

**Obituaries**

**Richard Bruette "R.B." Burkett**

Services for Mr. Richard Bruette "R. B." Burkett, 90, of Whitehouse, Texas, will be held 2 p.m. Monday at Burks Walker Tippet Chapel with the Rev. Sherman Mayfield and the Rev. Harold Davis officiating. Burial will be at Whitehouse Cemetery.

Mr. Burkett died Thursday, July 27, 2000, in Tyler, Texas. He was born March 16, 1910, in Bullard, Texas, to the late Richard Henry (Dee) and Willie Minerva McAnally Burkett. He attended school at Walnut Grove, Texas, and had resided in Whitehouse for 70 years.

He was a member of First Baptist Church in Whitehouse, a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for 60 years. Along with several other businessmen in Whitehouse, he was instrumental in beginning the first Whitehouse Volunteer Fire Department. He served many years on the Whitehouse School Board.

He had been retired since 1962 after being in business for 30 years in Whitehouse.

He loved traveling, fishing and hunting, but his greatest joy was spending time with his daughters and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Richard N. Henry, and four sisters, Charlene Rains, Lorene Tomlin, Pauline Burkett and Zettie Marie Ackerman.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Frances Oceana Breiting Burkett of Whitehouse, whom he married November 2, 1932; and daughters and sons-in-law, Marie and Joe Key of Ione, and Barbara and Gaylon Shackelford of Whitehouse, Texas; a brother, Marshall B. Burkett of Whitehouse; five grandchildren, Mark Shackelford of Whitehouse, Stacey Simmons of Winona, Texas, and Lenora McClard, Tim Key and Jeffrey Key, all of Ione; 15 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Tim R. Key, Mark Shackelford, Marshall D. Burkett, Joe Tomlin, Donald Breiting and Paul Simmons. Honorary Pallbearers will be Gene Tomlin, James Lilly and Lawrence Smith.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6-8 p.m. Sunday.

If desired family request Memorials be made to The Whitehouse Volunteer Fire Dept. at 303 E. Main St., P.O. Box 759, Whitehouse, Texas 75791.

**Kemp A. Dick**

Kemp A. Dick, 73, died on July 23, 2000, in Portland.

A celebration of his life will be held at the home of his son, Daryl Dick, in Welches, OR, on Sunday, August 6, 2000 at 1 p.m.

Mr. Dick was born December 6, 1921, to Louis and Martha Dick in Pomeroy, WA. His family moved to Ione in the early 1920s, returned to Pomeroy, and eventually settled in Heppner in 1933. He graduated from Heppner High School in 1939.

He married Lavelle Pieper in 1942. They had four children: Dennis, Daryl, Gary and Diane. They were divorced in the early sixties.

He married June Jarvis in the late sixties in Portland. His second family included six step-children and several step-grand children and great-grandchildren. They were married almost 30

years when she died in 1997. Mr. Dick was an Army veteran with an honorable discharge in 1943.

He was a member of the Elks Lodge, Moose Lodge and the American Legion.

He retired from Reynolds Aluminum Co. in the 1980s and spent much of his leisure time pursuing his love of gardening. He took great pleasure in spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law; Dennis and Marilyn Dick, Daryl and Anita Dick, Gary and Kathryn Dick, his daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Gary Snyder; brother, Ed Dick, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and five nieces and nephews.

He will be buried next to his twin sister, Marcia, in Ione at a later date.

**Health care assoc. endorses Smith**

The Oregon Health Care Association has endorsed Greg Smith for Oregon State Representative, District 59, according to a Committee to Elect Greg Smith news release.

"Greg is an impressive new leader who understands the health care needs of Oregonians," said James Carlson, executive director of the Oregon Health Care Association. "We look forward to working with him in the 2001 legislative session."

"I am going to work hard to support our elderly citizens," said Smith. "I fully embrace physicians of choice, affordable prescription medicine and low cost housing options for our senior citizens."

Since announcing his intent to run, Smith has been visiting assisted living facilities and says he has gained a solid understanding of the issues facing the health care industry.

"Greg has already been instrumental in helping the Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Facility obtain a small loan," said Suzanne Jepsen, board member of the Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Facility. "I know he will be our advocate in Salem."

The Oregon Health Care Association is a nonprofit trade association representing more than 80 percent of all Oregon Nursing Homes, including nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities, said the release.

**Births**

**Coby Mac Dougherty**-a son Coby Mac was born to Dawna and Cliff Dougherty of Heppner on July 7, 2000 at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton.

**Emily Rose Taylor**-a daughter Emily Rose was born to Cheryl and Joseph Taylor of Boardman on July 23, 2000 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz.

