

## What is a nurse practitioner—Wendy Haack begins practice at Pioneer Memorial Clinic



Wendy Haack

By Richard Haskell

When you schedule a visit to Pioneer Memorial Clinic, you may be asked to see Wendy Haack, FNP, the new family nurse practitioner.

"What is a nurse practitioner?" is a common first question.

The nurse practitioner profession was created in the 1960s as a means to increase access to health care, especially in underserved areas. As such the licensed

nurse practitioner had to be a highly trained and skilled professional who could deliver quality care independently or as part of a collaborative practice with physicians. As we approach the end of the 1990s, the role of the nurse practitioner has broadened and the nurse practitioner is increasingly in high demand to meet the expanding needs for both quality and cost effective health care.

A nurse practitioner is a primary health care professional practicing under a license and is recognized today as a "valuable and much needed part of the health care environment". The nurse practitioner, with prescriptive authority and, in some cases, hospital admitting privileges now specializes in specific health care areas such as pediatrics, mental health, adult care, women's health, geriatrics and family. The family nurse practitioner or FNP requires more training than the individual specialties because it encompasses most of the specialty areas.

As part of a health care team, a family nurse practitioner (FNP) is not an assistant but is rather a working partner, an autonomous professional who works in collaboration and sees his own patient load. The nurse practitioner's approach to primary health care takes into account a patient's physical, psychological, social and spiritual lives. It is a holistic approach that stresses a partnership with the patient that involves illness prevention, education, diagnosis and treatment. As a primary care provider, the FNP, at times, may consult with, or refer a patient to a physician for specific problems but will continue to follow and treat the patient on a regular basis. When needed, collaboration, consulting, and referrals are a nurse practitioner's tool that help ensure quality care while sustaining a patient's confidence in the medical decisions that are of intrinsic importance to their health.

Nurse practitioners are trained in accredited schools of nursing at many major university medical schools and, in addition, hold master's degrees (or higher) in nursing. In most states nurse practitioners must pass national certification and many bring to their practice years of experience in all areas of nursing. In addition, 50 hours of continuing education are

required each year to help ensure that the nurse practitioner will remain current in medical procedures and practices.

As the new family nurse practitioner Wendy Haack brings to Heppner a solid educational background. Graduating with honors,

Haack received a BS in community health and health education from the University of Utah. This was followed by an RN degree from Lane Community College in Eugene and a master's of nursing degree from Oregon Health Sciences University where she graduated at the top of her class. She then completed her post-graduate nurse practitioner program at the University of Washington School of Nursing, again graduating at the top of her class.

But education serves best when tempered with experience and she brings with her expertise and skills that come from 13 years in nursing which encompass specialties in critical care, trauma care, cardiology, neurology, pulmonology and flight nursing.

As a clinical nurse specialist Wendy developed and ran her own post-open heart clinic, developed a lung volume reduction program at Kaiser, consulted with physician and nursing staff on care of difficult critical care patients and taught critical care courses. In addition, as an adjunct assistant professor at Montana State University, she taught junior and senior nursing courses with an emphasis on critical care and trauma. She has published articles on innovative ways to prevent rehospitalization of patients after open heart surgery and recently completed research on "research utilization" to determine appropriate care of patients by critical care nurses in rural settings. A

monograph of this research appeared in the "Journal of Critical Care Nursing".

Wendy also brings a rural background to the practice. She grew up on the family farm in Polson, Montana, where her family still farms. Wendy is looking forward to working with Dr. Ernie Atkins and Dr. Bill Bitsas "as their expertise, advise and council on complex cases and rural health will ensure her continued growth in meeting the health care needs in this community."

## Care providers affect family

Do you use child care? Are you a child care provider? Then you know that any changes in availability (the provider taking a job outside the home or simply closing the business) has a ripple effect throughout your family system.

Why is there so much turnover in child care providers? In a rural setting it may be that the provider lacks convenient access to additional training and education to deal with a variety of child development concerns.

Help is available. The National Network for Child Care Newsletter is available at no cost through Oregon State University Extension Service. The information is practical. "A Provider's Guide to Four Disabilities: Cerebral Palsy, Attention Deficit Disorder, Seizure Disorders and Tourette's Syndrome" in the current issue provides basic insight helpful to welcome children with these disabilities in a child care setting.

