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## R.N. puts the 'home' in Home Health



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Robanai Disque helps put the "home" in the Pioneer Memorial Home Health Program.

"I like the idea of working with people one on one. It's not just the patient you're working with, it's the whole family," she added.

Disque says that Home Health can make the difference between a patient staying at home or going to a hospital or nursing home. She says that with hospital stays generally shorter than they were several years ago, Home Health assists a person's convalescence at home. "People get better faster at home," she says.

Disque helps patients with dressing changes and wound care, instructs them how to take their medication and how to help manage their diseases, such as diabetes and bladder and lung problems. She also instructs in catheter training.

Disque, who just completed hospice training, also provides nursing care for terminally ill patients. The Vange John Memorial Hospice contracts with Home Health for the skilled nursing care. "I like working with cancer patients," she says. "I've sat and cried with lots of patients. If I've helped them die with dignity then I feel that I've accomplished what I've set out to do. I always like to let them know that they are in control."

Disque, who has been with the Pioneer Memorial Home Health program for the last 10 years, started her career in 1976 as an aide at PMH. She also worked at PMH as a respiratory and scrub nurses aide. In 1979 she began working at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton as an aide. While working at PMH and at St. Anthony's she also attended school. Disque graduated from Blue Mountain Community College with an associate's degree in nursing in 1980.

Disque attributes the increase to more services becoming available, a greater awareness of the Home Health program and a greater willingness on the part of doctors to use the services.

Now working in the Heppner, Ione and Lexington area, Disque earlier provided Home Health services in Boardman, Irrigon, Spray, Fossil, Condon and Arlington. Currently there is also a Home Health nurse who provides care for Boardman, Irrigon and Arlington patients, and another who provides care in the Fossil, Spray and Condon areas.

Disque has worked under four Home Health directors, Sheridan Tarnasky, who is now director of nurses at PMH, Blanche Collins, Sandy Rill and the current director Molly Rhea. "Robanai is always willing to go to the outlying areas and see patients evenings and weekends. She's really good with the technical aspects of Home Health care," said Rhea.

Disque feels that it is a part of her job to educate people about Home Health care. "I'm amazed about how many people still don't know what's available. We want to educate people that all these things are available and that they do have options in health care," she said. Disque says that while a doctor's orders are re-required for Home Health, people may call the hospital 676-9133, for an evaluation.

Disque, who grew up in the area between Heppner and Pilot Rock, graduated from Heppner High School. She and her husband Duane, live in Lexington with their children, Kylee, six and Taylor, 22 months.

## First Interstate donates to United Way



Jackie Allstott, manager of the First Interstate Bank in Heppner presents a \$500 check to Sheridan Tarnasky (left), representing United Way of Morrow County.

The money was donated by the bank employees, who had 100 percent participation and the bank itself.

Tarnasky, a member of the United Way board said that all the money donated in Morrow County will stay in the county for local programs.

## Mustangs defeat Rangers for title



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Number one district champs with their trophy

By Jeremy Maddern

The Heppner Mustangs are the District 7-2A champions for the first time in school history, after they thrashed the Dufur Rangers, 14-2 Monday afternoon, May 24 at the Bob White field in Pendleton. The Rangers had beaten the Mustangs 11-1 earlier in the season but faced a much different team than before.

Jered Wicklund got the start on the mound as he duelled with Dufur's University of Hawaii-bound Brandon Jones. Jones pitched a one hitter against the Mustangs in their first meeting.

The Rangers looked as they would take control early in the game as they had the bases loaded with no outs in the top of the first inning. Wicklund pitched out of a jam but not before one run crossed the plate for a Dufur 1-0 lead. Brandon Jones looked to be dominate again as the Mustangs went three up three down.

Wicklund struggled again as the Rangers got another run in the top of the second inning but failed to break the game open. The Mustangs exploded in the bottom

of the second to a 7-2 lead, with three consecutive singles by Rick Koffler, Trent Hughes and Jason Hanna. Hanna scored two runs on his base hit followed by a suicide squeeze by Jim Tellechea while Jones walked Steve Wilson. Scott Coe drove the ball into the right-center field gap for a 2-RBI single.

Wicklund then sat the Rangers down in the top of the third and saw his team mates build a huge lead. Brandon Jones was the victim of the Heppner bats as the Mustangs extended their lead to 12-2 and saw Jones leave the game after 2 1/2 innings of work.