**Garden Club sets meeting**

A meeting of the Heppner Garden Club will be held at Cal's Restaurant on Monday, August 7, at 7 p.m.

Ideas for a fair booth and more programs will be discussed. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Health district seeks funding for remodeling project**

The Morrow County Health District Board, at their regular meeting Monday night, discussed asking the Port of Morrow for a \$150,000 loan to fund a remodeling project at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

The project would remodel the hospital facilities to accommodate a CT (cat) scan machine. The district has purchased a CT scanner, but has not been able to use it because there was no space adequate for the machine at PMH. According to the board, the scanner would allow medical providers to order cat scans in-house, thereby providing the service locally. Now, patients must be sent to other facilities for cat scans.

Cat scans, which are used extensively to assess a wide variety of injuries and illnesses, would not only offer a needed service for patients, but would also provide a lucrative source of income for the district. MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does said that they hope to have the cat scan remodeling project done by October.

According to the MCHD board, the port has a revolving loan fund which the port borrowed from USDA at one percent interest. MCHD Board Chairman Larry Mills says the port has indicated that they may loan the district the money at eight percent interest, deemed a "little high" by the board.

The district is in the process of obtaining its own \$2.5 million loan from USDA and their application has been pre-approved, but the extensive, laborious application process is not expected to be completed until October. The board does not believe it can wait that long, because of the district's ailing bottom line and the financial shot in the arm the cat scan could provide.

Initially USDA representatives said that the \$2.5 million would come directly from USDA, but now they indicate that they would approve a portion as a guaranteed loan, meaning that the monies would be loaned to MCHD by a bank at a very low interest rate and would be 90 percent guaranteed by USDA if MCHD defaulted. The district is anticipating a 40-year loan, which Mills says would allow them "wiggle room" to recover from their financial situation. The \$2.5 million would be used to refinance the district's debt, in addition to remodeling at PMH.

In other business, the board approved the preliminary financial report for the month of June which indicate \$341,583 in gross patient revenue, \$177,312 in revenue deductions (bad debt and contractual adjustments), \$46,500 in tax revenue and \$3,409 in other operating revenue for a total operating revenue of \$214,180; vs. \$374,446 in total operating expenses and \$2,907 in non-operating gains for a \$157,358 loss for June.

Gross patient revenue for June was up \$66,789 over May at \$274,794, but May's bad debt and contractual adjustments were down at \$120,308. Total operating revenue, including \$46,500 in tax revenue, for May was \$228,753; total operating expenses were \$364,469 with a \$28,290 non-operating gains for a \$107,425 loss for May.

Year to date figures show \$4,217,442 in gross patient revenue, \$933,838 in bad debt

and contractual adjustments, \$558,000 in tax revenue, \$228,789 in other operating revenue for \$4,070,394 in total operating revenue ytd; \$4,582,454 in total operating expenses and a \$120,017 non-operating gains for a \$392,042 loss for the year.

In addition to plans to offer money-making services at the hospital and clinics and refinancing debt, Vander Does has concentrated on improving billing procedures and cost-cutting measures to improve the district's financial situation since he came on board in September of last year. MCHD is in the process of negotiating with the Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Facility Board to provide management services for the proposed assisted living center to be built in Heppner.

-received notice that an EMT education grant of \$7,620, a grant for five people to attend an EMT, Emergency Medical Services conference and a CSEPP award of \$3,000 to build a storage shed were approved.

-heard a citizen complaint about the board renaming Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home the "Settlers' Home." The board said they changed the name to eliminate the term "nursing home," which, they believe, has bad connotations, and were

**US West donates to school program**

US West has donated \$2,650 to Umatilla-Morrow ESD's School-To-Careers program.

US West had a booth for public relations during the Career Showcase in February during which US West employees were given the opportunity to connect with students.

US West has a program for employees called WOW (Widening Our World) which provides employees the opportunity to donate money to any charitable organization where employees have participated, such as Umatilla-Morrow ESD's Career Showcase.

"This grant could provide up to 800 middle school and high school students the opportunity to learn about "high tech" applications we use right here in Umatilla and Morrow counties," said Sam Pambrum, director of Umatilla-Morrow ESD's Professional Technical Education Department. "We're grateful for companies like US West who assist education in creating learning experiences."

Teachers in Umatilla and Morrow counties will be able to apply for a Umatilla-Morrow Technologies Careers Field Trip application in the fall. The funds will be given out on first come, first serve basis.

"This has been a great opportunity to give students knowledge about the opportunities at US West for future careers," said Ed Grimes, US West Eastern Oregon construction manager. "Stay in school, stay away from drugs. US West is an equal opportunity employer and we want to show our support for the local community."

