

HEPPNER

Gazette times

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Officials sworn in in courthouse ceremony



Outgoing Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson (left) passes keys and credit card to incoming Judge Terry Tallman



Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth swears in county commissioner Dan Brosnan

Filing deadline nears

The filing deadline for the Morrow County School Board March election is this Thursday, January 7, at the Morrow County Clerk's office.

School board and advisory board positions up for election include:

School board: Zone 1, now held by Gary Frederickson; Zone 3-now held by John Rietmann; Zone 4-now held by Russ Morgan; and Zone 5-now held

by Scott Johnson.

Advisory committee: Boardman-Irrigon position 2, now vacant, position 3, now held by Kate Close, Irrigon; Heppner-Lexington position 3, now held by Marcia Kemp, Lexington, position 5, now held by Greg Smith, Heppner and position 6, now held by Steve Hill; Ione-Lexington position 1, now held by Anita Orem, Ione, position 4, now vacant, and position 5, now held by George Miller, Cecil.

Hoop Shoot set Jan. '17

The annual Elks Club Hoop Shoot, for Heppner, Lexington and Ione kids, will be held Sunday, January 17, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Heppner High School gym.

Categories are eight-nine years

old, 10-11 years and 12-13 years.

Trophies will be awarded to first and second place in each age category.

Dave Gunderson is organizer of the event.



Incoming DA David C. Allen



Justice of the Peace Charlotte Gray is sworn in.

MSWCD plans meeting

A regular board meeting of the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District/Weed Advisory Board will be held Monday, January 11, at 8 a.m. at the Pettyjohn building in Heppner.

Installation of newly elected or reelected directors Judy Barber, Chris Rauch and Joe Taylor will be conducted.

Agenda items include: the strategic plan with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Morrow SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT; Tom Straughan with the Oregon Department of Agriculture will discuss Department of Environmental Quality requirements for complying with the clean water act on Willow Creek 303D list; the manager's report; the weed report; and agency reports.

The meeting is open to the public.

Advertising Deadline
12 noon Tuesday

Morrow County Health District discusses purchase of CT scan

In a move to expand services and subsequently boost revenues, the Morrow County Health District Board is considering purchase of a CT (cat) scan for the district.

Board member Meg Murray said that the CT scan would "more than pay for itself." But other board members, Sharron Meyer, Boardman, and Norma Stahl and Vickie Kent, both Irrigon, said that people in the health district had contacted them with concerns about the purchase.

One of the issues included concern that a CT scan inexpensive enough for the district to purchase would be inferior and scans from such a machine would not be accepted by physicians at other hospitals.

However, Sheila Dahlman, interim administrator of MCHD, said that the difference between a new scanner and an old one is the time involved in scanning. She said that the older refurbished models provide accurate scans, but the tests just take longer to complete. She added that the larger hospitals require the newer equipment, which is much faster, because of the huge volume of scans completed at those facilities.

Dr. Kenneth Wenburg, chief of staff at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Clinic, said that he felt that PMH would have no trouble doing five or more tests a week.

Concerns raised at the meeting suggesting that any patient requiring a CT scan is too ill to be treated at PMH. Wenburg, however, assured the audience that a CT scan is not necessarily for critical illness.

Dahlman and Wenburg also stated that a CT scan can be used to determine whether a patient should be sent to another facility or could be treated at PMH. It would cut down on costly and unnecessary trips out of town for

patients.

They added that when telemedicine is implemented in the MCHD, CT scans can be sent via computer to experts in other areas.

Dahlman detailed one plan for purchase of a CT scan, which would include an ultrasound machine and mammography equipment for around \$376,000 or around \$5,000 a month. "Just 10 CT scans a month would cover the cost," said Dahlman. She said that the mammography machine, while not a big money maker, would be able to pay for itself and would supply a much needed service for the community.

Included in that \$376,000 package is: purchase of a Toshiba CT scanner and new imager, estimated at around \$150,000; a laser scanner, file serve and ultrasound interface to network-\$100,000; ultrasound demonstration unit-\$50,000; mammography unit-\$66,000; and view cassettes and kit for mammography equipment-\$10,000.

Purchase of the equipment may also necessitate remodeling to accommodate it. Remodeling estimates include \$47,250 to convert the current central supply room to the CT scan room; \$31,200 to convert the oxygen area to central supply; and \$12,000 to build a small storage building to house the oxygen and provide other storage.

In related business, the board approved funding to send two people to the Portland School of Radiology so that they may obtain limited permits in x-ray technology. Costs are estimated at around \$1,100 per student, including tuition, motel and cost for the use of a district vehicle. The Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation agreed to pay expenses for two additional students.

