

Gazette times

35¢

VOL. 110 NO. 37 6 Pages Wednesday, September 11, 1991 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

Medical board signs management contract

The Morrow County Medical Board signed a \$60,000 a year contract Monday, Sept. 9, for management services from Western Health Resources, (WHR) a Seventh Day Adventist hospital management firm. WHR is an affiliate of Adventist Health Systems West, based in Roseville, CA.

The County Court was also expected to sign the contract at its Sept. 11 session.

Medical board president Jackie Bergstrom says that the management firm will increase buying power for the hospital and clinic; aid in recruitment of expert technical personnel; and will provide a much needed

computer system for the hospital, which has been plagued with computer errors.

The medical board also voted to instruct Ernest Wick, PMH administrator, to "report to Stan Berry (a WHR supervisor) or his designated representative while he (Wick) is a county employee." According to Bergstrom the action is an interim procedure until WHR is able to change its policies so that it may hire hospital administrators. At this time, said Bergstrom, WHR has no

such policy. While PMH was under a previous administrative contract with St. Anthony Hospital, Wick was a St. Anthony employee.

The board voted to decline a request from Dr. Robert Boss, who operates the Boardman Clinic, to take over the Boardman ambulance service's billing.

In Boss's proposal, the board would receive 20 percent of charges billed. The board voted to decline, saying that they wished to pursue the new billing system proposed under the WHR contract.

The board also instructed Ernest Wick to make a formal request to Dr. Boss on behalf of the board, asking for a financial report as per his contract with the board.

The board voted to accept the audit report, presented by Gerald J. Moro, C.P.A. of the accounting firm of Barnett, Dennis and Moro, Hermiston.

The board passed a motion to change their monthly meeting to the fourth Tuesday of the month to coincide with WHR's visitation to Prineville Memorial Hospital's board meeting. The Prineville hospital is also under WHR's management.

School advisory committee has vacancy

The Heppner/Lexington School Advisory Committee has a vacancy for a person residing in the Lexington area. This position is open due to the recent resignation of Harley Sager. Anyone interested may contact Steve Dickenson at Heppner High School, Bryan Traylor at Heppner Elementary School, or any advisory committee member: Steve Hill, John Boyer, Kay Rene Qualls, Peggy Fishburn, Chloe Pearson and Ronda Wallace.

To be eligible for this position the candidate needs to live in the Lexington area within the old Lexington school boundaries.

Reno Night auction set October 12

Mark your calendars for Reno Night, Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Heppner Elks Lodge beginning at 7 p.m. Reno Night is an annual event sponsored by the Heppner Booster club.

This year's auction will be smaller than in the past, but the Booster Club has added a "Country Store," where everyone can use their script to purchase smaller items. "This change was made so that everyone has the potential to go home with something," said a spokesperson. The store will be stocked with many donated items and lots of local crafts.

The autographed Trailblazer basketball is still displayed at Gardner's Men's Wear. Tickets are available at Gardner's or may be purchased during Reno Night. The drawing will be Saturday, Oct. 12 at 11 p.m.

Trophies, cash and prizes will be awarded gross and net. The average score last year was 26 over par and the course record is 71. Cost is \$5.

Football game time changed

Game time for the Heppner High School football game Friday, Sept. 13 at Joseph High School, has been changed to 1 p.m. The bus carrying the football team will leave from Heppner High School at 7 a.m.

Game schedules distributed list the time as 3 p.m. but the time was changed this week at the request of the Joseph High School administration.

City settles out of court in dispute with hotel contractor

The Heppner City Council approved a \$5,800 out-of-court settlement to C.P.D. Contractors of Troutdale at the council's regular meeting Monday, Sept. 9. C.P.D. Contractors had filed a \$22,000 suit against the city for reimbursement of costs they claimed exceeded their contract with the city for remodeling the Heppner Hotel two years ago.

