

Gazette Times

35¢

VOL. 111 NO. 4 6 Pages Wednesday, January 29, 1992 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

WHR hires hospital administrator



L-R: Kevin Erich and family Robbie, Stephen and Sharla

The Morrow County Medical Board unanimously approved the hiring of an administrator for Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner on Tuesday evening, Jan. 28.

Kevin Erich, 33, of Joliet, Illinois, will become administrator at PMH, but will be an employee of Western Health Resources, the hospital management firm which is under contract to manage and

provide computer services for PMH.

Erich has a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Pacific Union College at Angwin, CA, and a master's in business administration from Andrews University at Berrien Springs, Michigan. He is currently employed as administrator of a 120-bed nursing home near Joliet.

Erich will begin employment at PMH March 1.

Erich's wife, Sharla, who is a physical therapist has also been hired by PMH. The couple have two children, Robbie, four and Stephen, two. Erich has family on the West Coast. His father and a brother are both physicians.

PMH has been without a full time administrator since the resignation of Ernest Wick on Dec. 26, 1991. Stan Berry of WHR and Sheridan Tarnasky, PMH director of nurses, have been acting administrators.

Forest Service works on motorized use

For the past year a public working group has been assisting Heppner Ranger District personnel in developing an access management scheme for motorized use of National Forest lands in the area. To date a general plan has been worked out regarding loaded access. The group is currently working on the ATV portion of the plan as well as reviewing a snowmobile proposal.

This has been one of the most controversial undertakings ever attempted by the Forest Service. "Everybody has an opinion on how access should be managed," states District Ranger Roger Williams, "but no two opinions are the same." The access plan will attempt to balance the needs of all resources, whether physical, biological, or social. "The needs of people to be able to utilize public lands is very important," Williams says. At the same time protecting the numerous natural resources looms very big. "It is a real challenge to accommodate the multitude of recreation uses people have while maintaining other resources such as water quality and big game herds."

The access and travel management plan is a byproduct of the recently approved forest plan, which also included a tremendous amount of public participation. One large and very important aspect of this process is the desire to accommodate the needs of local

users as well as those visiting seasonally (mostly during hunting season). "Too often the needs of the people who live and work in an area overlooked. We are attempting to alleviate this as much as possible with the involvement of the public work group."

The process will be dynamic as changes are needed to accommodate new and different condition, said Williams. "But we will continue to involve our interested publics." A tremendous amount of time and energy has been expended by the local working group. Their input and discussion have helped mold this plan and has been very influential in

dealing with the multitude of issues," he said. "Without the help of the public work group, the plan would fall way short of anyone individual's expectations. This process, while not perfect, has at least let all insides of the debate have some input into the final product. I am delighted with the group's commitment and tenacity. They have made a difference," Williams concluded.

The Forest Service plans to conduct a public meeting to present the plan as soon as the work group completes its task. Contact the Heppner Ranger District if you have comments.

Men's bowling tourney slated

The 1992 annual ABC-sanctioned Men's City Bowling Tournament will be held at the Heppner Bowling Center Feb. 1 and 2 and Feb. 8 and 9. Over \$1,000 in prize money will be awarded to the bowlers placing in the tourney's events, which include singles, doubles, team and

all events competitions.

The public is welcome to drop by the bowling center and watch Heppner's finest keglers vie for honors.

The tournament co-chairmen are Delbert Binschus and Oliver Devin.

Landscaping program set

A program on "Landscaping the Small Home Garden" will be presented by West Winds Nursery at the Feb. 3 meeting of the Heppner Garden Club at the St. Patrick's Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.

Bill Rawlins will also give tips on planting seeds indoors for summer garden annuals.

"Everyone interested in gardening is welcomed at our meetings on the first Mondays of each month," according to a club spokesperson.

Council makes recommendations

"More Equitable Distribution of Health Care Tax Dollars," a recommendation passed by the Health Care Council of Morrow County, was sent to the Morrow County Medical Board at the council meeting Jan. 16. Included in the recommendation was a concern that the medical board keep residents of Morrow County informed on key health care issues that relate to the county. It was suggested that a newsletter be published quarterly.

The council also discussed at length the issue of a health district. Council members had earlier shared information about a health district with their focus

group. It became apparent from the responses of the focus groups and council members that the committee on the health district needs to get more information to the council before an intelligent recommendation could be made.

In other council business, a committee was formed to study the issue of bilingual training/resources for medical staff. A committee was appointed to study the need of retaining and recruiting qualified medical staff to serve in Morrow County. It would also look into the issue of rural medical certification concerns.

Special guests at the January 16

meeting included Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson, Jackie Bergstrom, chairman of the Morrow County Medical Board; Stan Berry of Western Health Resources, Paul McGinnis, director of the community decision making project from Mountain States Health Corp, and Sheridan Tarnasky, acting on-site PMH administrator.

The next meeting of the Morrow County Health Care Council will be Thursday, February 20, at 7 p.m. at Lone High School. The public is welcome to come and learn about health care issues impacting Morrow County.

