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Gazette
Times

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New practitioner starts at clinic



worked for the Keizer Corp. While working for Keizer in Portland Haack specialized in critical care and trauma, and also ran the open heart clinic at the Keizer Sunnyside facility.

Haack says she became interested in rural health care years ago when she was caring for her father who had Multiple Sclerosis. "I love working in a rural area. I get to know the families and can give total care, and better care that way."

A nurse practitioner can do everything a doctor can at the clinic, she says, including minor surgery. "On complex patients I consult with the doctors," she adds.

Wendy Haack
Wendy Haack, the new family nurse practitioner at the Pioneer Memorial Clinic, began seeing patients last Monday.

Haack, 40, comes to Heppner from Portland where she was commuting to a job in Washington, and had also

Coffee Hour is music and fun

The annual KUMA coffee hour will be held as usual this Saturday beginning at 10a.m. upstairs at the Elks in Heppner.

Music will be a big part of the show again this year, with the featured group being the multi-talented John Doherty and the Irish Singers.

Also on tap will be the local singing group the Sentimentalists.

Greg Smith will be hosting the show this year, as his father Ted, who has done the show every year in the past, is not able to make it.

Kiddy rides for St. Pat's festival

The Kid-A-Ride Amusement, featuring a Ferris Wheel, moon walk, a train, games and more,

will be in Heppner March 15-17, during the St. Patrick's Celebration.

Winnie Flynn and Father Gerry Condon to be honored at the St. Patrick's Celebration

Heppner has "adopted" two of Ireland's own and the community will honor those two at the annual St. Patrick's Celebration March 14-16.

The two, both born in Ireland, but on different ends of the Emerald Isle, are Winnie Flynn and Father Gerry Condon.



Winnie Flynn

Winnie, one of 10 children born to Patrick and Bridget Mulkerrin, lived in Connemara, west of Galway. Winnie speaks Gaelic fluently and knew no English when she came to the U.S. when she was 16 years old. In her day, she says, Gaelic was automatic. "It was all we knew," said Winnie. Winnie says that the government in her area is trying to preserve the language and, as recently as seven years ago, when she returned to Ireland, paid students to speak Gaelic. If a child used English in public, that child's funding would be cancelled, she said.

Although Irish, Winnie's father, who was very pro-American, joined the U.S. Army and served in France. Anyone joining the army at that time was granted American citizenship, as were their children, regardless of where they were born. Patrick and Bridget were married in the U.S., settled in Boston and four of their children were born there. At that time in the U.S., many people were prejudiced against the Irish and they often had a difficult time finding work, encountering "Help wanted-no Irish need apply" signs in business windows. Patrick was able to find a job at the woolen mills and then at the water department. In 1929, however, the family moved back to Ireland because of the Depression.

In Ireland, the family lived right on the ocean and Patrick fished in the summer. They dried the fish in the sun and saved it for the winter. They also had sheep and a garden and perhaps "once every five years had pork". Her mother made butter and fresh soda bread with raisins. "Everything was fresh," said Winnie. "Carrots, potatoes and parsnips and all kinds of fish and scallops."

In 1948, the family moved back to Boston. Winnie's father, oldest brother and two older sisters came first, sending for her mother and the rest of the children later. Patrick was so well respected at the water department that he got his old job back--after 20 years.

Winnie had a "fantastic cruise" across the Atlantic, "probably the only one I'll ever have," she says. But when she arrived, 16 years old and

speaking no English, it was very difficult. "I told my mom I wouldn't go to school," says Winnie. Instead she went to work in a hospital where her older sister was a nurse and Winnie "listened very carefully" to learn the language. Winnie met a young Irish-American man there and within two years, in 1956, she married George Flynn, whose grandparents on both sides were Irish immigrants.

Winnie says that she had never tasted ham until moving to Boston and she remembers her mother sending her to the store for "Wonder Bread".

In 1964 Winnie's parents moved from Boston to California and five of their children and families came along. Mark, Theresa, Mary, Philomena and Winnie moved to California, while Patrick, Morgan, Bridget, Coleman and Ann remained in Boston. Winnie's mother, however, discovered that she hated California, so she and Patrick moved back to Boston. The children who moved remained in California.

Much of Winnie's positive attitude was instilled by her father, who, she says, "was a wonderful, loving, religious man." The family was poor and Patrick never owned a car, traveling by train or bus, but they were happy. And Winnie is passing those values on to her seven children. "I always tell my children to say, 'yes, I can,'" says Winnie. "Life is wonderful if you give it a chance. We never hang up the phone without saying, 'I love you'. Life is too short."

Winnie's children, George, Jr., John, Mary, Patrick, Morgan, James and Joseph, are all named after family with the exception of Joseph. Before he was born, Winnie lost a baby and made a novena to St. Joseph that if she had a baby boy, she would name him Joseph.

