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## Volunteer ambulance drivers urgently needed



EMT Faith Healy, inside ambulance, and hospital maintenance staff member Gary Nolan

Pioneer Memorial Hospital is desperately in need of volunteer ambulance drivers to be on call between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. at least once a month. No chauffeur's license or EMT certificate is required, only a good driving record and a five-minute response time to the hospital.

Currently, the ambulance is driven by hospital maintenance staff during the day. Fourteen volunteers offer from one night a month to as many as two nights a week to provide 24-hour ambulance service. Even if two of the drivers weren't going to be gone for the summer there is still a load on the volunteers. Some have become "burned out" in the past months because they have been on call so frequently, says Gary Nolan of the hospital maintenance staff. For the program to work efficiently without placing a burden on any one volunteer, a total of 30 volunteer drivers are needed.

Although many drivers go their entire time on call without any calls, when a call comes, a qualified driver is needed. There is no way to predict when the call will come, explains Nolan. The ambulance has averaged only six emergency calls per month. "We're fortunate to have so few fatalities, severe trauma cases and emergencies."

Those who have not driven an ambulance before need not hesitate to volunteer because training is available at the hospital. Volunteer drivers are encouraged to attend an EMT program once each month. Either Gary Nolan or Carl Lauritsen

of the hospital's maintenance staff will show prospective volunteers through the ambulance and have them drive it before they are accepted as volunteers. They may come back for additional practice as often as they feel necessary after volunteering, Nolan emphasizes.

Once accepted as a volunteer, drivers are not left on their own. An EMT is always present on ambulance calls and is responsible for decisions. The driver need only drive and "run and fetch" as directed by the EMT.

Sometimes a driver may need to use the ambulance radio to contact the Sheriff's Office, which dispatches the ambulance, or to relay messages from the EMT to the Registered Nurse at the hospital, but the EMT tells the driver what to say and decisions about transporting the patient are made by the RN or the attending physician.

The response area for the ambulance is roughly from Bull Prairie to Morgan and Sand Hollow, however, the ambulance may be called to transport patients from the hospital to Portland, Walla Walla, the Tri-Cities, or Pendleton for specialized medical care. Director of Nursing, Sandi Hanna, explains that if the ambulance responds to an accident and it is determined that the patient will need care not available at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, he is transported from the scene of the accident to other medical facilities. It makes little sense to bring a patient here that we're going to transfer immediately unless the pa-

tient is very close to the hospital and needs to be stabilized before transport.

It is not common for hospitals to operate ambulance services, says Interim Administrator Bob Smith. Usually the service is operated by a fire department or an independent ambulance service, especially in larger towns. The volunteer drivers keep the cost of the service down. The basic rate for transporting a patient within the Heppner city limits to the hospital is \$77 during the day and \$88 at night; supplies, RNs, and heart machines, ect. are not included in the basic rate.

The cost is also kept down because no one is paid to sit and wait, Smith explains. Maintenance staff are on duty with other responsibilities at the hospital during the day, but are still able to leave when needed to answer an emergency call.

"Pagers" are available for volunteer drivers who may not be at their home telephone during their entire time on call. As long as a volunteer driver stays within five minutes of the hospital, and within easy contact by telephone, he need not stay at home for his entire 12 hour shift.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer may contact Gary Nolan at the hospital or any of the following volunteer drivers: Matt Greenup, Jean Strange, Lonny Watne, Jim Bier, Ted Toll, Carl Lauritsen, Peggy Lauritsen, Rick Curtis, Merle Cowett, Tom McElligott, Ken Nairns, Dale Holland, Mike Smith, and Rick Smith.

## Sifting

through the

## Times

### 10 Years Ago

The first week of June the Democrat Gulch school house was moved through the streets of Heppner to its current site next to the library and museum building.

Morrow County School Superintendent Matt Doherty announced the cooperative work experience program which the county's three high schools would implement in the fall.

### 25 Years Ago

One afternoon the last week in May, halitones measuring as much as 3/4" across covered the Main street in Heppner.

