

The Heppner

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Medical board approves contract

Two doctors agree to open Heppner practice

By Avon Melby

Two doctors have agreed to set up practice in Heppner and North Morrow Medical Center will be open at least four days per week, Morrow County Medical Board decided Monday.

Drs. Jean and Ed Berretta, a husband and wife team who have been practicing in North Carolina, have visited Heppner and met with the board. After returning to their present practice they wrote, setting out the contract they would like to have, and it was accepted by the county board at a meeting in Irrigon Monday night.

The doctor's contract will begin October 1. They will set up practice in the Heppner Clinic. At least until another full-time doctor has been found for the North Morrow clinic at Boardman, one of them will be manning the clinic there for a minimum of 16 hours per week.

Better services will be assured at the North Morrow Medical Center through another lease agreed to on Monday.

St. Anthony Hospital, which has been operating Pioneer Memorial Hospital here for more than a year, will manage the clinic at Boardman. St. Anthony will staff the clinic, pay the bills and expenses of the clinic. No rent will be charged the first six months, then a \$1,000 per month rental will be in effect. The agreement is for three years, with two five-year extensions at the option of the Pendleton hospital.

The lease agreement specifies St. Anthony must staff the Boardman clinic with a physician a minimum of 32 hours each week and a minimum of four days per week. These requirements are to be met within 60 days after the contract takes effect Oct. 1.

North Medical Center had a loss of \$8,993 last month, Ed Glenn, a member of the county medical board

said. St. Anthony is trying to find a doctor who will live in Boardman and keep the clinic open on a full-

time basis. Ernest Wick, interim administrator for the county medical

board, was authorized to call bids for repairing the roof on the Boardman Clinic. Additional repairs will be



200 years

Heppner Elementary pupils (above) release balloons with messages about the Constitution to begin their celebration of the document's bicentennial.

Heppner and lone elementary schools joined with others across the nation in celebrating the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Students viewed "We the People" television program and joined President Reagan saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

At right fourth graders from lone parade down Main Street ringing bells as part of the nationwide 200 seconds of ringing bells.



made later. Maintenance and repairs of the clinic at Boardman remain an obligation of the county. Repairs were included in a budget approved for the new medical district last spring.

The county would like to exchange management of the Heppner Clinic for that of the home used by Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Commissioner Jerry Peck said. The home was given the county for use of the hospital administrator by the late Amanda Duvall, one of the principal promoters of building Pioneer

Memorial Hospital here in the 1950s. It is not now being used for the administrator. It is across from the courthouse. The county would like to have the building for possible additional office space in the future. The trade was agreed on.

Morrow County Medical District was formed by the county several months ago, but the board just took over duties of trying to meet all the health needs of the county. This was its third regular meeting. To develop both short and long term goals for the board, a workshop was set up for October 22 at Dodge City Inn in Boardman.

Regular meetings of the board were changed from the third Monday to the first Monday of each month.

Truck victim of Wednesday fire

A truck was the only casualty following a fire at Paul Hansen's airstrip west of Heppner last Wednesday. Hansen apparently was burning in a barrel when the flames jumped out and caught nearby weeds. He then drove his pumper truck over to put out the fire, but the truck's motor died. Since he could

not start the motor, he couldn't pump water and the fire overtook the truck. A crew from Columbia Basin Electric Co-op working with shovels had the blaze nearly under control when the Heppner Fire Dept. arrived.

Diaper plant may open in Boardman

A diaper plant could open in the Port of Morrow Industrial Park as early as spring of 1988, Port Manager Bob Miller has announced. The plant will provide "good, basic industry for the area," he said.

The proposed Boardman plant is expected to employ about 136 people when it opens and as many as 150-200 by the end of its first year in operation. The manufacturing process is very technical, the port manager explained, but will require a labor force of machine operators, maintenance people, electricians, and warehousing and dock people.

Many who have been laid off from their jobs with Lamb-Weston may qualify for the new jobs. That fact, he pointed out was a factor in Boardman's favor because the labor force here is fairly stable with few moving to jobs with rival companies. Smoochies anticipates hiring most of its labor force locally.

The East Central Oregon Association of Counties has been working with the port from the beginning, Miller said. They helped put together the package we presented to Smoochies. They oversee federal programs which may assist the new company with screening and training of prospective employees.

In addition to a stable labor force, other reason Smoochies is considering Boardman is because utility, land, tax and labor rates are very

competitive right now due to our sudden and unexpected economic slump, Miller noted.

Location is a third key factor in their choice, Miller pointed out. The market Smoochies hopes to serve includes Seattle, Spokane, and Portland, which puts Boardman near the center with transportation routes to all cities. "Water transportation is very cost-effective," he said, "especially for large, bulky items, which makes us a good receiver for wood by-products used in the diapers." Rail and truck lines also serve Boardman.

Smoochies is now in the process of searching for financing to build the \$10 million plant, he said. Smoochies is a public stock company which means they may issue tax exempt bonds similar to those issued by cities and utilities to finance

improvements.

The Smoochies, Inc. diaper plant, a year-old company based in the Tacoma area hopes to garner about 5% of the West Coast diaper market with a new twist to disposable diapers. The product they propose to manufacture in Boardman hopefully the first of several plants across the nation-will be the same quality as leading brands, but will have a built-in bag that encloses and seals the diaper after it is used, and two built in pouches for "baby Wipes".

