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VOL. 122 NO. 27 8 Pages Wednesday, July 2, 2003 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Ione's Fourth of July & Blues Festival

"Leap Into Ione's Celebration"

### Schedule of Events

#### THURSDAY, JULY 3rd

- 9:30 a.m. Annual 4th of July Golf Tournament at Willow Creek Country Club. (\$35 per golfer.) Contact Craig Holland, 422-7455.
- 6:00 p.m. Food Vendors and Beer Garden opens in park.
- 7:00 p.m. Music by local talents Jeff Eynetich, Jim Logan and Dustin Padberg.

#### FRIDAY, JULY 4th

- 7:30 a.m. Dawn's Early Light Fun Run, starting at Ione School. Contact Jim Raible, 454-2830.
- 10:00 a.m. Horseshoe pit opens.
- 11:00 a.m. PARADE with theme "Leap Into Ione's Celebration". Grand Marshals: Coach Del LaRue and Ione Track Teams.
- BLUES CRUISE CLASSIC CAR SHOW. Contact Chuck Nelson, 989-8148.
- 12:00 p.m. Food Vendors and Beer Garden opens.
- ~ Scheduled Events:
  - \* Pie and Coffee in the Fire Hall, sponsored by the Altar Society Ladies.
  - \* Used Book Sale in the Fire Hall, sponsored by the Topic Club.
  - \* Bingo at the Legion Hall. Contact Harold Rietmann, 422-7472.
- ~ Children's Games:
  - \* Straw Money Pile (ages 3-8); \* Fish Pond and Balloon Races; \* Bicycles raffled off; \* Frog Jumping Contest (frogs provided).
- ~ Other Events and Games:
  - \* Dunk Tank, sponsored by Creative Care Pre-School.
  - \* Volleyball for high schoolers and young adults.
- 2:00 p.m. Swimming Pool opens ~ SWIM FREE!
- Ione Booster Club Shirt Sale: Frog Theme ~ "Have A Blast".
- 3:00 p.m. BLUES MUSIC: with Eddie Kirkland, Joanne Connors, Jimmy Lloyd Rea and Michael Burks.
- 7:00 p.m. Jet Boat Fishing Trips Auction to benefit Mike Mathews Scholarship Fund and Ione Education Foundation.
- DUSK FIREWORKS, FIREWORKS and more FIREWORKS! (Please, NO dogs or fireworks in the park.)

Music sponsored by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District

## Local teens participate in farm safety course



(L-R back row): Dustin Padberg, Bill Broderick, Dan Jepsen, Kelly Thompson, Tyler Brown, Montana Marlatt, and Larry Lutchter; (L-R front row): Sloan Keithley, Roy Proctor, Justin Gregory, Amy Jepsen, Brianne Jones, Emily Tallman and Austin Arballo.

OSU Extension 4-H and Morrow County Grain Growers teamed up to provide a tractor safety course for kids planning to work on farms and ranches this summer.

A safety program is required by state law for teens 14-17 working on farms and

owned by persons other than their parents, however, many parents also send their children for safety's sake.

This year 11 kids participated in the program, which provided hands-on experience in safe tractor operation and basic maintenance, as well as first aid and farm common sense. The

15-hour course, gave the teens in-field driving lessons and as well as testing their knowledge with a written exam. Scott Dougherty assisted with the combine.

"This would not be possible without Grain Growers," said Larry Lutchter, with the OSU Extension Office. "Safety is the top priority," he added.

## It's official-Ione has its own school district

Governor Ted Kulongoski has signed the bill that allows Ione to become its own school district. The Umatilla-Morrow ESD Boundary Board met June 26 and held a hearing/meeting in which they redrew the district lines for Morrow County

School District No. 1 and the Ione School District. The changes went into effect Tuesday, July 1.

Throughout the transition process, George Murdock, superintendent for the Umatilla-Morrow ESD, is assisting the Ione School

District as an interim superintendent. Board positions have been advertised and are expected to be discussed July 9 at the ESD's next regular meeting.

George Murdock could not be reached for comment Tuesday, so further details were not available.

## Health district board votes to drop Trauma Level IV designation

Move could reduce emergency room coverage by physicians

In a move to staunch the hemorrhage to its bottom line, the Morrow County Health District Board, at its Monday night meeting in Irrigon, voted to recommend that Pioneer Memorial Hospital drop its Trauma Level IV designation, which requires that a physician be on call 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.

The board's decision, which would require a waiver from state officials, would, in effect, eliminate the requirement for an emergency room physician evenings and weekends. MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does said that if the waiver was granted, the district hopes to employ mid-level providers, such as physician's assistants and nurse practitioners, for after-hours emergency room coverage. If PMH receives a waiver it would be the only hospital in the state to do so.

Vander Does said that the district pays out around \$200,000 annually for ER physicians' coverage, while the cost of a physician's assistant is estimated at between \$70,000-\$80,000. He says he believes the move could save the district between \$130,000-\$160,000 a year.

As of May 31, the district lost over \$519,000 for the fiscal year 2002-03.

The change would not affect the salaries of Dr. Sam Datta and Dr. Ed Berretta, who are under contract with the district. Dr. Datta keeps office hours at the clinic and provides daytime emergency room coverage. Dr. Berretta also keeps office hours and provides ER coverage some nights and weekends. Dr. Ken Wenberg, who operates a private practice in Heppner, would be primarily affected, since he provides ER coverage nights and weekends on an hourly-wage basis. He has also worked at Pioneer Memorial Clinic during office hours when contract physicians are on vacation or otherwise unavailable.

The board's move was influenced not only by the bottom line, but also by a study of patients visiting the emergency room over the past year, from July 1, 2002, to May 31 of this year. The majority of emergency room visits, 271 out of 696 visits, was for fractures, sprains, head injuries, wounds, lacerations and burns. Next, with 98 visits, was "ill-defined conditions" including abdominal pain and elevated blood pressure. Third, with 79 visits, was respiratory illness, such as bronchitis, sinusitis, asthma and pneumonia. Fourth was 46 visits for complaints such as earaches, eye

infections, migraines and multiple sclerosis symptoms. Fifth was 44 visits for toothaches, stomachaches, constipation and other digestive complaints. Sixth on the list was 41 visits for hypertension, angina, heart attacks, cardiac arrest and strokes.

Vander Does says that he is confident that a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner could adequately handle all emergency room visits and stressed that in the event of a serious illness or injury, such as a heart attack or stroke, the mid-level provider would be "on the phone" with a physician. Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice director Molly Rhea, who was at the meeting, pointed out that all nurses are certified in "advanced cardiac life support" and are required to attend "high level trauma training". "I do not see quality going down," said Vander Does, who added that this cost-cutting measure was the one of the "last things" the district could do to reduce expenses.

The district already employs two physician's assistants, Sheridan Tamasky, who provides care at Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner and Terry Anderson, who works at the district's Irrigon Clinic. If the district does eliminate the need for a 24-

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**HARVEST HOURS START  
MONDAY, JULY 7**  
Monday - Friday 7 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Saturday 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

We will be open Saturday, July 5 from 7 a.m.-12 noon

**Morrow County Grain Growers**

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

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