The new Morrow County Museum and Library Building was dedicated. In mid June the Heppner Realty and Development Corporation was

voted into existence by the Chamber of Commerce Development Committee. The corporation's purpose was to provide additional housing in Heppner.

### 50 Years Ago

Lexington Grange held its first meeting in their new hall during May.

A 200-man Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) soil erosion control camp was scheduled to be established in Heppner by July 15 pending location of a suitable site.

Continuation of the wheat production control program was favored 49 to 1 in a referendum ballot on which 91 percent of eligible county voters returned ballots.

## Two celebrations in one

If you're looking for a good time this fourth of July, be sure to make it to lone this year, as the town will be rolling two celebrations into one, and it should be a good time for all.

In addition to the traditional fireworks display, put on each year, the town is turning out to celebrate the centennial of Morrow county.

To start off the day's activities there will be a parade through town beginning at 12 noon. Floats are welcome, and anyone interested may join in.

And there will be no need to pack a lunch for this celebration as all types of food will be available including: hamburgers, hot dogs, homemade pies, ice cream, cookies, popcorn, caramel corn, snowcones, fresh lemons, and pop, all this topped off with a barbecue chicken dinner starting at 6:30 p.m.

In the entertainment division there will be a flea market, display of old pictures, historical tour of the town, model T car, pony cart rides, laser movies at the library, free swimming in the afternoon, square dancers, of course the traditional fireworks, and then a big street dance with live music after the fireworks.

Also in honor of the event a gazebo is being built in the lone park by members of the lone Community Agri-business Organization. Anyone who would like to donate toward the cost of this project may send their donation through the Bank of Eastern Oregon, lone Branch.

There will be other activities going on in lone during the big fourth of July-Centennial Celebration, so watch next week's paper for more details.

## City recorder needed

The city of lone is now searching for a new city recorder, reports Mayor Wayne Hams.

Present recorder Diana Starr will be moving to Heppner soon where her husband, Chuck Starr, takes over as assistant superintendent of the Morrow County School District. Chuck Starr had been principal at lone schools.

Hams says the job includes taking minutes, preparing and sending out water bills and other duties. The salary is \$210 per month.

## Summer intern begins duties at IUCC

The Rev. Joy Haertig, 26, Pacific School of Religion at Berkeley, is in lone this week working as a supervisor at the lone United Church of Christ Vacation Church School. She describes her position as providing support to the teachers, helping in the classrooms, leading teacher meetings, and helping the Rev. Cathy Barker with the worship services.

Next week Haertig will be at the Condon United Church of Christ where she will work with the Rev. Trish Knorpp for four weeks. She will then return to lone July 20 for five weeks while the Rev. Barker is vacationing and spending some Sabbathical time with a Peace Tour for the United Church Board for World Ministries.

In its fourth year, the summer internship program with the two churches is so organized says Haertig that the churches see themselves teaching churches, taking interns under their wings and sharing themselves their rural life-with "a city kid." Although born in Oklahoma City, her family moved to Seattle where she attended junior high, high school, and college, so she claims little knowledge of rural life. Having met two of the former summer interns, who "raved" about the program at the two churches, Haertig says that that was part of her attraction to the experience. Also, she was impressed with the variety of experiences and that part of the time she would be working on her own, organizing an entire worship service. She has preached before, but has not been responsible for the whole service; this, she says, appealed to her "independent streak."



Joy Haertig

This is not Haertig's first internship. Right out of college, she did a co-internship at a Church where, although she had her own schedule of hospital calling, preaching, and other duties, close supervision was provided by the two pastors.

"I decided at 18 to go into the ministry while on a trip for world hunger to Washington D.C. and New York," as a co-leader, "I was excited by the enthusiasm of the Church leaders compared with the tired, bored attitudes of the political leaders" involved with hunger programs.

While still an undergraduate, she worked with Campus Christian Min-

istries leading a women's group, and as a camp counselor for fourth graders through adults. Most of her experience, however, is with high school aged students.

She preached her first sermon combined with mime while with Campus Christian Ministry and characterizes herself as less "brave" and less willing to try different things since she entered the Seminary than before.

Other experiences include prison ministry and answering phones at St. Vincent de Paul which gave her an "awareness of what sort of folks fall through cracks of government agencies."

