

HEPPNER



50¢

MCHD to hire another doctor

The Morrow County Health District Board, at its regular meeting Monday, March 3, instructed administrator Kevin Erich to proceed with negotiations for an additional doctor for the district.

The district will pursue negotiations with Shanika Natalie de Soyza, M.D., Hermiston.

In other business, the district has scheduled a budget meeting for this Thursday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at the Boardman Ambulance hall.

Vandals break in Army Depot shed

Vandals broke into a storage shed near Boardman, stole about \$200 worth of emergency response supplies and covered the shed with graffiti, according to a news release from the Morrow County Emergency Management public information office.

The shed is located near sites where authorities would set up road blocks in the unlikely event of a chemical accident at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. The barrier materials stored there have also been used to close roads during severe weather.

The damage is not the first instance of vandalism for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, according

to the release.

In the last two years, highway message boards and a warning siren have been put out of service by vandals' bullets. Repairs on the sirens and boards may total more than \$50,000. CSEPP officials are looking into how much it will cost to make the message boards bulletproof, says Dave Trott of Oregon Emergency Management.

"These vandals don't have much sense. These crimes jeopardize public safety. We may need to use the sirens or the reader boards on a moment's notice. If they're out of order because of vandalism, then our response to an emergency won't be as effective," says Casey Beard, Morrow County program coordinator. "Our tax dollars bought these items, and now we're paying again to have them replaced or fixed."

Flashlights, first aid kits, and stop/slow paddles for traffic control were stolen from the storage shed. While the items are expensive, Beard says that every dollar counts. Beard also wants potential vandals to know that nothing in the sheds is worth much money; there are mostly just traffic barriers and cones inside. He says anyone with information on the vandalism or theft should contact the authorities.

County cancels bank payments

The Morrow County Treasurer and Tax Collector offices have announced that effective March 1, citizens are no longer able to make their property tax payments directly to their local banks.

This service was instituted a couple of years ago to facilitate easy payment of property taxes. However, after a number of problems with the process, including delayed tax payments and the discontinuation of the service by at least one area bank, it was concluded that this was not an effective service, said a county spokesperson.

Taxpayers may still make their payments directly to the Tax Collector's Office in Heppner, or the payments can be mailed in to their office in the envelopes that are provided with the tax statements.

For more information, call the Tax Collector's Office at 676-5628.

HHS baseball season starts

The first Heppner High School varsity baseball game will be held Thursday, March 13, at 3:30 p.m. at the high school baseball field. Heppner will play the Pendleton Jvs.

School board retains four-day school week

The Morrow County School Board, at a special meeting Monday, March 3, voted in favor of continuing the four-day week in Morrow County Schools. In an earlier vote February 10, the board deadlocked on the four-day week issue.

Board President Scott Bauska and members Gary Frederickson, Scott Johnson and Russ Morgan voted in favor of retaining the four-day week while Dwayne Carroll and John Rietmann opposed the motion. Bill Doherty abstained from voting. In the last vote, Bauska, Johnson and Morgan favored the four-day week and Doherty, Carroll and Rietmann opposed it. Frederickson did not attend the Feb. 10 meeting.

The board majority said they based their decision on financial considerations. Estimates

indicated that the district saved around \$200,000 under the four-day plan and it expects to save \$150,000 to \$200,000 next year.

The majority also maintains that nothing indicates that students are not doing as well under the four-day week as they have in the five day week.

Opponents of the four-day week say the \$200,000 in savings is insignificant when compared to the district's \$14 million budget.

Former teacher, Jane Rawlins, Heppner, urged the board to choose the five day week, especially for elementary students. "Can our people disregard those kids that age," said Rawlins. "They depend entirely on us. They're at our mercy. I can't believe we're going to say they're expendable."

Mike Armato, Heppner, echoed that sentiment, adding, "The one

thing that's missing from this (four-day week) is excellence."

Prior to the board's vote, Bauska countered an accusation that the board did not listen to people in the community, besides parents. "We have heard from the citizens," said Bauska. "We heard it when Measure 5 was passed. I heard it loud and clear when the sales tax didn't pass. I also heard it when Measure 47 passed."

A motion by Rietmann to go to a "calendar plan", which would have allowed schools in the district to be on different schedules, died for lack of a second. In his plan, some schools could elect to not schedule school on a particular Friday, if the school had a planned sporting event, for example, while other schools could opt to attend that day.

Low turnout may void Heppner city election

Low voter turn-out for the March 11 mail-in election may invalidate the city of Heppner's operating levy election. As of Tuesday, March 4, only about 34 percent of the city's ballots had been returned to the county clerk's office.

"Ballot Measure 47 requires levy elections to achieve a 50 percent voter turnout for the election to be

valid," said city manager Gary Marks. "Voters could approve the city's levy measure with a majority vote, but if less than 50 percent of the voters sent in their ballots the voters' approval is invalidated by Measure 47 rules."