Son John started his own business in his bedroom when he was 16 years old. He moved from the bedroom to the garage and then to a shop. Patrick, Morgan, James and Joseph now all work for the company John started, which does plumbing repairs, "anything and everything". Mary is a nurse and wants to become a nurse practitioner and oldest son, George is the superintendent for a gas company.

Ironically, John no longer works for his own company. Instead, he moved to Heppner and eventually got the folks to come along. In San Diego, he met a man from Pilot Rock who told him of the Irish who had established sheep ranches in Oregon. So, John and Patrick traveled first to Joseph and then to Heppner. They saw Art Kelly's real estate sign, met the realtor at the library and bought a house at Eightmile. John married his wife, Marlinda, at St. Patrick's Church in Heppner and George and Winnie came up for the wedding. "My husband loved it, but I was tired of moving," said Winnie. George came up to visit John and the Flynns put their house in California up for sale. "I didn't think it would sell," said Winnie. "But it sold the next day." Unfortunately, while they were in the middle of moving to their new home on Hinton Creek, with half of

their things in California and half in Heppner, George had a heart attack. It was a very stressful time, but George is fine now and they love life in Morrow County.

"Heppner reminds me a lot of Ireland, except not so green," says Winnie. "The people are beautiful and the area, gorgeous. I'm grateful to God were here." She says that the children, whom she talks to "all the time on the phone" would move up here in a minute if their jobs would allow. "There (in California), people don't give a hoot for lives," adds Winnie.

Besides helping out with the cows on the ranch, which she loves, Winnie, now 64, enjoys her grandchildren, David, who is John's son, George Jr. and Meghan, who are George's, and Courtney, who is Patrick's. She is active in St. Patrick's church and takes communion to an older woman in the community and volunteers once a month at St. Patrick's Senior Center.



Father Gerry Condon

Father Gerry Condon, was born in Dublin in 1927 to James and Anne Condon. His father was a chiroprapist (doctor of the foot) and his mother was a homemaker. Father Condon had two sisters, Fredericka Thullier, named after his father's grandmother, who is still living in Ireland, and Sylvia, who passed away seven years ago.

Father Condon attended an all Gaelic grade school, but spoke English at home. "That was an era where the Irish government insisted on Gaelic," said Father Condon, who adds that there are areas where Gaelic is still spoken, but in many places it has faded away.

After grade school, he went to a commercial technical school and learned bookkeeping, typing, shorthand and other business skills. In that system, after grade school, students would go to business school, trade school, such as brick laying, or go to high school.

After commercial school, at around 16 years old, he went to work for several years for accountants. "I thought it was great," said Father Condon. "I didn't have to go to school anymore." But after talking to the accountants, he realized that he needed further education. So, he started attending night school, taking more bookkeeping and accounting classes, while working in the daytime. After around two years in night school, he started helping out at a night shelter for the destitute and homeless. It was

Continued page 2

SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS Morrow County

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

| HH EA PR PD NM EA RN | LE EX IN NG TO N | IO NE | IR RI GO N | BO AR DM AN | T O T A L S |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
|--|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|

| Blue Mountain Community College, Position #3 | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| David D. Gallaher | 305 | 80 | 100 | 235 | 200 | 920 |
| Mark Fairgrieve | 71 | 30 | 25 | 105 | 67 | 298 |
| Blue Mountain Community College, Position #6 | | | | | | |
| Bruce C. Campbell | 236 | 47 | 48 | 168 | 119 | 618 |
| Christof J. Cook | 63 | 15 | 12 | 77 | 24 | 191 |
| Douglas K. Harper | 164 | 42 | 71 | 87 | 99 | 463 |
| Morrow County School District, Director, Zone #2 | | | | | | |
| Lisa M. Nelson | 306 | 57 | 51 | 194 | 205 | 813 |
| Dwayne Carroll | 304 | 113 | 146 | 230 | 186 | 979 |
| Morrow County Health District, Zone #2 | | | | | | |
| Sharon L. Meyers | | | | | 181 | 181 |
| Jim Hankins | | | | | 73 | 73 |
| Morrow County Health District, Zone #3 | | | | | | |
| Robert McKinley | | | | | | 86 |
| Alberta Akers | | | | | | 40 |
| Bud L. Wallain | | | | | | 33 |
| John Prag | | | | | | 124 |
| Vicki Kent | | | | | | 143 |
| Morrow County One Year Levy | | | | | | |
| Yes | | | | | | 841 |
| No | | | | | | 726 |
| Measure No. 25-26, City of Heppner five-year serial levy | | | | | | |
| Yes | 327 | | | | | 327 |
| No | 249 | | | | | 249 |

Morrow County results, contested races and money issues only.

CENEX OIL SALE
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