Step back in time at Town & Country banquet

Guest speaker for the 1998 January 14 Town and Country Banquet is Merna Debolt who enjoys her retirement by recreating Lucy Meriwether Marks, the mother of Meriwether Lewis.

Debolt, who is a retired tutor, teacher and librarian, first began telling tales of Meriwether Lewis and the Corps of Discovery from a mother's perspective at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center in Stevenson, Washington.

Debolt has performed at the National Convention of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Fort Clatsop in Astoria and at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana.

Attendees will be entertained by local talent performing a variety of music. Talented teenagers, temporarily known as David Bates and Company, including Jeff Currin, Travis

Bellamy and Meghan Bailey, will kick off the evening followed by The Sentimentalists. Rick Drake and Brent Dickenson will conclude the variety dinner hour.

The audience will then have the opportunity to win the gem donated by Peterson's Jewelers and learn the identity of Man, Woman, Educator, Business and Lifetime Achievement recipients. The 1999 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court will be crowned during the evening's festivities.

Social hour hosted by the Morrow County Grain Growers, will be at 6 p.m.

Some tickets for the annual prime rib dinner are still available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Klamath First Federal, Murray Drugs and Morrow County Grain Growers.

Chamber luncheon looks back, forward

The Chamber of Commerce annual luncheon attendees will look back at some of the past 30 to 50 years and look forward to a vision of what's to come. Tuesday, January 12, at noon at All Saints Episcopal Parish Hall.

The annual "Hats Off" award and other presentations will be made. Outgoing President Mike McGuire will hand over the gavel to incoming president Bob Kahl.

Where's the beef?

Heppner High School (HHS) senior class is having a beef dinner on Friday, Jan. 8, in conjunction with the Heppner-Pilot Rock basketball games.

The dinner will be served in the HHS home ec. room starting at 4

p.m. The menu includes barbecued beef, a dinner salad, baked potato, french bread and drinks.

All proceeds will go to the senior class fund for their graduation trip to Disneyland.

Students attending the school must pass the class and agree to work for the district for at least a year or they must pay the district back.

Dahlman said that 10 people have applied for the program.

In other business, the board: -approved the transfer of \$100,000 from savings to pay all of the district's accounts payable over 60 days old. Dahlman reported that the district had \$655,000 in savings.

-agreed to consider negotiations with Dr. Robert Boss in Boardman. MCHD and Boss, who at one time had a contract with the district, have attempted to negotiate a contract numerous times, but were unable to arrive at an agreement.

-heard a report that the district lost \$21,434 for the month of November, which, says Dahlman, is an improvement over previous months.

-learned that a computer system for the Irrigon clinic, purchased by the district for \$7,000, was to be installed Tuesday and training is to begin Thursday.

-received a report on patient numbers at all three clinics in the district. The Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 664 patients during December; the Boardman Clinic, 57; and the Irrigon Clinic, 176.

-heard a report on ambulance runs throughout the district. The Heppner Ambulance had 15 runs, the Boardman Ambulance, 11, and the Irrigon Ambulance, 5. No life flights were made in December.

-listed the following board meeting schedule (all are at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted): Feb. 1-Ione City Hall; March 1-Pioneer Memorial Hospital, joint conference at 6 p.m., board meeting, 7 p.m.; April 5-Boardman Ambulance Hall; May 3-Lexington School; June 7-PMH, joint conference 6 p.m., meeting, 7 p.m.; July 5-Irrigon City Hall; August 2-Ione City Hall; Sept. 13-PMH, joint conference 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.; Oct. 4-Boardman Ambulance Hall; Nov. 1-Lexington School; Dec. 6-PMH, joint conference 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.

Tourism committee to meet

The Morrow County Tourism Committee will meet Wednesday, January 20, at 3 p.m. at Corbin's Bowl & Diner, 180 N. Chase Street, Heppner.

Agenda items include: sharing community information about upcoming events, activities, and visitor amenities; update from Columbia River Heritage Trail Advisory Committee; new ideas from the 1998 Oregon Rural Tourism Development Workshop; and discussion about the lack of Morrow County information at the Boardman I-84 Rest Stop.

Prior to the January 20 meeting, committee members are encouraged to browse the newly refurbished Corbin's Bowl & Diner (formerly Heppner Bowl).

Morrow County Tourism Committee is open to all interested Morrow County residents and visitor-related businesses. Meetings are held quarterly and rotate among county communities. There are no membership fees or dues.

For more information, contact Carol Michael, committee chair 541-481-3014, Nancy Snider, 541-422-7410, or Claudia Hughes 541-676-5536

NEWS DEADLINE
5 p.m. Monday

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