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VOL. 118 NO. 31 8 Pages Wednesday, August 4, 1999 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Health District hears success story

The Morrow County Health District, now in the middle of applying for a 30-year \$1.5 million expansion and remodeling loan for the Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home, while at the same time is losing an average of \$30,000 per month, Monday heard a success story from a hospital with similar problems on the Oregon coast.

Sandra Reese, administrator of the Lower Umpqua Hospital in Reedsport, told the medical board how that hospital overcame financial problems similar to MCHD's.

Reese said Lower Umpqua took \$3,600,000 in long-term government loans, a \$150,000 forest service grant and \$599,000 in community development block grant funds, upgraded the hospital and turned the financial situation around. She said an alliance was also formed with three

other hospitals in nearby towns, which helped cut costs and increase revenue.

"We decided to change the way we did things," Reese said.

She said the hospital board realized that people wanted modern nice looking medical facilities, and once the upgrades and improvements were made, people began using the hospital more and its financial situation improved.

Similar to Heppner, a large mill in the Reedsport area also recently shut down, costing the town over 300 jobs.

Currently in the planning stages at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home are: expanding the nursing home 113 feet and adding 22 beds; moving administrative offices to the basement; relocating access for the general public to a "dramatic" and "more inviting" space in the basement;

adding a pharmacy, which they propose to contract with Murray

Drugs to operate; adding a cafeteria; expanding the emergency room; remodeling areas for mammography and ultrasound; and grouping hospital departments in a more efficient manner.

The project is estimated to cost \$1.5 million and a 30-year Rural Economic Development loan is being applied for to fund the work.

In other business the board:

- heard that the medical district is still losing an average of \$30,000 per month (after tax income is included).

- learned the nursing home occupancy has increased from 19 up to 24.

- learned the Irrigon medical clinic is showing increased usage by the citizens in Irrigon (188 patients were seen in July).
- approved an assisted suicide policy as proposed by Home Health Director Molly Rhea.

- And learned that it will probably be more than three months before a new doctor will be moving to the area. The district has a contract with a new doctor, but certain paper work and procedures must be followed with the Immigration and Naturalization Service before he can begin practicing here.

County, union sign bargaining agreement

By Doris Brosnan

The Morrow County Court and Local 2479, Sub-Local 2 signed a three year collective bargaining agreement on July 28.

The union is affiliated with the Association of Federal, State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 75 and is composed of approximately 35 general county employees who work in the courthouse and other annexes around the county.

The two organizations' main areas of agreement included a cost-of-living adjustment and a proportional cost split for health insurance. AFSCME Council 75 representative Alison Hamway stated, "We started out with a good contract to negotiate from. While we did not make any real gains, we did not lose anything either." Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman added, "Our employees are valued and appreciated, so we are very pleased to have successfully negotiated a new contract."

Princess a dedicated county ambassador

By Merlyn Robinson

"Blondes do have lots of fun," says Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Princess Nonnee Walters. But this year's all-blond four member court have also become dedicated Morrow County ambassadors who take their responsibilities seriously.

The royal families have had a busy summer promoting the fair and rodeo. This has involved miles of trailering horses, leaving home in the wee morning hours and often arriving back home in the middle of the night. Days of preparation are involved plus patiently waiting in the hot sun during parade line-ups.

Official court outfits topped by their white hats easily become soiled during dusty arena run-ins. And then there are the chilly moments, like the pool party at the Shilo Inn following the Fort Dalles Days luncheon when Queen Bobbie and Princess Nonnee bravely plunged in.

For Nonnee and her court members, horse washing is a weekly chore to keep parade mounts presentable. But Nonnee says the recognition they receive makes it all worth the effort.

Horses have always been a focus in the life of Princess Nonnee who is an accomplished hand. She has been a member of the Martingale 4-H Horse Club for seven years. Riding her paint horse "Kara" in the 1998 Morrow County Open Horse Show, she won the champion high point rider award for the 16-and-over-age group. As reserve intermediate champion for last year's Morrow County 4-H horse show she qualified to go to the state 4-H horse show in Salem. There she received a blue ribbon in showmanship and a red ribbon in the trail horse class. This year Nonnee was the grand champion at the Morrow County 4-H horse show held August 1.