A patent search is underway, Miller said. Members of the corporate team have long term experience and proven track records in the diaper industry, so are planning ahead. Legislation which will require some sort of bag for disposing throw-away diapers is being introduced in 22 states.

Boardman man named Tidewater representative

Wesley J. Hickey, Executive Vice President of Tidewater Barge Lines announced today that F.E. 'Ed' Glenn, former Boardman lawyer, will represent Tidewater in Morrow County, through the November election.

Glenn will concentrate on making the Tidewater plan to open a solid

waste landfill in Morrow County



Ed Glenn

well known and understood before voters consider a referendum that seeks to require voter approval of landfill siting and operation at a general election.

In making the announcement, Hickey said, "Ed represents the beginning of our local hiring which will eventually reach as many as 50 employees. Tidewater appreciates the support this project has received in Morrow County and local hiring is one way we can help the local economy."

Glenn practiced law in Boardman from 1976 to 1984 and more recently has been associated with the Pine Box Company and La Casa de Vin winery. A candidate for Justice of the Peace in 1986, Glenn has been active in Morrow County politics and in several political campaigns over the past 10 years.

Glenn's wife, Frances, teaches U.S. History at Riverside High School and their two children, Harold, 16 and Laurel, 13, attend Morrow County schools in Irrigon and Boardman.

Metro director eyes Finley Butte for Portland garbage

The Morrow and Gilliam county landfill sites are head and shoulders above any site West of the Cascades, capable of handling large amounts of garbage, the director of Metro Services Agency which regulates garbage disposal in the Portland area said last week.

Metro is looking for a long-term site that is capable of handling the 400,000 tons of garbage per year

coming from the urban parts of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties.

The 600-acre Finley Buttes landfill will have the capacity to accommodate garbage from the Columbia River communities for approximately 20 years, according to Tidewater spokespeople.

Clark County, Washington also has been considering the Finley But-

tes site for its household and commercial garbage. Tidewater Barge Lines put together a proposal to barge garbage up the Columbia River, off-load it at the Port of Morrow and truck it to a landfill site managed by Wastech.

Rena Cusma, executive director of Metro said the proposed Finley Buttes landfill and the proposed Gilliam county site are neck and neck as far as meeting Metro and environmental requirements for a garbage disposal site.

Metro is considering eastern Oregon sites because "we're packing it in as tight as we can, just to make our current landfill site at St. Johns last until early 1991," she said.

When the site is full, we will have to have an alternative for getting rid of refuse. Problems have developed with proposed K'ickitat and Bacona Road sites which may make them unavailable in time.

Last spring Tidewater planned to have the Finley Buttes landfill in operation by the end of 1988. That was before an initiative petition placed a measure on this November's ballot requiring voter approval before a landfill may be sited in Morrow County. If the measure is approved, voters would decide if they want a landfill at the general election in November, 1988. Officials are not predicting how long the landfill project could be delayed if the measure passes in November.

Cusma said Metro will make its decision by the end of this year.

Eastern Oregon's low rainfall cuts construction costs and slows the process by which waste by-products leach out into surrounding soil. The water table is so high in the western part of the state that construction costs are incredible compared to here, the director pointed out. It also is doubtful that new Environmental Protection Agency regulations will allow development of a site west of

the mountains, she said.

Another alternative is to contract with small brokers transporting small portions of garbage to several different landfill sites, Cusma said, but Metro prefers to use just one site, consolidating its liability.

"The Finley Buttes site has great terrain for a landfill, because it can't be seen and has no close residences, Cusma continued. Tests show the soil in the canyons is suited for a landfill and groundcover is readily available. "And," she said, "the neighbors are delighted." That's important because we don't want to push the issue where we're not wanted.

Five years ago the attitude toward garbage was "not in my back yard," she said. Now technology is advancing so quickly the whole national attitude is changed. "Forward thinking communities see garbage as a resource for energy which can be sold and as a provider of jobs, Cusma said.

The landfill Wastech proposes to build at Finley Buttes would provide 12-15 new jobs for unloading and loading, trucking, and landfill operations. Royalties to the Port of Morrow could be as much as \$480,000 per year.

We are concerned with the economic development of the host community she said, and with proper management of the landfill. "We want to be good long-term partners."

Much of the garbage from the

Metro area now is disposed of through advanced technology such as resource recovery and composting. A refuse fuel plant at St. Helens is capable of handling 350,000 tons of garbage per year. It provides 65 jobs, a \$3 million payroll, and \$2 million in property taxes. Composting may handle 160,000 tons of backyard debris per year by turning it into a compost for agricultural purposes. The challenge is to assure users the products meets agricultural standards, she said.

Recyclables are pulled out up front, she emphasized. Education in the high schools and curbside pickup are provided as part of the regular garbage fee, she said.

"We make an effort to educate people about what they throw away," she said. Pickup stations are made available usually two weekends each year and patrons are

Continued Page 2

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

September 15 - 21
High Low Prec.

Tues.	65	38	.0
Wed.	68	37	.0
Thurs.	73	42	.0
Fri.	79	45	.0
Sat.	81	49	.0
Sun.	87	48	0
Mon.	87	50	0



Larry Lindsay points out landfill site to Metro Executive Director Rena Cusma.