"I'm excited to be here," Haertig concludes. "I have a sense of not having the slightest idea of what's ahead and of anticipating that what is ahead is good. I feel alone yet a whole world of people are here that I'm about to meet. By the time I leave, it will be sad (to go)."

Following her summer internship, Haertig will return to the Pacific School of Religion for one more year and then will receive her Master of Divinity degree. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Washington in the field of social work. Her home is at Seattle, Washington, where her father is a United Church of Christ minister, who spends his spare time sculpting in bronze. Her mother is a homemaker, brother Paul, works at a "very nice" restaurant to support his art work, and sister Faith is a special education teacher.

Although her hobbies include playing the flute, pen and ink drawing, photography, jogging, and racquet ball, she confesses that they "never get done at once. Different things get put on hold at different times and during the school year, many things are on hold."

## Near normal water supply expected

Water supplies are forecast to be near normal for most of Oregon this summer, says the Soil Conservation Service. The mountain snowpack was good this winter even though the precipitation has been below average. Reservoir storage remains above average.

Only the high elevation snow remains. It is melting at a rate of 1"-2" per day. The current year began with a very high snowpack on January 1. During the winter season the snow accumulation was minimal. The April 1 peak snowpack was near to above normal. Much of the low elevation snow melted early this year. This resulted in the streams peaking earlier than normal.

May precipitation was near normal east of the Cascades except for Klamath and Lake Counties where it was much below average. West of the Cascades it was also much below average. For the period October through May, the precipitation ranged from 74 percent to 91 percent of normal throughout the state, continues the S.C.S. news release.

Reservoir storage remains very good. Currently, 28 principal irrigation reservoirs contain 2,961 acre feet of water. This is 90 percent of total usable capacity and 114 percent

of the June 1 average. Streamflow during May was below average on many of the major streams and rivers. April was a high streamflow month since much of the low elevation snow melted a few weeks earlier than normal. Oregon streamflow forecasts are for near normal volumes on most streams.

Spring and summer water supplies for Morrow County are forecast to be near average during the May-July period.

Precipitation during May was below average; 63 percent of average at Ukiah and 83 percent of average at Heppner.

### Labor Trends

## April employment increased

The state of Oregon Employment Division reports that for Morrow County, the total employment increased by 180 in April but remained below year ago levels. The largest wage and salary gains occurred in the construction, government, and trade sectors. Overall the largest gain was recorded by the non-covered agricultural sector.

Even though total employment expanded by 180 the numbers of unemployment only declined by 10. This serves to point out the high degree of labor mobility in Morrow County and its unique relationship with neighboring Umatilla County, continues the Employment Division news release.

The major economic issue continues to be the water question. Recently the Oregon Department of Water Resources appealed a court ruling which invalidated the departments moratorium on new well permits. The water issue here and in Harney County is a good example

The mountain snowpack was good this year. On June 1 the Madison Butte SNOTEL site and the Arbuckle Mountain site reported no snow.

Forecasts of streamflow, assuming normal weather conditions during the rest of the spring and summer, are as follows for the May-July period: Butter Creek near Pine City - 3.4 1000's af, 92 percent avg.; Rhea Creek near Heppner - 2.0 1000's af, 91 percent Avg.; Willow Creek at Heppner - 2.7 1000's af, 93 percent Avg.; Rock Creek above Cysse Canyon near Condon - 2.2 1000's af, 92 percent Avg.

of the inability of the market to allocate a replacement cost for an unpredictable natural resource. The principal problem is that the market is unable to place a value on many natural resources independent from the costs of harvesting or accessing the resource. Given the relatively short term nature of most market activity, it is in the best interest of each water user to use the last drop before their neighbor does. Depletion tends to occur before the price is able to rise high enough to prevent it. All in all whatever the solution is, it will involve several groups sharing in the hardships and the costs.

An additional complication for the local economy is the dry spring. It appears that this year's wheat yields will be lower than the bumper crops of the past several years. Unfortunately, the price has not risen enough to compensate for the lower yields. This will probably mean a smaller county economy during the first six months following harvest, concluded the news release.

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