

Lisanne Currin named new MCGG chief financial officer



Lisanne Currin

Lisanne Currin is the new Chief Financial Officer at the Morrow County Grain Growers in Lexington.

Currin previously worked with Morrow County for about 8 years.

She started with MCGG Feb. 1 and her duties include responsibility for all financial aspects of the co-op.

Currin is married, her husband's name is Steve and they have two children Kolby, 2, and Jacee, 5 months.

MC Health Dept.

The Morrow County Health Dept. lists its monthly schedule for blood pressures and immunizations:

Thursday, March 8-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;
Monday, March 12-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, March 13-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Thursday, March 15-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Monday, March 19-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, March 20-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Wednesday, March 21-blood pressures and immunizations, Irigon clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Thursday, March 22-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Monday, March 26-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, March 27-blood pressures and immunization, Boardman clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Thursday, March 29-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

A Wee Bit O'Ireland

By Claudia Hughes, Co-Chair

Heppner St. Patrick's Committee Heppner is beginning to take on the look of March with flags flying and leprechauns of all shapes and sizes appearing around town, many painted by Colleen Williams to publicize the event.

It's the time of year when those behind the scenes of "A Wee Bit O'Ireland" start to have palpitations over all that remains to be done and the short amount of time there is in which to do it. Will there be enough food? Parking? Parade entries? Will the sun shine? Are auction items coming in? Will the community remember the auction has been moved to Friday night? Will volunteers drop from sheer exhaustion? Are all bases covered, speakers, mikes, wiring, music? You know the drill.

All committee chairpersons are encouraged to prepare a brief article about their event for next week's Gazette, so there will be a "green" page for all the visitors from far and wide. Deadline is Monday, March 12.

County Morrow, one and all, is encouraged to participate, especially in the great green parade. How about more Irish family entries depicting the early Irish settlers, including the younger generation? How about the oldest living descendent? The KUMA coffee hour honors all the Irish families. Bring your great-grand, aunt or friend to be introduced.

Cruz-In entries are coming in and the motocross will be breaking for the parade. Something for everyone whether you adopt a duck, take a chance on Ewe Do Bingo, share a bit o' blarney, tour, walk, sing or eat.

Great entertainment is being provided free for one and all by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District. Plan on kicking back at the Ceili Saturday, or on Sunday to enjoy the talents of John Doan as he takes you back in time on a musical journey to Ireland.

Remember, as you work, you are putting Heppner on the map, bringing smiles to faces, contributing to your community. Hopefully, you'll have some fun while you are at it. 'Tis a great bunch, you are.

Blue Mt. Fiddlers to perform

The Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers will again be in Heppner for the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Saturday, March 17 at 2 p.m. in the Heppner Elementary School auditorium.

Money raised will go towards scholarships for this year's Morrow County seniors. The event is hosted by OSEA #59 of Morrow County.

The Blue Mountain Fiddlers were first organized in March 1969 and presently have over 100 musicians ranging from 10-95 years of age. Many will appear on stage at the St. Patrick's celebration this year.

Blue Mountain Fiddlers present around 25 shows a year in Eastern Oregon and organize two fiddling contests each summer.

Local MS Walk set for April 21

Everyone is invited to participate in the MS Walk in Heppner on Saturday, April 21, when the Oregon Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will host its 12th annual MS Walk, the organization's largest fund raising event of the year.

The 2001 Enron MS Walk will begin at 9 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church (460 North Gale St.) in Heppner. The 5K and 10K walk, coordinated locally by chairman Merilee McDowell, presents an opportunity for anyone to help the 5,300 people in Oregon and Southwest Washington with MS.

This week, registration forms will be placed in businesses in Heppner, Lexington and Ione. To enter, pick up a form, fill it out and mail it in so you can start collecting your pledges.

"Locally we were able to raise \$9,000 last year with 81 walkers," said McDowell. "This year we expect even a larger turnout."

The society is hoping to raise \$500,000 and garner more than 3,500 participants in 18 different communities in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

"The Walk is very important to our organization," said Kristin Mihalko, who oversees the MS Walks in Oregon. "Every year it helps raise the money we need to fund break-through research as well as programs for people with MS."

"Past research has led to the development of three drugs for the treatment of MS: Avonex, Betaseron and Copaxone. Anyone diagnosed with the most common form of MS should see a physician about one of these treatments," according to a news release.

"This year's walk has two goals. In addition to raising funds for research and client programs, we are trying to educate people with MS about the option of these drug treatments," Mihalko added.