"Clearly, Ballot Measure 47 has added new importance to voter turn-out and has increased the power of each vote. Your vote

makes a difference more than ever," said Marks.

"If the County Clerk does not see a healthy upswing in ballot returns from city residents within the next week, the city levy will be invalidated no matter what the voters decide."

Voters have until Tuesday, March 11 at 8 p.m. to submit their ballots to the county clerk's office.

HHS drama club to present Southern spoof



Murder in the Magnolias cast: front (l-r)-Traci Dickenson, Travis Judd, Julie Watkins, Kim Pointer; center-Abby Kahl, Laurie Michael, Kristen Marshall; back-David Michael, Mitch Mathews, Jake Roy, Lonnie Rill

The Heppner High School Drama Club will present "Murder in the Magnolias", "a parody of characters and plots of almost every Southern play imaginable", this Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8, at 7 p.m. at the Heppner High School cafetorium.

The plot of the spoof, which has the flavor of "Gone With the Wind", goes something like this: "Colonel Rance Chickenwing has

kicked the bucket, leaving the secret of his buried treasure for a houseful of demented relatives to discover."

The "demented" cast of characters includes: Travis Judd as Rance; Julie Watkins, Amanda Chickenwing; Kristen Marshall, Jezabel; Leah Denton, Voodoo Woman; David Michael, Pete Bogg; Mitch Mathews, Thornbird Chickenwing, III; Jake Roy,

Bubba Kamrowski; Laurie Michael, Lorraine Carruthers; Abby Kahl, Lawyer Possum; Traci Dickenson, Princess Lotta Cargo; Lonnie Rill, Sheriff Billy Jerk; and Kim Pointer, Blanche Du Blank.

Director is Brandi Marshall, assisted by Eric Schonbacher. Nancy Swarat is faculty advisor.

Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

MC Arts Council plans musical

The Morrow County Arts Council is putting together a children's musical. This play will require many speaking and singing parts for adults and children. In short, the play is about nursery rhymes that get mixed up.

Director Shelly Rietmann says she hopes the play can be broken up into parts that each community can work on. For example Heppner, Lone, Lexington, Boardman and Irrigon, would come together for one dress rehearsal and then a final performance. Help with costumes, sets, and music will be available, and busing if needed.

Those who are interested being on the stage crew, or auditioning for a part need to contact Rietmann by Monday, March 10, at 422-7243.

"This will be a fun county and

community event and should not require a lot of rehearsal time," says Rietmann. "Come and let your talents emerge."

This play production is funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District.

UI graduates

A total of 592 students completed requirements for degrees at the close of the University of Idaho fall 1997 semester.

Local graduates include: Eric Neal Connor, Heppner, College of Engineering; Nina Kiyomi Tucker, Hermiston, College of Agriculture; and Ryan Nicholas Adelman, Pendleton, College of Engineering.

Little League sign-ups, March 17-18

Heppner Little League and Heppner Girls' Softball sign-ups will be held on March 17-18 at the Bank of Eastern Oregon from 5-6:30 p.m.

Cost is \$25 per player, with a \$50 maximum per family.

To enroll, children must be six years old before August 1, 1997 and not turn 13 until after August 1, 1997, to be eligible for Little League.

Heppner Little League is also in need of umpires for the upcoming season. Anyone who is interested and can help should call Craig Gutierrez, chief umpire, or Rollie Marshall, Heppner League president.

Find The Hidden Shamrock Win A Silver Eagle

The popular St. Patrick's Day treasure hunt is back again. Each week until March 12 a clue for the treasure hunt will be printed in the Gazette-Times. If followed, these clues will guide treasure hunters to a green shamrock hidden somewhere in the city limits of Heppner.

The first person to find the hidden shamrock will win a .25 ounce silver American Eagle coin worth \$90. The coin is donated by the Bank of Eastern Oregon and is on display there.

FIND THE SHAMROCK and win the coin!

RULES:

1. A new set of clues to guide you to the hidden shamrock will appear in each edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times.
2. A total of four clues will be given up to March 12.
3. The hidden shamrock is not on private property and no digging or moving of objects, dirt or other material is necessary to find the shamrock.
4. The first person to find the shamrock should bring it to the Heppner Gazette-Times office to claim the silver American Eagle.

CLUE NUMBER THREE

Heeee's Back!
Mr. Clue Man from 1995.
Father was a POL
No longer alive.
Good with a rod,
and a cue stick too.
This guy's got
a hint just for you.

**EXTRA SPECIAL DOUBLE BONUS
SUPER DUPER CLUE BOOSTER:**
(This week only, so don't get used to it.)

Near Seasonal Symbol

Follow the clues, and may the Luck O' The Irish be with you. This contest is sponsored by the Bank of Eastern Oregon and the Heppner Gazette-Times.

Early Spring Sale begins Thursday, March 6, ends Saturday, March 15

Farm & Hardware SALE

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS
Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396