For her mounted court appearances, Princess Nonnee is riding a 10-year-old black Quarterhorse mare dubbed "B.B." belonging to Monte Crum. This mare has become a 'sweetheart' who enjoys all the attention while sharing the spotlight in parades and run-ins.



Nonnee and B.B.



Nonnee Walters

says Nonnee.

Princess Nonnee is an involved Lone High School student where she will be a junior this year. Along with being a honor roll student she is a track star. Nonnee placed fifth in long jump and fifth in 100-meter hurdles during the 1998 state 2A track meet. She's also an avid basketball and volleyball player and an accomplished flute and piccolo player. Other interests include swimming and horses, of course. She participates in both English and Western classes, jumping and trail events.

As a former court pennant bearer for two years, Nonnee was knowledgeable as to court obligations. This year's court and families have become a close-knit group, she says. Nonnee says she, along with the others, are fortunate to have that family support which includes horsemanship tips. Nonnee laughs about Joe, her stepfather, giving his horsemanship advice to her. He says he once schooled a horse by following instructions from a book. "So he tells me how to do everything. Ha! Ha!" she says.

Nonnee's birthplace is Gold Beach, Oregon. When she was 10 years old the family moved to Eastern Oregon. She attended the Olex school until it was closed and since then she has been a student at Lone. After moving to Lone, Nonnee's mother, Linda, worked at Beecher's for five years. She is now a busy homemaker. In addition, Linda's horsemanship skills, gained from 10 years of

Princess Nonnee Walters

Eyes: Blue
Hair: Blonde
Age: 16 years old,
a junior at IHS
Parents:
Joe and Linda
Halvorsen,
and Danny Walters
Activities: 4-H, horse
shows, rodeos, high
school basketball,
volleyball and track,
music and swimming

raising and showing paint horses, has led to working at the Jim West horse ranch where she has helped prepare horses for their production sales.

Princess Nonnee's stepfather, Joe Halvorsen, is a Morrow County native who currently works for the Specialty Transportation Service in Arlington. He also operates the Tri-County Wheat Treating business. Nonnee has a younger sister, Stacie Jo, who is four years old. She has an older sister, Monica Coleman, 27, and a brother Eric Walters, 22, who live in Corvallis where Nonnee's father, Danny Walters, also resides. Grandmothers Dot Halvorsen and Isabell Perry, both Lone residents, are also among her staunch supporters.

The whirlwind of attending a summer of events has been exciting, Nonnee says, and will be capped by the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo.

In their elegant, stylish split-skirt outfits, fashioned by Yvonne Morter, Lone, this court has captured numerous first place wins in other parades. Princess Nonnee is looking forward to seeing everyone at the Saturday, August 21, events that include breakfast at the city park, the parade, the queen's luncheon and the afternoon PRCA rodeo performance. Evening events include the 4-H and FFA livestock auction plus karaoke performances under the stars.

Lone to commemorate 100th anniversary

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the city of Lone, music has been planned in the Lone City Park every Friday evening from 7-9 p.m. through the month of August.

The citizens of Lone voted to incorporate on August 12, 1899.

Music, which is free of charge, will feature local singer, Tim Cundell on August 13, the Old Time Fiddlers on August 20 and the local group, Final Warning on August 27.

Everyone is invited to bring a lawn chair, a picnic basket and "join in helping Lone celebrate" its 100th year.

Arts and crafts people are also invited to bring their wares for

sale during the concert.

The Lone Amphitheatre, stage and extended park are available for public use. Contact city hall, 541-422-7414, for more information.

Burning permits revoked

The Oregon Department of Forestry revoked all burning permits as of August 2.

The restrictions have been placed into effect because of the hot, dry weather conditions and increasing fire danger.

Central Red Apple Market



Bert, Kim, Charlene and Jason Houweling.

Central Red Apple Market in Heppner has been sold to a couple from Gig Harbour, Washington.

Bert and Kim Houweling will take over operation of the store Aug. 30 from Forrie and Gail Burkenbine, who will be retiring.

The Houwelings have two children Charlene, 11, and Jason, 10. "Our family is looking forward to living in Heppner," said Bert. "We plan to provide the same quality service that Gail and Forrie have given, and we very much look forward to meeting everyone."

Back to Regular Hours on Monday, August 9th

Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Saturday: 7 a.m. - noon

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