Those wishing to add their names to the mailing list may call the Morrow County Extension office at 1-800-342-3664 or the Umatilla County Extension office at 1-800-871-1313. Ask to receive "School Age Connections".

## Bowling League

### Thursday Nite Mixers

#### week of February 27

|                        | W  | L  |
|------------------------|----|----|
| Lancer Lanes           | 18 | 10 |
| Skaggs Auto Clinic     | 17 | 11 |
| R & W Drive In         | 11 | 17 |
| Wright's Century Ranch | 10 | 18 |

High games: Gerald Hoeft 191, Dianna Hoeft 171.

High series: Gerald Hoeft 526, Phyllis Piper 443.

Splits converted: Phyllis Piper 4-10, Fran Barnett 3-10, Gerald Hoeft 5-7.

### Dime A Dozen

#### week of February 23

|                   | W      | L      |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Penland House     | 20     | 12     |
| Pin Dodgers       | 19     | 13     |
| Our Gang          | 17 1/2 | 14 1/2 |
| D-Don's           | 15     | 17     |
| BM's              | 12 1/2 | 19 1/2 |
| Bunn Horseshoeing | 12     | 16     |

High games: Gene Wallace 218, Dianna Hoeft 189.

High series: Randy Sample 535, Sandi Hanna 459.

Splits converted: Don Greenup 5-7, Darlene Scroggins 4-5-7, John Breidenbach 5-10, Annie Lusher 5-6-10, 5-10, Maude Hughes 5-10.

### Blue Mountain

#### week of February 26

|              | W  | L  |
|--------------|----|----|
| Beecher's    | 16 | 12 |
| Young Guns   | 16 | 12 |
| Who Knows    | 14 | 14 |
| Willow Lanes | 14 | 14 |
| Team 2       | 14 | 14 |
| Misfits      | 10 | 18 |

High games: Randy Sample 219, Bob Hubbard 203.

High series: Randy Sample 579, Bob Hubbard 544.

Splits converted: Blu Blakeley 5-10, John Breidenbach 4-5, 4-9, Duck Lusher 3-10, Doug Gunderson 3-10, 2-7, Roger Ehrmantraut 4-7-9.

### Koffee Kup Keglers

#### week of February 27

|                | W      | L      |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| M.C.G.G.       | 25 1/2 | 10 1/2 |
| The Dregs      | 23     | 13     |
| No Pin Hitters | 18     | 18     |
| The Alley Cats | 18     | 18     |
| The BJs        | 17 1/2 | 18 1/2 |

High game: Annie Lusher 189.

High series: Joan Smith 492.

Splits converted: LaJuana McKenzie 6-10, 5-6, 2-7.

### week of March 6

|                | W      | L      |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| M.C.G.G.       | 26 1/2 | 13 1/2 |
| The Dregs      | 25     | 15     |
| No Pin Hitters | 21     | 19     |
| The BJs        | 20 1/2 | 19 1/2 |
| The Alley Cats | 20     | 20     |

High game: Linda Schultz 192.

High series: Linda Schultz 523.

Splits converted: Susan Atkins 3-10, Pat Gutierrez 5-6, 6-10, LaJuana McKenzie 5-7, Rene Ledbetter 3-7-10.

**FAX Paper**  
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## Irrigon project gains recognition

The Fannie Mae Foundation has recognized the Irrigon Farm Labor Housing Project as one of 30 in the nation under the ninth annual Maxwell Awards of Excellence Program for the Production of Low Income Housing.

The Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO) will receive an honorable mention award and a grant for \$1,000 in May.

Housing efforts were initiated by Morrow County and the city of Irrigon in 1991.

The four duplex houses were designed by Andrews Architects, a Portland firm co-owned by Martha Peck-Andrews, who is originally from Heppner. The project is

recognized as an example of effective community development in rural Oregon. Primary partners in financing Irrigon Farm Labor Housing include the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Bank of America CASA of Oregon, Farmworker Housing Programs, and Oregon State Tax Credits also helped to fund the eight-unit project.

CAPECO is a private non-profit organization serving low income residents in Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties. For more information regarding this award, contact Chris E. Marko, energy analyst/inspector and community development specialist at (541) 276-1926.

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