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HEPPNER



VOL. 115 NO. 10 10 Pages Wednesday, March 6, 1996 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

# Lady Cards State Champs

More photos inside



State Champions

## Health district votes to extend Boss's contract

By April Hilton-Sykes  
The Morrow County Health District (MCHD) board voted to extend its contract with Dr. Robert Boss to provide physician's services for the medical clinic in Boardman for another year.

MCHD has offered Boss \$130,000 a year, the same salary amount as his current contract. Under the current contract Boss keeps the clinic's receipts in addition to the \$130,000 and pays no rent for the clinic building, which is owned by the district. Boss rejected an earlier proposal by MCHD, not publicly disclosed by MCHD officials.

Boardman pharmacist Ray Michael said that if the board doesn't work out a contract agreement with Boss, problems between MCHD, Boss and some Boardman residents will intensify. "I think the divisiveness is just going to get worse and worse," said Michael. "What you've seen in the press is just the start," Michael added, referring to an editorial on Murray Drugs of Heppner and MCHD board member Meg Murray written by Ed Glenn in the Boardman's North Morrow Times tabloid newspaper. Murray is a former owner of Murray Drugs, which is now owned

and operated by her son and his wife, John and Ann Murray. Glenn, a former lawyer and former tabloid newspaper publisher in Boardman, was defeated by Don McElligott of lone in a bid for Morrow County Commissioner.

Michael, in addition to owning the Boardman Pharmacy, is a member of the MCHD budget committee, a member of the Boardman Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Boardman City Council. The North Morrow Times, published by John and Lynn Prag of Boardman, is partially funded by the Boardman Chamber of Commerce. The Boardman Chamber and city council have urged MCHD to contract with Boss and have said that they support the withdrawal of Boardman from MCHD to establish a Boardman health district.

Dr. Boss's current contract will expire May 1.

In other business, MCHD learned that Pioneer Memorial Hospital has hired Teresa Altman-Lang, from Palouse, WA, as director of nursing services. Altman-Lang replaces current director, Sheridan Tarnasky, RN, who will be attending college full time this spring to

become a physician's assistant.

MCHD is also finalizing contract negotiations with Dr. Juergen Lang to work at Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner. Current doctors, Drs. Ed and Jeanne Berretta, have indicated that they will not renew their contract with MCHD, but have given no official notice. Dr. Lang and Altman-Lang are husband and wife.

The MCHD budget committee, consisting of chairman Larry Mills, Ray Michael, board members Bob McKinley, Jim Hankins, Meg Murray and Cara Osmin, MCHD executive staff, Dan Grant and Russ Demianew, and MCHD CEO Kevin Erich, met prior to the board meeting. Board member Norma Stahl and Bill Sheirbon are also on the budget committee. The next budget committee meeting is set for Wednesday, March 27, at 7 p.m. at Irigoin City Hall.

### Ballots due

Voters are reminded that ballots for the primary presidential election, which includes the issue of home rule for Morrow County, are due in to the Morrow County Clerk's office by Tuesday, March 12.

## Cunninghams honored as St. Pat's family



Back (l-r): grandson Bruce Moyer, son Bill Cunningham; center (l-r) daughter Betty McDonald, son Bob Cunningham, daughter-in-law Mary Cunningham; front, daughter-in-law Esperanza Cunningham.

The Cunningham family has been selected as the honored Irish family for the 14th annual St. Patrick's celebration planned for March 15-17 in Heppner.

The Cunningham patriarch, William Patrick Cunningham, was born in the County Longford, Ireland on August 15, 1884, to Patrick and Margaret (Irwin) Cunningham.

William's first venture from home was in 1897 when he was approximately 14 years of age. Without the apparent knowledge or permission of his parents, he traveled to Scotland to work in the coal mines. In the 1800s, this was very hard and dangerous work. In 1899, William's father, Patrick, discovered the whereabouts of his son and went to Scotland to bring him back to Ireland. William later told the story of how happy he was to see his father and leave the coal mines.

After returning to Ireland he lived with his parents until he sailed to the United States in 1904, when he was 20 years old. He often told the story, that after arriving in the United States and living in this strange new country without a job and without any money, he decided to ask his parents if they would loan him some money until he could find work. They responded by telling him that money was so abundant in the United States that he only needed to bend over and pick it up. Needless to say, he did not receive any money from Ireland, nor did he ask for any more loans.

One of William's first jobs, after being processed through immigration at Ellis Island, was working on a street car in New York City. He also worked at an ice cream factory called Reed's Ice Cream Company.

In 1907, William decided to "Go West Young Man" and ended up in Heppner, working on a sheep ranch owned by George Currin. In 1908, he went to Alaska and worked as a blacksmith, earning \$5 per day sharpening picks and tools for the gold miners. In the early 1900s, \$5 per day was considered a tidy sum of money. However, this prosperous time was ruined when other laborers came to the gold fields and offered to work for one half the wage that was currently being paid. This resulted in a strike and William subsequently returned to Heppner.

Upon returning to Heppner, he worked for J.B. Huddleston of Lonerock herding sheep. He next moved to Portland and worked for Union Meat Com-

pany. He later owned and operated a saloon in Portland on 6th and Morrison Street called the "Athletic Club". He moved his saloon to 700 Union Avenue N., then sold it and returned to Heppner.

In 1911, he purchased and operated the Shamrock Saloon in Heppner. This saloon was located where the former Fullerton Chevrolet Garage and the present day U.S. Forest Service office is located on Main Street.

Catherine "Katie" Brennan was born in the County Roscommon, Ireland, on December 23, 1890, to Patrick and Mary (Owens) Brennan. She sailed to the United States in 1909 from Queenstown, Ireland, with her uncle, Mike Brennan. After they were processed through Ellis Island, they traveled to Oakland, California, where they stayed for a few weeks. They then traveled to Aurora, where she stayed with her uncle and aunt until 1911.

On October 30, 1911, William married Katie in Pendleton. He had met her at one of the Irish clubs in Portland. The wedding ceremony took place at St. Mary's Catholic Church with John C. Doherty, a cousin of the groom, as best man and Sara Doherty, an aunt of Gertrude Applegate, as the bridesmaid.

In 1913, William and Katie

moved to the Hisler Ranch on Little Butter Creek with their infant son William. In 1915 they took out a homestead in the Little Butter Creek area of Morrow County. The family lived on the homestead until they moved back to Heppner with their six children in 1927.

After moving to Heppner, William worked for Morrow County Road Department for a year and then worked for various farmers in the area until 1934. In January 1934, the family moved to a farm in Aurora. The farm had been owned by Katie's uncle, Mr. Gilbertson, who had passed away.

They remained on the farm in the Willamette Valley until June 1935 and then returned to Heppner. After returning to Heppner, William worked for the W.P.A. during the summer of 1935 and returned to work for the Morrow County Road Department in the fall of 1935. He remained with the road department until he retired in 1955.

William arrived in the United States believing that he had been born on June 9, 1881. His actual birth date was August 15, 1884. He was not aware of this discrepancy until he applied for his Social Security retirement benefits in the 1950s.

In Ireland, at the time of his birth, usually the only record-

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Bill and Catherine Cunningham

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