The Mustangs were helped by a number of people as five Mustangs managed to cross home plate in the bottom of the third inning. Wicklund was mowing down the Rangers left and right as the Mustangs were smelling the championship. Heppner went for the kill as they scored four more runs while the Ranger pitcher managed to bring in two Mustangs after a wild pitch. Hanna produced a 2-RBI double and

Tellechea an RBI single in the rally. The Mustangs ended the bottom of the fourth with a 14-2 lead and because of the 10-run mercy rule ended the game after the Rangers failed to score in the top of the fifth.

Hanna led the Mustang effort as he went two for two with a double, walk and four RBI's. Jered Wicklund pitched five innings and allowed only one earned run.

The Mustangs were ranked third in the state before the game and now have moved up in the polls to number one.

Next up for the Mustangs is the Elgin Huskies in the first round of the state Class 2A playoff run Friday, at 4:30 p.m. in Boardman. If the Mustangs win that game they will play the winner of the Knappa-Santiam Christian game on Monday, May 31 at one of their sites.

Dufur 110 00-2 4 4  
Heppner 071 6X-14 9 1  
Brandon Jones, Fullenwider (2) and Bryon Jones; Wicklund and Summer, W-Wicklund (9-2), L-Brandon Jones (7-1), HR-none.

## Gerald Pierson retires from Bank of EO



Gerald Pierson

Gerald Pierson has done "everything" in the banking business. From a start in a teller's position, which included bookkeeping and washing windows, Pierson ended his banking career as bank president at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner.

Pierson started his banking career at the Foster County State Bank in his home town of Carrington, North Dakota in 1959. "I

had to do it all," commented Pierson. "It was a great career start for me. The person who hired me had faith in me."

After 3 1/2 years there he moved to start a new bank at West Fargo, North Dakota. He brought the bank there up from its roots and turned it around. The bank became successful within three years. "My greatest thrill is turning that bank around and making it a success," said Pierson. Pierson was named president of that bank in the early 70s.

After around 14 years at West Fargo, Pierson moved to Myrtle Point to take a position with the bank there. After only a year at Myrtle Point, he got the opportunity to come to Heppner in April of 1982.

"If someone asked me what I liked best about the job, I'd have to say the people," said Pierson. "I've been blessed with the best caliber of people working for me."

"I've also enjoyed being able to help people solve their problems," he added. "We're really going to miss the Heppner community. It has so much to offer for the population size, the hospital, doctors, golf course, the great school system."

Pierson says he will also miss following the local high school sports.

Pierson says that he has to admit that his most memorable occasion was when the lone branch of the bank was robbed--twice--by the same person.

Pierson, who will turn 65 May 31, has three sisters, one of whom lives in Redmond, one in California and one in North Dakota. His father, Algot, who emigrated to the U.S. in 1917 from Sweden when he was 16 never saw his parents again, said Pierson.

Pierson served in the Korean war as a first sergeant. Prior to his banking career Pierson drove Wholesome bread truck for 10 years in North Dakota.

Pierson and his wife Harriet have moved to Mesa Arizona where they have bought a home. "Banking has been very good to us," added Pierson. "It's going to be very difficult to be a bank president one day and not one the next. We have mixed emotions, but we're ready for the next step."

They plan to travel with their fifth wheel this summer and visit family and friends. First on the top of their list are visits to their children and grandchildren. They have five children, Mari, Newport; Harriet Ann, Spokane, WA.; Keith, Detroit, Michigan; Paul, Fargo, ND, and Joel Minneapolis, MN and 15 grandchildren.

After September the Piersons will be at home at 7755 E. Laguna Azul, #136, Mesa, AZ.

## Registrations being taken for summer recreation program

Rev. Drake has confirmed that the program will include a trip to The Dalles, which will feature a tour of the dam, the railroad and the Wonderworks, a hands-on museum.

Another highlight of the summer program will be a Native American encampment at the city park.

It's not too late to register for the summer recreation program for area kids. Registration will be open until June 1.

The program, for children who have completed grades one through six, will be held from Ju-

ly 6 - 30. Hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. including a nutritious lunch that will be provided.

Registration forms are available at the Neighborhood Center.

Children do not need to attend the program full time, but parents should notify the Neighborhood Center ahead of time for planning purposes.

The summer recreation program was started last year by the Rev. Grace Drake to help fill a void created when the Heppner swimming pool was shut down.

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