

Morrow County Health District holds meeting

The Morrow County Health District Board approved a \$6,734,067 budget for 1997-98 at its regular meeting at the Pioneer Memorial Home Health office in Heppner Monday night, June 2.

The budget is up from a \$6,248,136 budget in 1996-97.

The board also approved a contract with Western Health Resources for management, computer services and Home Health services. The board's approval hinged on review of the contract with the district's attorney.

The contract remains the same as last year's, with the exception of computer services fees, which will increase from \$1,604 a month to \$2,000 a month. Kevin Erich, the district's CEO, said that the computer services fees had not been increased for six years.

Management fees will remain the same at \$5,806 a month with annual Consumer Price Index adjustments; and Home Health Services will remain around \$616 a month, based on the number of visits.

Vern Burke, who had previously been before the board on behalf of Heppner physician Dr. Bill Bitsas, brought up several issues he wished the board to clarify.

Burke asked the board why the hospital doesn't do its own billing and inquired about the cost of the services. Board members responded that he hospital does do its own billing; the contract with WHR, which ties the hospital into a "multi-million dollar computer system", provides a support staff who help with problems in payroll, general ledger, accounts payable and accounts receivable, including Medicare billing.

Burke also asked if WHR had control of the district and the administrator. "No it doesn't," said health district board member Meg Murray. "We have the right to control the administrator."

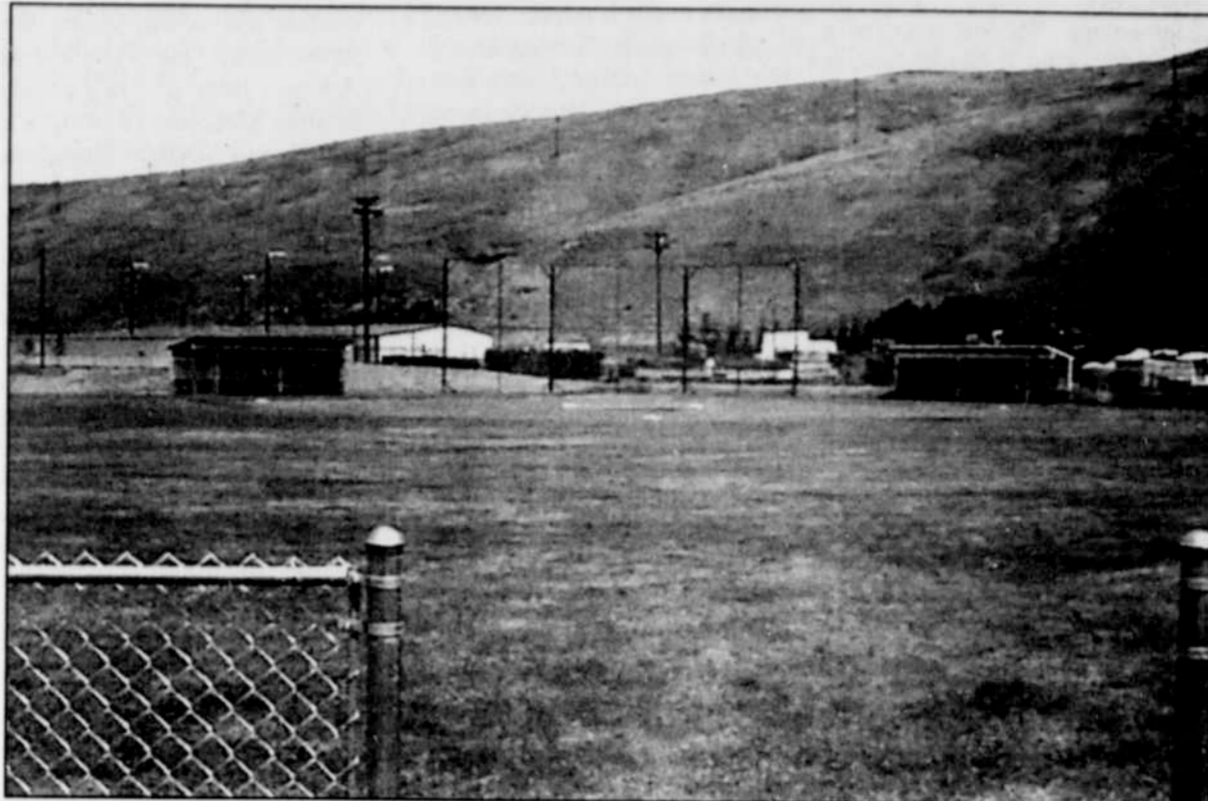
Burke suggested that the board's decision to hire a new doctor for the Boardman clinic was "government competing with government." The board hired Dr. Shanilka DeSoyza to staff

the Boardman Clinic when negotiations between former Dr. Robert Boss and the district broke down. Dr. Boss did not accept a contract offer made by the district which was comparable to contracts of other physicians in the district and now operates a private clinic next to the district's clinic.