The council maintained that C.P.D. did not fulfill their contract and left the hotel with inferior inside finishing work. Hermiston attorney Dennis Doherty, however, reminded the council that at least 10 change orders were signed off by architect Max Koerper, who Doherty said, was not aggressive enough in overseeing the project. In addition, he said, many of the change orders were mandated by state building code requirements.

Doherty also advised the council

that court costs could exceed the proposed out-of-court settlement. According to Doherty, the litigation includes a nine percent interest charge on the amount C.P.D. claims is owed them for change orders, in excess of the \$650,000 contract.

City attorney Bill Kuhn says that the contractors did not complete their work by the proposed deadline and were granted an extension without being fined to rectify work that the city considered substandard.

Kuhn also said that some of the systems within the building had problems and the dining hall floor and the upstairs apartment floor covering were substandard. He claims these details should have been taken care of by the contractors.

The over \$1 million in costs to remodel the hotel was funded by a bank loan to be repaid by hotel apartment rentals and matching money from a state economic development

grant.

In other business the council:
-approved an ordinance allowing quality manufactured homes of more than 1,000 feet to be placed in R1 residential zones under a conditional use permit. Other specifics including type of foundation and building codes must be met;
-approved nine liquor licenses for city businesses;
-heard recommendations for city pool management and changes from the 1991 pool manager Sara Carlson;
-approved an animal permit for Bill and Marcy Bacon;
-changed city council meeting dates to October 21 and November 13 instead of regular second Monday of the month to allow city administrator Gary Marks to attend workshops that conflict with monthly council meetings.

Lundin honored at chamber



Departing Extension agent Fred Lundin (r) receives best wishes from Morrow County Judge Louie Carlson

Morrow County Extension Agent Fred Lundin was honored at the Chamber of Commerce noon meeting Sept. 10.

Lundin, county Extension agent since 1985, was roasted and toasted by friends and members of the farming and business communities. Lundin resigned his position as Morrow County agent to take a position in Astoria.

Among those on hand to bid farewell were Birdine Tullis, former co-worker and Extension agent, Mike Stoltz, Umatilla County Extension agent; Rollie Marshall, loan officer at the Bank of Eastern Oregon representing the Morrow County Marketing Club; Bill Broderick, Extension agent; Doug Drake, wheat

rancher; Bill Kuhn, attorney and member of the former Toastmasters Club; Claudia Hughes, chamber manager; Bob Kahl, chamber president; and Ed Glenn, publisher of the Columbia Valley Chronicle.

Stoltz credited Lundin with spearheading the effort to get a weigh wagon in the county, bringing to light issues surrounding migrant families in regard to the community and suggesting a formula that is now used for treating Russian wheat Aphid in the county.

In farewell remarks, Lundin commented, "I appreciate working in Morrow County. I think all my family and myself will take along a lot of memories. We've met a lot of friends here."

Local woman works week on Burnside

By Anne Morter

While most people use their summer to pursue fun and leisure activities, a local woman did something a little different, devoting a week of her summer visiting various agencies serving the Burnside area of Portland. Jeri McElligott of Ione undertook 'The Portland Plunge' where she witnessed up-close life on the streets in what most consider an unsavory part of Portland.

The first three days were spent in training, learning the do's and don'ts of life on the streets, as well as role-playing and just getting acquainted with each other. With that under their belts, the groups hit the streets, visiting two agencies or service organizations in the Burnside area daily. Each evening, they returned to home base, St. Francis School on Eleventh and Pine in Northeast Portland, to record their experiences in their journals. The groups took turns preparing meals for the entire group. After dinner, guest speakers, recreation and relaxing were on the agenda for the footsore participants. (No transportation was provided so all interagency travel was done on foot.)

