

Gazette Times

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Medical Board to sign PMH contract

The Morrow County Medical Board has authorized a board subcommittee to sign a contract with Western Health Resources, Inc., for management services for Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner as soon as "contingency issues are resolved," according to PMH administrator Ernest Wick and Medical Board chairman Jackie Bergstrom.

Bergstrom said that under the contract, expected to be in effect Sept. 1, Wick will become an employee of Western Health Resources, Inc., a Seventh Day Adventist hospital management firm. She added that the contract still needs some "fine tuning" before it is signed.

"I see some major changes," said Bergstrom. "Part of the services will be to install a computer system and get the billing taken care of." The

hospital has had problems with its billing system in the past because of an inadequate computer system.

Bergstrom stressed that PMH "will not be an Adventist hospital. It will be an Adventist affiliate," and is "very hopeful" about the proposed agreement.

The board subcommittee includes Lori Pruitt, Irrigon, Jackie Bergstrom and Ernest Wick.

Princess Elizabeth has Irish roots in Morrow County



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Princess Elizabeth Doherty takes time out of her busy schedule to practice barrel racing.

Horses and livestock are part of everyday life for Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Princess Elizabeth Doherty, who has grown up on their ranch in upper Buttercreek. The daughter of John and Doris Doherty, 16-year-old Elizabeth is an experienced ranch hand when it comes to working with sheep and cattle.

From the northeastern tip of the county, this Irish lass has the support of the large Doherty clan and many other relatives living in Morrow and Umatilla counties. Her immediate family includes an older sister, Michelle Doherty Packard and her younger brother Joe, who is one of this year's pennant bearers. However, anytime the Doherty's gather for an occasion, it usually is high-lighted with plenty of foot-stomping Irish music and singing.

With roots in both Morrow and Umatilla Counties, Elizabeth has been a pennant bearer for the Pendleton Round-Up. Each year she also takes an active role in the Happy Canyon Pageant. As a member of Pendleton's Mustang riding club, she says she enjoys barrels, poles, and goat tying. At Heppner this year, she plans to enter the barrel racing during the Morrow County Amateur Rodeo on Friday.

Elizabeth will be a junior at Pilot

Rock High School this fall. She has lettered in track and she placed 11th in the state in gymnastics in 1989. She is also a member of the Pep Club and the Letterman's Club and she finds time to be a varsity cheerleader.

After college, her career goal is aimed at working for an airline agency as a ticketing agent. And perhaps she has overseas travel in mind as she says she hopes to improve on her ability to speak German.

Princess Elizabeth is riding "Dun-ny", a quarterhorse gelding, as her court mount. He's more reliable, she says, than a younger horse that she is training.

Although she won't be showing sheep this year as she has for the past several years, she says she thinks that being involved in livestock is a great way for kids to learn discipline and responsibility. They should also be grateful to the generous support of Saturday evenings' auction sale buyers, she says.

As to her involvement on the court this year, Princess Elizabeth says it's been very rewarding. The court members have become good friends, she says, and with the parents that have traveled together this summer, they have become like a family,

Princess Jodi's love of animals prompts court involvement

Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Princess Jodi Vandeventer, the 17-year-old daughter of Don and Deb Vandeventer, has her sights set on becoming a veterinarian. Jodi's short-term goal of becoming a member of the court has been a very positive experience, she says, stressing the fun of going places and meeting new people.

"I'm excited about our own fair and rodeo," Princess Jodi says. "It's been so much fun representing our county at parades and other functions. And it's so neat when the kids along the parade routes wave back at you," she says.

Although her family, including her younger sister Jaimie, and her younger brother Josh, live inside the town of Boardman, Jodi is getting plenty of hands-on experience towards her career goal.

Along with her Polled Hereford cow that produced twin calves this year, Jodi also has a place to keep her horse. She spends time commuting, however, she admits that her horse can sometimes be seen in the back yard of their in-town home.

Princess Jodi is an active member of the Umatilla Sageriders and the Umatilla Barrel Club, where she enjoys "chasing tin cans." And though her parents aren't "horsey folks"

she says they give her lots of support in pursuing her horse activities.

This outdoor girl also found time this summer to help weed a two-acre garden for Bill Sharkey, even when the temperatures reached melting degrees. But she most enjoys working with animals. However, this year she will not show her cow at fair as she has in the past, because of her court involvement and lack of time.

Princess Jodie will be a busy senior at Riverside High School this fall. She rates basketball as a favorite sport and she hopes to maintain a "steady" varsity basketball position. She is also an active member of the Riverside FFA chapter in which she held the office of Sentinel last year. She enjoys participation in both livestock and soil judging that takes members to different locations. Last year she placed second high individual in overall livestock judging at the Umatilla County Fair.

Along with her enthusiastic participation in court duties, Princess Jodi says she is looking forward to watching Sunday morning's log bucking contest, that has grown to a major event. With her love of fast-moving horses, she will probably be found cheering for participants in Thursday evening's team branding event.

Boardman man arrested on rape charges

A Boardman man, James Ray Steelman, 36, was arrested Monday, July 29, on charges of attempted rape I, sexual abuse, and assault IV.

Special Fair and Rodeo supplement

The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo gets underway next week, and a special Fair and Rodeo section is included in the week's Heppner Gazette-Times.

Inside you will find a schedule of fair events, and many fun and interesting things to do during fair and rodeo.

High winds hit Lone cause damage



George Tucker's pickup truck didn't fare too well Tuesday, when high winds toppled a tree across the hood, smashing the front end. "He only had it for four months," commented a local bystander about the damage.

High winds, dust and ice balls belted Lone Tuesday, causing lots of broken windows, a smashed pickup truck and numerous downed and uprooted trees.

"It's the worst storm I've seen in the 30 years I've been here," one Lone resident commented while surveying a pickup belonging to George Tucker that was hit across the hood by a fallen tree.

The storm began around 4:30 p.m. witnesses say, when high winds kicked up dust so thick "you couldn't see across the street." The dust was followed by more wind and the dropping of ice balls up to the size of softballs. The ice apparently caused some damage to vehicles.

The storm lasted only about 20 minutes, but it managed to break numerous windows around town, including many in the church, the grange hall and people's homes. Several power lines also were downed, and a representative of Columbia Basin Electric was on the scene.

In addition to the wind damage, flooding also caused problems as water rushed across the highway west of town, piling up mud and leaving rocks and debris in the roadway.

There were also reports of flooding on surrounding farms, with one farmer reportedly escaping just in time from a flash flooded gully.



Kacy Childers, 9, stands on trunk of tree that was standing in his front yard before big wind storm brought it down Tuesday.

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Electric storm causes outages



Photo by Joyce Hughes

One of Princess Jodi Vandeventer's obligations being on the court is handing out awards which she enjoys

Electric storm causes outages

A brief electrical outage Wednesday, July 31, caused a major Heppner City water pump to break. The malfunction was first noticed Thursday evening by Dave Winters, director of public works, who discovered that the water level in the reservoir was down to around four feet, according to city administrator Gary Marks. Marks said the reservoir level is usually around 25 feet. Friday morning city officials announced an emergency and asked Heppner residents to begin water conservation, such as refraining from

watering their lawns.

Extensive damage occurred on the shaft on the number 3 pump at Willow Creek, just past the lake, during a power flicker. Marks said that a pump was located in Spokane and by Monday morning the water level was up and emergency over.

According to Columbia Basin manager Fred Toombs, power outages on Wednesday, July 31 and Thursday morning Aug. 1 were caused by "many lightning strikes." Toombs said that "various parts of the service area were out (of power) up to four or five hours.

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