnasky said. "This generation has been getting away from home health care because it's been easier to ship the parents out to full service institutions."

She said one out of five persons over 65 will live part of their life in a nursing home while studies show that 14 to 25 per cent of them don't need to be institutionalized. The situation exists mainly because of lack of community based and supportive services.

Congress is now trying to lessen regulations and get more home health agencies established but the imbalance situation is still overwhelming. In 1976, fully 70 per cent of federal Medicare spending for persons over 65 went to nursing homes while only one per cent went to home care support.

With the Medicare certification secured, Tarnasky said she hopes to expand the coverage area of Home Health which now includes Arlington, Mitchell, Heppner, Condon



Sheridan Tarnasky...heads home health

and Fossil—and the area within a 20-mile radius of each of the towns.

The agency's five-member staff presently consists of Registered Nurses June Stover, who covers the Fossil-Condon area; Joyce Hickerson, in the Arlington area; Pat Bond, serving the Mitchell area; and Tarnasky, in the Heppner area. Melissa Rex handles the agency's secretarial duties.

Nurses Tarnasky and Stover are currently visiting 13 patients between them while the other two were recently added to the staff and will soon be acquiring more patients. All patients for the agency come through physician referral and fees have been established by going through the agency budget and defining costs.

A former RN for five years at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Tarnasky thinks people are now recognizing the needed

trend change toward home health care. She still works closely with the hospital and said she has noticed a shift in attitude on the part of the present staff of nurses.

"They view the patients differently now, they consider what happens after the patient leaves the hospital," she said.

Tarnasky said community response to the efforts of the agency are both needed and appreciated. She especially pointed to the cooperation received from Mark Murray of Murrays Drug as well as the hospital administration. Both have been extremely helpful in providing supplies and equipment when needed, she said.

Of her efforts in securing the much-needed Medicare certification, Tarnasky said, "The paperwork is atrocious and time-consuming, but it's worth it. It's extremely rewarding because you can see the contentment of the people we are helping."

Career Skills Contest draws Morrow County students' participation

High school students in Morrow County are gearing up for the third annual Career Skills Contest at Blue Mountain Community College Wednesday, April 19.

While applications are still coming in and it is not known exactly how many students will compete in the vocational skills contest, Lone High School is probably the 'hot bed' of participation with an estimated 30 students planning to travel to Pendleton next week.

Lone girls in the past two years have done especially well in the home economics area of the contest, despite having no home ec program included in the school's curriculum. Principal Chuck Starr explained, "The excellent 4-H program in Lone and the interest of the mothers should get all the credit in this area."

Starr said students in the shop-skills program directed by Marv Peterson have also done an excellent job in the past and several students will compete in those areas again this year.

Lone High School will also put more emphasis in the business skills area, taught by Bob Deeter, and will send students under the direction of Darrel Wilson to compete in the auto mechanics contest for the first time.

Riverside High School plans to send approximately 24 business education students, taught by Roberta Jenkins, to participate in the various contests dealing with business skills. Della Lindsay will also have some of her home economics students competing in that area of the

vocational skills contest.

Students were still signing up this week at Heppner High School for contest participation in two areas. Walter Pilgrim plans to have students competing in the business-ed area, which will include such skills as typing, shorthand, office machines and mer-

chandising math. Photography students under Dennis Toney also intend to apply their skills in that area against students from other high schools.

Most of the contests emphasize the actual practical skills in each area, with a written exam also included.

Roger Martin plans second Heppner stop

"Roger Martin is off the ground and flying in Morrow County," said Steve Peck, co-chairman of the county's Roger Martin for Governor Committee, after a kick-off meeting in Heppner Saturday.

Peck said the main topic of discussion at the meeting was the candidate's return visit to Morrow County, scheduled for Saturday, April 22. Martin will be on hand at West of Willow in Heppner beginning with a 5 p.m. winetaster party sponsored by the restaurant and followed by a 7 p.m. no-host dinner, also at West of Willow. From Heppner, Martin will move on to Boardman for a Sunday morning breakfast session. The time and place will be announced soon.

Peck said other aspects of

the campaign discussed at Saturday's meeting included the involvement of student campaign workers to assist in door-to-door campaigning, surveying, election day activities and generally experiencing the enthusiasm of a campaign. The group also talked about beginning an active sign campaign

Roger Martin...the new man for governor returns to Morrow County Sat. April 22. Plan to meet him!

Roger Martin
FOR GOVERNOR

Paid By The Roger Martin For Governor Committee, Morrow County 5X, Peck Box 4010 Lexington

Spring-y FASHION IDEAS
GYM SHORTS SWIM SUITS
SUNDRESSES DEPARTMENT STORE
Kroll's HEPPNER

Siting Council....

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Boardman complex.

The EFSC has okayed siting for a nuclear plant at the site, pending move of the Navy from the Bombing Range.

The statement, signed by Port of Morrow Coordinator Rupert Kennedy, said, "The Port of Morrow Commission respectfully asks your council to rescind your restriction and allow siting at Carty...We would be pleased if you would accomplish this while you are in session in Morrow County—the land of excitement."

The EFSC did not act on or discuss the Port's request.

Dana Prag, a senior at Riverside High School, also gave testimony before the EFSC, stating the need for nuclear power plants and the attractiveness of locating such plants in Morrow County.

Among those sitting on the seven-member EFSC is Allan Nistad of Heppner who serves as vice-chairman. Nistad is general manager of Kinzua Corporation.

Lumberjack Show....

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As the sawdust settles at the fairgrounds, musicians from the Blue Mountain Fiddlers Association will be tuning up their instruments for a two-hour concert scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the Fair Pavilion.

Immediately following the concert, dancing to music provided by the old-time fiddlers will begin, lasting until 11 p.m.

Admission to an evening of musical entertainment and dancing will be adults, \$2; and

senior citizens and children, \$1.

Saturday's lumberjack competition and fiddler's concert and dance are sponsored by the Fair Committee both to raise money for fair-related expenses and to recognize the importance of the lumber industry in Morrow County.

The committee invites everyone to plan a family day of fun and excitement at the fairgrounds this Saturday at Heppner's first-ever Spring Lumberjack Show.

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● Berry Plants ● Herbs ● Trees
● House Plants ● Flowering Shrubs
● Bulbs
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Hill's Smoked Picnics 85¢ lb.	It's Barbecue Time Whole Frying Chickens 65¢ lb.	Lewis Bros. Beef Links \$1.29 lb.
Western Family Large Eggs 65¢ Doz.	Nalley's Magic Blend Salad Dressing Imitation 69¢ Quart	Nalleys Dill Pickles 89¢ 48-oz.
Butter \$1.29 1-lb.	Bumble Bee Tuna 69¢ 6½-oz. Tin	Van Camp Pork 'n Beans 39¢ 21-oz.
Tomato Sauce 29¢ 15-oz.	Western Family Soft Oleo Margarine 49¢ 1-lb. Tub	Delta Towels 49¢
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