

Health Dist. meeting scene of heated exchange

Tom Meyers of Boardman told the lead researcher of a Morrow County Health District survey to "shut up" during a heated exchange at the Morrow County Health District regular meeting held Monday, May 4, in Lexington.

Board chair Cara Osmen, banged her gavel on the table and warned Meyers not to use such language before the board.

Meyers, who is the husband of MCHD Board member Sharron Meyers, disagreed with Terry Edvalson, director of the Regional Services Institute at Eastern Oregon University at LaGrande, concerning the method by which the surveys were distributed. Edvalson asked Meyers to leave the room with him to discuss the issue further, but Meyers declined.

The institute conducted the a survey on behalf of MCHD so that the district could get input on the health care wants and needs of the communities in Morrow County. Meyers said that the survey was biased and indicated that he didn't like the sampling of respondents in the survey and the way the institute tried to obtain input from the Hispanic community in Boardman.

Edvalson said that surveys were mailed to registered voters in the county and that input from Hispanics was sought through surveys distributed by Father Paco, a Catholic priest. Edvalson said that the survey of the Hispanic community was a failure because the surveys distributed to the Hispanic community were not returned before Father Paco moved from the area.

John Prag of Boardman added that using voter registration is not reliable in Boardman, because of the low voter registration.

Edvalson countered that he believed that surveys mailed to households, rather than to registered voters, would not generate any greater response.

Meyers also said that the surveys were not accurate because they had been distributed before Boardman physician, Robert Boss, left the district to establish his own practice in Boardman after he and the board could not agree on a contract.

The board also approved a three-year union contract, which has been approved by the union, for cost-of-living increases of two percent the first year, two percent the second and three percent the third.

Prior to the regular meeting, the MCHD Budget Committee met and approved the 1998-99 district budget.

Budget committee member Gene Allen, Boardman, who was not present at the meeting, wrote a letter to the committee, which was read by board member and budget committee member Sharron Meyers, indicating that he would not vote in favor of the budget.

Allen, in the letter, said that the budget "failed to provide the public with a clear view" of district expenses.

Budget committee member Don Eppenbach, Irrigon, said that the committee's job was to ensure that the district had sufficient tax revenues to cover any expenses not covered by other means and ensure that the district remain solvent, not to go over each line item in the budget.

Eppenbach added that the committee's function was not as

a modifying influence on the board.

John Prag of Boardman took issue with the financial reports submitted by chief financial officer Dan Grant, saying that the cash method of bookkeeping would show a more accurate picture of the district's financial situation than the accrual method which the district uses. The accrual method shows billings, rather than cash received.

Grant said that the accrual method is required for special districts, but added that he would include a cash report in his financial report.

In other business, the board: -learned that two doctors have indicated an interest in working for the district;

-learned that a dentist, Dr. Sharon Angelici, has visited both

Heppner and Boardman and is interested in filling one of the vacancies in the district. The dentist in the Heppner office, Dr. Paul Marshall, is leaving June 30 and the dentist at the Boardman office, Dr. Blair Smith, is leaving the district in November.

-heard a report on a proposed insurance portfolio. The board declined to vote on the issue until they had reviewed the plan further.

-heard that the Irrigon clinic is nearing completion and is tentatively scheduled for opening July 1. According to Ken Schmidt, MCHD CEO, medical providers will divide time between the Boardman and Irrigon clinics.

-heard a report from Molly Rhea, Home Health director.

Obituaries

Gayle Engle

Gayle Engle, 50, of Monument, died Monday, May 4, 1998, at his residence.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, May 8, at the Monument Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. with Pastor Paul Chisholm officiating. Interment will follow at the Hamilton Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife Julie of Monument; daughter Misty Swaggart and her husband John of Monument; son Clay Engle and wife Maria; step-son Perry Shank; parents, Bud and Osie Engle; two sisters, Janet Hardin and her husband Lester and Judy Martin and her husband Will; brother Gary Engle and wife Patti; an aunt Freda Tubbs; four grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Those who wish may make contributions in his memory to the Monument Bible Church through Driskill Memorial Chapel who is in charge of arrangements.

George Elza Irvin

George Elza Irvin, 70, Irrigon, died on Friday, May 1, 1998, at his home.

Funeral service was May 5, at the Burns Mortuary Chapel in Hermiston. Burial followed at the Lexington Cemetery.

Mr. Irvin was born at John Day on November 11, 1927, to Harry and Flossie Irvin.

Mr. Irvin was a resident of Irrigon the past 20 years. He worked as a heavy equipment operator in road construction for many years. He was a member of the First Christian Church, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Eagles Lodge, Moose Lodge and Lexington Grange. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Navy.

He married his wife, Georgia "Jo" Irvin, on April 30, 1949, at Lexington.

Mr. Irvin is survived by his wife, Georgia "Jo" Irvin of Irrigon; son, William Harry Irvin of Twin Falls, Idaho; two daughters, Valda Ann Smith of Hermiston, and Vickie Lynn Bowen of Goldendale, WA; 15 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; numerous relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Harry and Glessie Irvin, step-father, Carl Breeding; brother Dewey Walter Irvin; and sister, Eunice Irene Danielle.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the American Cancer

Society, P.O. Box 404, Pendleton, OR 97801.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston was in care of arrangements.

Bryce Walter Keene

Bryce Walter Keene, 80, Hermiston, died on Sunday, May 3, 1998, at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. Graveside funeral service will be Thursday, May 7, 1998, at the Lexington Cemetery at 2 p.m.

Mr. Keene was born at Heppner on April 24, 1918, to Arthur and Annie Keene. He graduated from Lone High School. He married Louise McFerrin on March 31, 1938. He farmed in the lone area for most of his life and moved to Hermiston in 1986. He worked in Hermiston until taking a medical retirement in 1996.

Mr. Keene was a past member of the Willows Grange in Lone, holding several offices; a member of the board of directors for the Lexington Co-op; formerly served on the Lone School Board; and was on the board of directors for the Morrow County Historical Society. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, dancing and family activities.

Mr. Keene is survived by his wife of 60 years, Louise of Hermiston; three sons, Loy of Lowell, Arkansas, Richard of Reno, Nevada, and Stuart of Hermiston; sister, Ruth McCabe of Lone; nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Kathy, in 1988.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association, 1425 NE Irving, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97232, or to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 404, Pendleton, OR 97801.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston was in care of arrangements.

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MC Gun Club holds final shoot

The Morrow County Gun Club final shoot of the season was held Sunday, April 26, with a "good turnout" to shoot straight trap, Jack-n-Jills, kids' shoot and a family barbecue, said a club spokesperson.

Winners are as follows: 16-yard shoot- first, Mick Sharp, 23,

and second, Jim Eynetch, 22, and Curt Day, both with a 22; 20-yard shoot- first, Mick Sharp and Jeff Cutsforth, both 23, second, Matt Clark, 18; Jack-n-Jills- first, Mark Schlichting and Geneva Matthews, 22 of 24, second, Curt and Sandi Day, 21 of 24, second round winners -first, Jeff and

Missy Cutsforth, 14 of 20, second, Scott Dougherty and Deona Hodges, 13 of 20; women's and kids' shoot- first,

Justin Clark, second, Missy Cutsforth, third, Deona Hodges, fourth, Sandi Day, fifth, Geneva Matthews.

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- Tricia Gunderson, Heppner Branch

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Paid By: Committee to Elect Terry Tallman for Morrow County Judge
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