Because there are so many agencies, each group was unable to visit them all, but McElligott's group visited and worked with a variety. Among others, they visited Blanchet, a soup kitchen, the Recovery Inn, formerly known as Baloney Jones, Transition Projects, formerly Burnside Projects where the Ione Youth Group served a meal last fall, and The Sisters of the Road Cafe, known for its \$1.25 meals and being the first cafe in the U.S. to accept food stamps. Visits were also made to a women's shelter, a teen shelter, a senior citizen center and an alcohol treatment center. Each group was also required to do a half day of street ministries, visiting with the street people.



L-R: Tamara, Shannon, Jeri McElligott, Steve and Whitney helps Jeri's group prepare 200 jelly sandwiches at Blanchet House. All the kids attend Portland High Schools.

Each person on 'The Plunge' was given just \$1 for lunch and they were not allowed to carry any money of their own. Jeri explains that organizers did this for the safety of the participants and to let them see how it feels to get by with next to nothing.

She says that it taught the group to use their imagination. About the experience, Jeri says 'It was very worthwhile and interesting. I learned a lot about the people that

live there.' She was quite impressed with the sense of community on the streets. By the third day, people recognized them and would shout friendly greetings from across the street. She noted that she found a wide variety of people living on the streets, including some highly intelligent people. "We were accepted by them—I didn't have any bad experiences," she added.

Jeri would be glad to share with any interested parties what she learned on 'The Plunge.' She says that her goal was to become more familiar and more comfortable with the area as well as to make contacts for further work with the Ione Youth Group.

Hospital employees to enter union negotiations

Pioneer Memorial Hospital will enter into negotiations with union employees, represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) on Sept. 27 and 28.

Hospital employees voted 46 to one to join the union in a secret ballot vote in August, according to Vicki Turrell, member of the local union committee, along with Betty Curnutt and Marie Boor.

Turrell said that local union employees are concerned about changing the language in the contract to include more employees. She said that out of 47 possible union positions only 20 employees belonged to the union, because of classification as "temporary" employees. She

said that some employees who have worked at the hospital for six months or more are still classified as temporary and therefore ineligible to join the union and receive benefits such as insurance or sick leave.

Turrell said that while employees have been unionized at the hospital for the past 12 years, the recent vote was to determine whether or not the employees still wanted to belong to a union.

"It's not about money," said Turrell, "it's about security." She said that employees have seen several changes in administration over the past years and are concerned about further changes in management with regard to job security.

Wapato couple lease Heppner Bowl



L-R: Shawn, Kay, Walt and Ida Foster

Walt and Ida Foster from Wapato, WA., are the new managers of Heppner Bowl. They have leased the bowling alley with an option to buy the business.

The Fosters have 12 years experience, managing the Quincy, WA., Spare-O Lanes for eight years, and the Wapato Lanes, a 12-lane alley, for four years.

Walt, 52, and Ida, 48, have seven children, with two still at home. Shawn, 15, is a sophomore at Heppner High School, and Kay, 11, is a sixth grader at Heppner Elementary. Shawn is a certified bowling instructor, as is his father.

Walt says that he has no immediate plans for changes at Heppner Bowl. "It's been a successful

business, we're going to continue to run it that way," said Walt. "We may try a few things and see how they go. We're definitely going to cater to the junior bowlers."

He says that they'll be glad to assist anyone needing help or instruction. "We're going to be doing all kinds of things with tournaments and moonlight bowling," he added. "A lot of fun things."

Walt says that his family likes the small town atmosphere. "I'm really pleased with how people are treating us. I've always liked smaller towns, and this town has a beautiful atmosphere." The Fosters also say they are looking forward to getting involved in the community.

Men's cross country tourney at WCCC

Sunday Sept. 15 marks the annual Men's Play Cross-Country Tournament at Willow Creek Country Club.

The organizers have changed the entire course lay-out with par at 68 instead of the usual 60. Breakfast will be served from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

AGRICULTURAL LOANS
That's our business
Give us a call

BANK OF Eastern Oregon
Arlington • Heppner • Ione
"Your Independent Home Owned Bank"
Member F.D.I.C.