

Gazette imes

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VOL. 111 NO. 24 8 Pages Wednesday, June 24, 1992 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

Physician's assistant hired at clinic



Marc Goodboy

Marc Goodboy, of Rochester, New York, began working at Pioneer Memorial clinic as a physician's assistant on Monday, June 22.

Goodboy, 25, will assist Drs. Ed and Jeanne Berretta at the clinic and at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Goodboy graduated with a bachelor of science degree in medical science from Temple University at Philadelphia. He earned a physician's certification at Hahnemann Physicians Assistant School in Philadelphia last June.

He has worked the past eight months as physician's assistant at Genesee Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital at Rochester, New York. He will be working as a "physician's extender," doing hospital workups and seeing patients under the supervision of a physician.

Goodboy said that the East coast is "too congested" and was

looking for a more rural environment when he learned of the Heppner position through an agency. He said he also considered a position in Idaho, "but this was my favorite. I'd like to make this my home. I'd like to shoot an elk," he added. Besides hunting, Goodboy has a penchant for bungee jumping and recently dove off a crane at the Portland Rose Festival. While crane jumping "will do" he says he prefers bridge jumping and rock climbing.

Goodboy said that he had traveled on the West coast several times but had never been to Heppner except for the job interview. He is originally from Pittsburgh. Heppner, at 1,400 people is quite a change for Goodboy. Rochester has a population around one million and Philadelphia's population is around eight million. The emergency room at Rochester saw between 50 and 70 thousand patients a year.

Medical Board discuss Pioneer Memorial clinic expansion

The Morrow County Medical Board discussed expansion of Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner at its monthly meeting Monday, June 22.

According to board president Jackie Bergstrom the proposed expansion will add three new exam rooms and house the offices of the newly-hired physician's assistant, physical therapist, Sharla Erich, public health nurse Laura McElligott and possibly Home Health director Molly Rhea and Bob Clark, psychologist, in addition to physicians Ed and Jeanne Berretta. The public health office is currently located at the Pettyjohn Building and Home Health office and Bob Clark's offices are at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Bergstrom said that the addition will be of wood construction and will also have a basement. She said that the addition will "hopefully generate enough in-

come to pay for itself." Target date for completion is November. Peter Baer of Bend is architect.

In other business the board:

- * discussed a new insurance proposal for hospital employees;
- * reviewed financial reports;
- * discussed a new payment collection system which would tie overdue accounts into a bank.

Bergstrom said that the bank would pay the hospital and clients with overdue accounts would make arrangements to pay the bank;

- * instructed PMH director Kevin Erich to renew the board's contract with Dr. Robert Boss, who operates a clinic in Boardman;

- * approved a 60-day extension on the contract with Drs. Berretta in order to complete contract details; and

- * elected officers. Bergstrom will remain president, Paul Sumner, vice-president and Bill Sheirbon secretary.

Irrigon nine-year old struck and killed by pickup

A nine-year-old girl Sara Erickson, Irrigon, died as a result of injuries suffered when she and a friend were hit by a pickup truck on Friday, June 19.

Sara and her friend Tara Dirks were on their bicycles when they were struck around 1 p.m. by a pickup driven by Benito Ramirez, 76, Irrigon. The girls were stopped on their bicycles on Division Street near the California Street intersection.

According to reports, Sara had apparently bent over to put her shoe on when she was struck and thrown into the other girl. Sara was airlifted to the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, arriving shortly after 6 p.m. She died at 11:45 p.m. according to a hospital spokesperson. Her injuries included a compound depressed skull fracture, a broken leg and broken pelvis. Tana was transported to a hospital where she was treated and released.

Police so far do not believe that alcohol or excessive speed were

involved in the accident, according to Morrow County Under-sheriff Verlin Denton. The accident is still under investigation, but no citations have been issued at presstime.

According to Denton, an officer said that there was a dip in the road which may have concealed the children somewhat. A witness said he didn't think the driver saw the children until it was too late, said Denton.

Sara was the daughter of Lloyd and Rita Erickson, Irrigon. Funeral services were Tuesday, June 23 at the Columbia View Community Church in Irrigon.

Methodist to honor Etchisons

Rev. Gerry Etchison and his family will be honored by the United Methodist Women during a coffee time June 28 following worship. This will be the Etchisons' last Sunday in Heppner as they are moving to Union on

Morter earns 4-H nomination

Nancy Morter, Ione, is Oregon's nominee for one of four trips to the 1992 National 4-H Congress next fall, reports Bill Broderick, Oregon State University Extension agent in Morrow County.

Morter, daughter of Perry and Kathy Morter, was nominated for the honor on the basis of her overall 4-H record and personal interview. The trips, arranged by the National 4-H Council, are sponsored by Friends of National 4-H Council.

The 1992 graduate of Ione High School plans to attend

Biological control program underway

The Morrow County Weed Control District, the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Agriculture Research Service at Bozeman, Montana, are joining forces to control knapweed in Morrow County. Instead of chemicals, they are using a tiny little weevil native to Greece.