Grimes said he would like to work towards creating summer internships with US West for students.

For more information, contact Tania Wildbill, special projects coordinator, Umatilla-Morrow ESD, 541-966-3209.

seeking a forward-sounding name. The board, however, agreed to sponsor a contest to name the nursing home and appointed a committee.

-heard a complaint from a patient concerning a sharp increase in the cost of a laboratory test, which was sent to California, rather than a lab in the region, where tests were previously sent. Vander Does said that they would rectify the situation.

-signed with Pacific Source Health Plan, an insurance company.

-discussed a proposal with Cascade East Health Plans, an insurance company.

-discussed a proposal from Michael R. Bell & Company, certified public accountants and consultants, to prepare the district's Medicare/Medicaid cost report.

-rejected all three ambulance bids with plans to reword and relet the bid.

-expressed appreciation to Nancy Vander Does for her gratis work in revamping the billing system and in setting up policies and procedures.

-discussed a news article and an editorial in the East Oregonian favorable to the district and Victor Vander Does' progress in improving the district's financial outlook.

**Off The Wall**  
By Aechyn Robinson

We're so convenience-oriented, it's difficult to decide which gadgets are the most useful. They do provide the means to hurry up and do something else that probably didn't need doing in the first place.

People from lesser advanced countries probably think Americans are all born wired. Perhaps a better term should be wireless, judging from the number of cell phones in use. Too bad extra hands aren't an optional feature for people who talk on the phone, write and drive a vehicle all at the same time. That's rather intimidating for me since I'm the type of passenger who needs both hands just to talk.

While on the go, Web surfers can now stay connected with a pocket size personal computer. It's the ultimate productivity tool, the advertisements claim. With a modem you can e-mail or download music on a player. An optional feature is a digital camera that can create video pictures to enhance your e-mail. If grandma is also "wired", she no longer has to wait for conventional snapshots of her little darlings with watermelon juice running down their chins or of little Susie who has lost her first tooth.

This is all rather mind-boggling for someone who thought that the advent of toilet and facial tissue are the greatest products of the century. No wonder many companies no longer send big catalogs, for those items outmoded a common secondary use of catalogs when the "facilities" were all "out back" Anymore households don't even keep a lowly, but handy ragbag that provide aid to a bloody nose or helped bandage scraped knees.

Today vacuum cleaners, air cleaners, air conditioners or television satellite dishes are commonplace. If a kitchen is large enough there's some kind of gadget for processing any type of food. You can grind those coffee beans or perk coffee at the touch of switch. Aside from microwaves there are super stoves that cook in jig time. You might even have dispensed with a kitchen stove, because there are electric grills, hot dog cookers, rice cookers, crockpots, electric roasters, etc. There's really no excuse for a dirty oven anymore, but please don't look inside mine.

Even though I was born clueless and wireless, I'm just as dependent on electricity and some of many conveniences as everyone else. Still I still cling to obsolete methods of cooking that perhaps take a little more effort than shoving a TV dinner in a microwave. If you can't find the crockpot stored among all those other gadgets, pre-cooked stew meat is now a staple in stores. Voila, instant stew.

I'm afraid that I'll never be up to speed when it comes to buying things sight-unseen on the Internet. If I hit the wrong keys they might send me raccoon instead of a rat catcher. Since I probably won't do much traveling, I don't need the services of MapQuest that will give directions via a cell phone to prevent getting lost in route. The cost of this service is immaterial. We all know that some of the most memorable vacation trips were the ones when we were completely lost.

Predictions are that in the near future all inanimate objects from the front door to the light bulbs will have a wireless Internet hookup. So if your furnace breaks down while you're away, it will alert you via your cell phone of perhaps just call the repair man. Thus it would line the pockets of the repair person for a service call since the problem may be only a blown fuse.

However there is no escaping advancing technology. Virtually all phones being made today have micro-browser capabilities, enabling them to surf the Web. The sales of personal digital assistants is soaring. Perhaps you carry your cell phone on your day off, during vacation or while just plain goofing off. Therefore you can snap a mini-keyboard onto to your cell phone and answer a ton of e-mail. How handy for telemarketers. Don't try to sell me on the idea of ever-present communication capabilities at all times. Sometimes it's better to not be aware of what others are transmitting or saying. Right now I can't be bothered as I've got apricot juice running down my arms.

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**Dr. Donald J. Carlson**  
*Foot Specialist*  
will be at the Pioneer Memorial Clinic  
on August 9th for the diagnosis  
and treatment of all foot problems  
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