To raise the funds necessary for the continuation of such research and empowering programs for people with MS, walkers collect pledges for completing the route. Walkers are asked to raise a minimum of \$25 per person; the average walker raises more than \$75. Sixty cents of every dollar raised from the walk will stay in the community to help the 5,300 Oregon and Southwest Washington residents with MS. The rest is used to fund research and national programs for people with MS. Top teams and individuals earn prizes for outstanding fund raising. In addition, every registered walker will enjoy snack stations along the way and will also receive a "goodie bag" upon completion of the walk.

Anyone interested in registering for or receiving more information about the 2001 Enron MS Walk may call the MS Walk Hotline at (503)



546-2241 in Portland, or toll-free at (866) 222-1922 outside the Portland area.

An on-line registration form and additional MS Walk information is also available on the society's website at www.orcnmss.org.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic and often disabling disease of the central nervous system. People with MS, which is usually diagnosed between the ages of 20-40, face unpredictable, symptoms that can range from numbness and blurred vision to paralysis, blindness and cognitive difficulties, including memory loss.

Established in 1946, the National MS Society aims to end the devastating effects of MS. It is the largest voluntary health organization in the United States supporting international MS research and providing services, education and public policy for Americans with MS and their families. Since its inception, the MS Walk alone has raised over \$100 million dollars toward MS research and programs for people with MS.

For more information about multiple sclerosis, the MS Walk, or the services of the National MS Society, call 1-800-FIGHT-MS, ext. 1, or visit the website at www.orcnmss.org.

BMCC Foundation offers scholarships

The Blue Mountain Community College Foundation continues to offer scholarship opportunities for part-time and full-time financial assistance.

Two application periods are currently open. The first applies directly to spring term and the second is for the 2001 - 2002 academic year.

Applications for \$100 scholarships for part-time students who work full-time and need spring term assistance are due no later than

Friday, April 6.

Applications for 2001-2002 scholarships for full-time students (\$1,000-\$1,800 awards) are due Sunday, May 20.

Applications are available on the web at www.bmcc.cc.or.us or at the BMCC Financial Aid Office. Applications may be mailed to BMCC Financial Aid Office, P.O. Box 100, Pendleton, OR 97801. For more information, contact Cristina Sweek, 278-5790.

Shamrock Lanes
Quartermania

Shamrock Lanes in Heppner will be hosting an **ALL NON-SMOKING** day on **Thursday, March 15** and **Quartermania** from **6 - 10 p.m.**

Come join us for **bowling, music, food and fun!**

\$5 to get quarter specials! (25¢ per game thereafter)
50¢ hot dogs, fries or pop • 25¢ shoe rentals

Sponsored by Morrow County Health Dept.

Soccer planning meeting slated

A soccer planning meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 6 p.m. at the new Bank of Eastern Oregon building.

Everyone interested is invited to attend.

Karen's Korner

Items of Health - Tobacco Prevention by Karen Masshoff

In my last column (Feb. 14), I promised a sequel. More on that toward the end of this writing because I want to bring forth a study regarding smoking and depression in young people.

Regarding this issue, is a study by Dr. Elizabeth Goodman at Children's Hospital Medical Center of Cincinnati and reported in the October 2000 issue of Pediatrics. It presents us with a "chicken/egg" dilemma. Which comes first, a young person smokes to cope with depression, or becomes depressed as s/he begins to smoke more - evolving into nicotine addiction.

In this study, "teens who smoked were four times more likely to develop symptoms of depression as teens who didn't smoke. A diverse group of over 15,000 adolescents in grades seven through 12 participated in the study." We know the physical risks of smoking, but this research appears to link poor psychological health as another consequence of smoking.

Among these same teenagers, " the strongest predictor of becoming a moderate to heavy smoker was previous experimentation with tobacco" not symptoms of depression. However, much more research and study need to be carried out before anyone can speak with certainty. In the meantime for those of us who live in the northern latitudes with winter fog, let's think about the possible smoke behind our teens' moody behavior.

"Preemption" is a provision in state (or federal) law which eliminates the power of local (or state and local) governments of enacting their own regulations regarding certain issues, e.g., clean air laws or tobacco free workplaces. The language of such laws that could be preemptive is not always obvious and this can be by design. In other words what sounds like a good legislative enactment, carries within it hidden implications that will undermine or restrict local government's laws, ordinances or resolutions.

We need to be especially aware of this process during our legislative proceedings in Salem because of the tobacco industry's influence. It is there.

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GRAND OPENING NEXT WEEK!

(Grand Opening starting Mon., March 12th)
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