Ilene Laughlin chosen to reign over St. Pat's weekend

Ilene Kilkenny Laughlin has been chosen to reign over this year's St. Patrick's day weekend

celebration. This year marks the tenth anniversary and will be held March 13-15.

Randall Cookston joins Angus Assoc.

Randall Cookston, Heppner, is a new member of the American Angus Association, reports Dick Spader, executive vice president of the national organization with headquarters in St. Joseph, Missouri.

The American Angus Association, with over 24,000 active adult and junior members, is the largest beef cattle registry association in the world. Its computerized records include detailed information on nearly 11 million registered Angus.

The association records ancestral information and keeps records of production on individual animals for its members. These permanent records help members select and mate the best animals in their herds to produce high quality, efficient breeding cattle which are then recorded with the American Angus Association. Most of these registered Angus are used by the U.S. farmers and ranchers who raise high quality beef for U.S. consumption.

Senior class to hold taco feed Jan. 31

The Senior class will sponsor a taco feed during the Weston-McEwen basketball game Friday, Jan. 31, starting at 4:30 p.m. The full meal deal will again be available.

Seniors are also selling raffle tickets on 50 gallons of gasoline donated by Devin Oil. The drawing will be held during the halftime boys basketball game on Feb. 22.

Two arrested on drug charges

Noel G. Harshman, 35, and Dianna Becket, 40, both of Lexington, were arrested on January 25 at Rockaway Beach on the Oregon coast, according to Morrow County Undersheriff Verlin

Denton. Both were charged with manufacturing a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance. The two were lodged at the Tillamook County Jail.

Museum to present new exhibits at re-opening

The Morrow County Museum will present new exhibits when it opens Saturday, Feb. 1, at 1 p.m.

A new permanent Heppner Flood exhibit features mounted enlargements of photos taken in the aftermath of Heppner's 1903 disaster and more accessible documentation of the event. A conservation project made it possible to make negatives of the original irreplaceable photos. The enlarged prints will be exhibited and the originals will be placed

in archives to reduce damage by exposure to the environment. The same project has allowed the development of a new display of historical farming and ranching photos. Museum director Marsha Sweek says she hopes that eventually all the photos in the museum's collection will have negatives on file. An expanded medical exhibit, native American artifacts display and other changes make a return visit to the museum an exciting prospect, she added.

Theater group to present St. Pats show

Heppner's new intergenerational theater group, HIT, will present a show entitled "Erin Came to County Morrow" Saturday night March 14, as part of the St. Patrick's weekend.

Through skits, music, songs and dances, the show will briefly depict some events in the history of the local Irish. The stage of the junior high auditorium will be the scene of

this first attempt at an Irish pageant for the annual St. Patrick's festival.

Performers and workers of all ages are to be included in this project sponsored by the Morrow County Children and Youth Services Commission. Anyone, especially the Irish, are encouraged to call Jane, 676-9435 and take part. Rehearsals begin Sunday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. at the junior high gym.

Free income tax aid offered

Free income tax assistance will be available to the community starting Wednesday, Feb. 5 through the Tax-Aide program of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

Sherron Woodside, local coordinator for the tax program, said the service is designed to help low-income and older persons understand income tax forms and become familiar with special benefits available to them.

Persons using this service should bring copies of their previous year's federal and state tax returns and forms for the current tax year, including W-2s and other relevant materials showing income for the year.

According to Woodside, tax-aid counselors are trained to assist you with basic tax forms and questions. Individuals with complex tax-assistance needs may be referred to professional tax preparers.

Make your appointment for assistance by calling Joyce Breeding at the Neighborhood Center, 676-5024.

Morrow SWCD board to meet

The Morrow Soil Water Conservation District Board of Directors will hold a regular board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the Dodge City Restaurant in Board-

man beginning at 7 p.m.

Agenda items include equipment bids, Army Depot, antelope census and agency reports. The meeting is open to the public.

All Saints to have communion

Father Robert Crum of Redmond will celebrate Holy Communion and lead the worship service on Sunday, Feb. 2 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the All Saints

Episcopal Church. A coffee hour will follow the service. Adult and children's Bible study classes will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Hope Lutheran plans potluck

"Turtledoves, Pigeons & God's Plan," is the theme Pastor Stan Hoobing will be using this Sunday, Feb. 2 at the Hope and Valby Lutheran churches. Scripture reading will be taken from St. Luke 2:21-40. Services at Valby, located on the Lone-Gooseberry road will begin at 9 a.m. Adult Bible class meets at 8:15 a.m. Bible class service at Hope in Heppner will begin at

9:30 a.m. with Holy Communion service following at 11.

The congregation of Hope Lutheran will hold its annual meeting and a potluck to begin at 1 p.m. There will be an election of church council members, passing of congregation budget, sharing of highlights of the past year and discussion on the future direction of ministry for the congregation. All members are encouraged to attend.

Announcing . . .



Bank of Eastern Oregon
HOME LOAN PROGRAM
Rates as low as 7³/₄%

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