The district's previous contract with Dr. Boss specified a yearly subsidy of \$130,000. Dr. Boss also kept receipts of the clinic and paid for some clinic expenses. The district provided the clinic building free of charge to Dr. Boss, paid taxes on the property and provided some maintenance and equipment for the clinic. Physicians in the Heppner clinic receive around \$120,000 a year and additional benefits, but do not keep clinic receipts.

The board also told Burke that they were in the process of recruiting another physician to replace Dr. Bitsas, who resigned following a disagreement with management over his contract.

First softball game held on Kilkenny Field



The new softball field in Heppner, "Kilkenny Field," was broken in last week with the first game on Thursday, June 5.

Morrow County Grain Growers' team member Kathleen Greenup hit the first homerun on the field that night.

Construction of the field, complete with backstop, fence, sod, sprinkler system, dugouts and berms and bleachers for spectators, was a community effort. Berms in the outfield will be seeded in the future.

BMW motorcycle riders to rally in Heppner

A rally of the BMW motorcycle riders of Oregon has been planned in Heppner Thursday through Sunday, June 19-22.

Rally coordinator, Gary Oberg of Heppner, says that around 400 motorcyclists are expected to arrive from nearby states of Washington, Oregon and California, as well as from states as far away as Alaska and Florida. Some of the bikers will begin arriving Thursday.

The bikers will camp out at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Friday's dinner for the group will be catered by the local Taekwondo club and Saturday's dinner by the Heppner Elks Club. The Elks will also provide breakfast all three days. 4-H will serve food at the snack shack and the Rodeo Committee will sell beer. Music will be provided by local entertainer Tim Cundell on

Friday and a group will perform 50s-contemporary music on Saturday.

Oberg says that while the bikers will probably take excursions around town, the campgrounds will be closed to the public for liability and security reasons. "The bicycles are very expensive," he added, with the median price of a new bike around \$15,000 and more expensive bikes costing up to \$18,000.

Oberg said that for the past eight years, the rally has been located at Redmond. But, when they lost their date at the fairgrounds in Redmond, he lobbied to have it in Heppner.

He said that the riders represent a cross section of America, with "a lot of professionals". He added that BMW riders have included movie stars, large corporation executives and even a space

shuttle astronaut. The Oregon BMW riders club has around 140 members and nationally around 10,000 people belong.

Gary himself has been riding motorcycles since he was a kid and went on his first cross-country tour in 1973 at the age of 18. He got his first BMW (Bayerische Motor Werke, Germany) in 1979. His wife, Shelly, also rides and they have attended the multi-brand rally at Sturgis, South Dakota.

BMW has been making motorcycles since before World War I. There are only three BMW motorcycle dealerships in Oregon and three in Washington. Rallies are listed in the BMW magazine and sponsored by the BMW Motorcycle Riders of Oregon.

Call Oberg, 676-9161 or 676-5449, for more information.

Births

Carla Yesenia Ledesma-a daughter Carla Yesenia was born to Maria Segovia and Jose Ledesma of Irrigon on May 20, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs 11 oz.

Julia Yesenia Santa Maria-a daughter Julia Yesenia was born to Blanca Bustos and Jose Santa Maria of Irrigon on May 20, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 1 oz.

Dalles Lee Martin-a son Dalles Lee was born to Ada and Lester Martin, Jr. of Irrigon on May 22, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz.

Elizabeth Nichole Horn-a daughter Elizabeth Nichole was born to Dessa and Jamie Horn of Boardman on May 24, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz.

Sheep show planned for June 13-15

A Jacob sheep show will be held at the Morrow County Fairgrounds Friday through Sunday, June 13-15.

Friday's activities will include judging of a fibre arts show, card grading and the Jacob Board meeting to be held from 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, the Jacob Sheep show will get underway at 9 a.m. The show will feature sheep judging, a wool show and a fibre arts show, all from Jacob wool. A noon luncheon at \$5 each will be catered by All Saints Episcopal. A Basque barbecue by Mario's

from Pendleton will start at 5 p.m. Tickets for the barbecue are by reservation at \$11 each. Call Sandra VanLiew, 676-5050 for reservations.

The day's activities will also include a raffle on a woven blanket which is on display at Gardner's Men's Wear in Heppner. Tickets for the blanket will be available at Gardner's for \$2.50 each or five for \$10.

Sunday, a planning discussion on wool marketing techniques will be held from 9 a.m. to noon.

Degree of Honor plans July picnic

Members of the Degree of Protective Honor Association, families and friends are invited to meet

Sunday, July 8 at 6 p.m. at the home of Dean and Shirley Connor for a Degree of Honor picnic.

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