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HEPPNER

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Tazette imes

VOL. 122 NO. 5 8 Pages Wednesday, January 29, 2003 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Health district, Dr. Boss agree on contract

The Morrow County Health District and Boardman physician, Dr. Robert Boss, have agreed on a contract after over a year of negotiations. Dr. Boss operates the privately owned Boardman Health Care Center, but is subsidized by the health care district to provide medical care in the Boardman area.

According to the terms of the contract, Dr. Boss will receive \$140,000 from the

district for the first year of the three-year contract and increases according to the consumer price index for the second and third years.

In other business, MCHD Board:

-learned from Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney that the district lost \$57,691 for the month of December with an average

monthly loss of \$25,000 for the year.

-learned from CEO Victor Vander Does that he received information that zones within the health district are illegal. The board postponed any action on dissolving the zones and electing board members at large until the board receives a legal opinion on the issue. Board member Ed Glenn, Boardman, said he is concerned about representation and believes that the district would be "ill served" by dissolving the zones and electing at large, while board members Larry Mills, Heppner, and John Prag, Boardman, said they favored changing to an at-large board. The district is under the gun to make a decision as the deadline for candidates to file for the May election is March 20. Board members Linda LaRue, Lone, and Mills will be up for election.

-learned from Vander Does that according to the latest figures from the state, the Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home residents believed to be in danger of losing their Medicaid monies are now not believed to be in danger of losing their funding. According to previous information from the state, several residents at PMNH did not meet state criteria to be able to keep getting their Medicaid funds, so that they could remain at PMNH.

-learned from Vander Does that even with the passage of Measure 28, the nursing home is expected to lose \$13 a day per resident, which will become another negative impact on the district's bottom line-to the tune of around \$100,000 a year. The district is still exploring a way to change the way nursing home beds and hospital swing beds are counted, which could dramatically increase revenue.

-approved a flex-lease for \$67,000 for three years to fund purchasing of two pieces of laboratory equipment.

-learned that two full-time registered nurses have been hired at the hospital.

Library patrons can check out Inter-library books from home



Heppner librarian, Barb Orwick, prepares Interlibrary loan materials to be mailed back to their home libraries.

If you're looking for an early Nora Roberts romance, the latest Steve Martini legal thriller or a recent book on fibromyalgia, getting them through the interlibrary loan program will be easier starting Feb. 3, 2003.

Beginning Feb. 3, adult Oregon Trail Library District cardholders will be able to request their own materials, place and cancel holds on materials at the library, or from home or work through the Internet.

There are over one million items available through the 70 libraries that belong to the Pioneer System. Patrons will need to come in to the library for some training on the system and to receive their personal identification number.

Also beginning Feb. 3, patrons will be charged \$2 per item arriving from a library outside

the Oregon Trail Library District (Heppner and Boardman). This fee will be charged whether the item is picked up or not. The fee is due to rising costs of mailing books back to their home library.

For more information contact Barb Orwick at the Heppner library, 676-9964.

Garden Club to hold meeting

The Heppner Garden Club will hold their monthly meeting, Feb. 3, at St. Pat's Senior Center in Heppner, at 7 p.m.

Jan Stroeber and JoAnn Burleson will host the meeting, which will include a yard of the month video.

Flood commemoration event to be held



Massive damage from Heppner's 1903 flood

"The Flood: We Remember," a special flood commemoration show will be held, Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m., at the Catholic Parish Hall in Heppner. No admission charge will be charge, but donations are welcome.

"Shenanigans!" - a group of young musicians from Morrow County, is joining with the Flood Commemoration Committee to present an evening remembrance of the great flood of 1903. The show will include narrative reading accompanied by photo slides, background music and dancing as the audience is taken on a journey into history.

On June 14, 1903 a cloudburst over the area drained by Willow Creek and Balm Fork dumped over an inch and a half

of rain onto a 20 square mile area in a very short period of time. This huge volume of water rushed down the steep canyons descending on unsuspecting Heppner a little after 5 p.m., that afternoon. It left almost total destruction in its wake. The total count of victims is uncertain, but it is generally accepted that at least 247 people died, some of whom could not be identified before burial.

The show will open at 7 p.m. with a few fiddle tunes by Mulligan Stew, another group of young musicians. During intermission, the members of "Shenanigans!" will have CDs for sale (their first release) and will also have raffle tickets available for a hand made quilt, a bike and a DVD/VCR player. After intermission "Shenanigans!" will

present an old time fiddle show. This group is working to raise money for a study trip to Ireland where they will attend an Irish fiddling school.