According to Eric Coombs, biological control entomologist with the ODA in Salem, knapweed is also originally from the Mediterranean. The weed was spread to the U.S. by immigration, but during that process, the knapweed's natural enemies were left behind and the weed was able to proliferate, much to the distress of area ranchers and farmers.

Mary Mayer, biological technician with the ARS at Bozeman, said that while the seed head weevil won't completely eliminate the knapweed, it will control it.

Coombs said that biological control is perfectly suited for the rangeland in Morrow County because spraying such an area with chemicals is cost prohibitive. While biological control may take 10 to 20 years, it has proven to be very effective. Dave Pranger of the Weed Control District sites the effectiveness of using the cinabar moth and the ragwort flea beetle in controlling tansy ragwort which was a severe problem in the western part of the state. Research is now being conducted on with a root-boring beetle on knapweed and a defoliating moth on poison hemlock.

Before an insect is even imported to the U.S., extensive testing in the bug's native country eliminates the possibility that it would switch plants after the knapweed is controlled. In effect, said Coombs, the insect would choose to die out rather than switch host plants. He said that once the knapweed population is lessened the insect population would be lessened too, but if the plant population increases so would the insect. The insects are cleaned and inspected before leaving their native country so that all of their natural enemies are left at home.

The seed head weevil, which



Dave Pranger (back), (l-r) ARS lab technician Scott Barndt, Eric Coombs and Mary Mayer set up insect cage.

will be tested on knapweed on the Claude and Happy Graham place several miles out of Heppner, will be set out in cages that will be staked to the ground. According to Mayer, the test will include control cages, and several test cages—some of which will include seed head flies which have already been introduced. Pranger said that his tests have shown that around 50 percent of the seed heads have already been infested by flies and only 25 percent are producing seed. Twenty four cages will be set out, four sets of six cages each, a control cage with no bugs, a cage with flies alone, two cages each with flies and one beetle and two cages each with one beetle alone.

The beetle destroys the plant by laying its eggs on a leaf. The larvae then migrate through the stem and emerge at the seed head which they devour. It will take around three to five years for the insect population to increase enough to be harvested and released. The insect will overwinter in the soil and the popula-

tion will increase as long as there are no natural enemies. Mayer said the insect has overwintered successfully in the severe winters of Montana.

While the cost of such a study may seem excessive—\$200,000 to \$500,000 from the time research begins in a foreign country, it cannot compare to the cost of getting a chemical label, said Pranger. "For each dollar spent, the savings is around \$6," added Coombs, who is involved in testing at around 700 sites in Oregon.

After research is completed, follow-up is crucial, said Coombs. "Because if we control one weed it will be replaced by another weed," he said. Overgrazing, crop rotation, type of soil, type of animals on the land, chemicals and placement of water are all part of an integrated pest management model," said Pranger. Pranger will map out knapweed locations on a computer and computerize the results of the study. This study is one of the first being conducted in Oregon.

State requirement snags library district

Morrow County officials received word last week from the Oregon Department of Revenue that a little known provision of Oregon Law requires newly formed library district boundaries to be filed within the Department of Revenue prior to March 31.

The result of this ruling is that the county assessor is not allowed to place the \$140,684 on the district's tax roll until the 1993-94 tax year.

County officials and library proponents were caught off guard by this requirement since there is no mention of the provisions in the statutes under "the formations of library districts" nor is there reference to the requirement in ORS Chapter under "Assessment of Property for Taxation." County Judge Louis Carlson noted that at least one other district and several annexations have run in-

to the same problem this year.

In the past, districts running into the ORS 308.225 tripwire have been fortunate enough to do it in a year when the legislature was in session. The statehouse has routinely solved those individual problems by special legislation but has never provided a general solution.

Further complicating the district formation was the requirement that the boundaries of the library district had to be in the hands of the department of revenue even before the district was approved by the voters of Morrow County.

A task force composed of two county commissioners and two members of the Oregon Trail Library District Board of Directors met last Thursday afternoon to deal with the problem. Recommendations met last Thursday afternoon to deal with the pro-

blem. Recommendations to the task force included requesting Governor Roberts to place on the agenda of the special legislative session in July, an amendment to Oregon Law clarifying the "vague interpretation" of the ORS Chapter dealing with special district formations.

Under Oregon Law, the governing body or county court is responsible for complying with the provisions of the district formation. Judge Carlson said that "the court is clearly responsible for this error even though county legal counsel as well as legal counsel for the library district failed to catch the vagueness of the law."

In the meantime, the task force is developing an interim financing plan to keep the libraries open and functional until a resolution to the problem is completed.

County receives road funds

The Oregon Transportation Commission approved the distribution of \$500,000 in state highway funds to four Eastern Oregon counties: Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman and Malheur, recently.

The funding by the Oregon Department of Transportation is the first ever under a new special county program. It was enacted by the last Legislature to compensate counties receiving the lowest road revenues per equivalent road

mile. Under the program, \$500,000 will be distributed on July 1 and another \$500,000 on January 1.

Gilliam County will receive the most from the distribution with \$238,614.40, followed by Sherman with \$149,450.62, Malheur with \$69,094.28 and Morrow with \$42,840.70.

The funds are placed in a special account administered by ODOT to be used by the counties for local road projects.

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