The Flood Commemoration Committee will have desserts available for sale at the end of the show. They are raising money for a permanent memorial to the flood victims, which will be placed in Heppner.

Readers for the show include Dan Brosnan, Andrew Johnson, Robanai Disque, Katy West, Bob Jepsen and Paul Clay. Members of Shenanigans are Brynna Rust, Kate Kendrick, Eric Jepsen, Matt Holland, Kara Clay and Alex Carlson. They are in fifth, sixth and seventh grade and have been playing their instruments between four and six years.

Morrow County awarded grant for ATV park

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission awarded a \$1.72 million All-terrain Vehicle (ATV) Program grant to Morrow County, Thursday, Jan. 23, to purchase land for a county park dedicated to off-highway vehicle and motorcycle recreation.

Morrow County will use the grant to buy 6,200 acres of property known locally as the Kinzua Reload for the park, much of which will border the Morrow-Grant county line and Umatilla National Forest.

"We are excited about the opportunity to develop a safe

environment for the growing number of ATV users seeking places for recreational off-road driving," said Morrow County Public Works Director Burke O'Brien. "Local user groups have already volunteered to help build trails, bridges and anything else we may ask of them to help develop the park."

O'Brien explained that the land is well-suited for ATV recreational use, especially since the adjacent national forest land is open to ATV riding. "The terrain is diverse," said O'Brien. "It will provide a wide-variety of ATV riding experiences. We plan

to use existing logging roads and skid trails left on the land for recreation trails, and develop new ones only to create trail loops."

The land, O'Brien added, includes a large, flat area, which he called "ideal" for camping and for loading and unloading ATVs. "The location could also be used for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in the winter," he said.

"Excellent access" to the property exists from Highway 207, said O'Brien. The property's original owner, the Kinzua Lumber Company, used the site as a "log deck," where logs were unloaded by specialized logging equipment then reloaded onto regular log trucks. A large machine shop with electricity and well water still stands on the property, which is now owned by Pioneer Resources of Oregon.

Glennys Lindsay, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's (OPRD) ATV grants and education coordinator, said the grant to Morrow County will help narrow the gap between the growing number of ATV users and the places to ride. "This park has the potential of being one of the premier riding areas in the state," said Lindsay. "Finding high-quality locations is important right now in meeting the increasing demand for riding areas and the safety of those who use them."

The state ATV grants are funded by ATV permit sales and un-refunded gas tax revenue. A seven-member ATV Allocation Committee appointed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission advises OPRD on the dispersal of grant awards.

For more information about Morrow County's park plans, contact the Morrow County Public Works at 989-9500.

HHS Drama Club to present Alibis

The Heppner High School Drama Club will be performing their first play of the year, "Alibis," by Peter Kennedy. The play is a comedy that is based upon solving a murder. The play will keep you guessing and laughing all at the same time, said a play spokesperson.

Someone has been murdered in a mansion at Seven Oaks and it is up to Mr. E.S. Solvedd, played by Tyler Henderson, to figure out which one of the suspects is the murderer. Other cast members

are Kyler Lovgren, Courtney Nelson, Tylynn Smith, Shanna Rietmann, Cody Walton, Madison Bailey, Sarah Barrow, Aleshia Geer, Colton Helfrecht and Blair Keithley. The play is directed by Sarah Barrow. Linda Dutcher is AMA advisor.

The play will be shown two different times in the month of February at the Heppner High School. The first will be presented on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 3:30 p.m. and the second on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. There is no admission; however, donations would be appreciated.

Hardman Community Center elects officers for 2003

The Hardman Community Center held its annual meeting Jan. 7, at John's Other Place in Heppner.

Officers for 2003 were elected and are as follows: president- Bob Allen; vice-president- Tom Wilson; treasurer- Betty Carlson; secretary- Sylvia Allen; and advertising- Archie Padberg.

Volunteers for the Oyster Feed were accepted. Plans were made to remove the building at

the Hardman IOOF Cemetery to be replaced with a cement slab bench and table. It was also decided to level off the graves and mow the grass.

The late 1800 pictures of the Hardman area have been enlarged and returned to the HCC so that they can be framed and placed in the main hall by mid-May.

The next meeting of the HCC will be in April.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

JOIN US FOR CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY
and PANCAKE BREAKFAST
on Saturday, February 15, from 8 a.m. to noon
Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcg.net