

## November is National Hospice Month

By Molly Rhea,

Dir. of Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice

As November is "National Hospice Month" the volunteers and staff at Pioneer Memorial Hospice are celebrating our first full year of Medicare-certified operation with an Open House. The celebration will be Monday, Nov. 17, 2003 from 3-7 p.m., at the Home Health and Hospice office, which is located behind Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Since our July 2002 start-up, Pioneer Memorial Hospice has provided care to more than 20 terminally ill patients and their families.

Having a nationally recognized month offers us a time to reflect upon the meaning and importance of hospice care. The term hospice was used centuries ago to describe places of refuge along the rugged paths of the Swiss Alps where weary travelers could find rest and loving care. Today the term is used to describe a system of care given to those walking the path of a terminal illness. Pioneer Memorial Hospice provides support and care for persons in the last phases of a terminal disease, so that they may live as fully and as comfortably as possible. We recognize dying as part of the normal process of living and focus on maintaining the quality of their remaining life.

Hospice takes a team approach in caring for the patient and their family. This team consists of a physician, nurses, a social worker, chaplain and volunteers. Our goals for end-of-life care include preservation of dignity, loving support of family, reconciliation of the spirit, and relief from the suffering of terminal illness. More and more American are looking for better ways to face the emotional and practical realities of serious illness and dying, hospice can assist with those needs. The reality of death and dying need not be all angst and agony, but can be a time of personal growth, resolution and inner peace.

Pioneer Memorial Hospice serves Morrow and Gilliam counties, and is a source of information regarding end-of-life care. Our hospice team consists of passionate and practiced advocates for the appropriate care of dying patients. We offer training opportunities to community members who are seeking more information on hospice care and have a library dedicated to grief assistance and care for the terminally ill, that is available to the public. Our services are available to everyone. Funding is provided through insurance reimbursements and private donations.

For information regarding attending Hospice Volunteer Training classes, or having a speaker on hospice related topics, call Molly Rhea, Home Health and Hospice Director at (541) 676-2946.

## Neighborhood Center explains donation process

A spokesperson for the Neighborhood Center says, "We lift our hearts and sing praises for living in communities of caring people, for together we make a great team, and it really takes team work to make things happen." Sharing and caring for others, from house fire survivors and abuse victims, to the elderly and low-income families, has been the mission of the Neighborhood Center since 1968.

The Center is currently suffering "after hours recycling" that reduces the amount of income generated for assistance. When an item is donated, it becomes the property of the Neighborhood Center, the parking lot of which is private property. The staff and board members would like to remind "after hours admirers" that removal of an article that has been donated is theft and trespass.

The Center's struggle continues in fully meeting the needs of these targeted individuals. The building location on Main Street allows easy access by pedestrian, handicapped and motorized traffic. All items contributed are recycled through the Center and used to administer to these needs. Material donations (sofas, washers, tables, televisions, etc) are utilized to generate funds for the operation of this program.

To assist in regulating loss of items, the Neighborhood Center asks that donors please make contributions during operation hours. Operating hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. Benefactors are encouraged to maintain their support through donations of material items that enable the Center to produce cash for its programs. With assistance from caring individuals, the losses to the Center will be stemmed and support for neighbors in need will continue.

The Neighborhood

## Morrow County School District # 1 News

By Dr. Jack Crippen, Superintendent

The recent cold spell, along with the play-off games in high school sports all signal that winter is on the way and the first nine weeks of the school year is now in the history books, or perhaps I should say in the databases. I hope all of you with students in school were able to attend parent teacher conferences. Many of them were student lead, which means your child was able to explain to you how he/she did this last nine weeks and what they expect to accomplish in the next nine weeks.

**What does "Think before you Ink" mean?**

"Think Before You Ink" is a voter education project to remind people of their rights and responsibilities concerning signing petitions as they apply to Oregon's initiative process. They have four points to their education project, which are as follows: You have the right to know the impact of an initiative; You have the right to protect your signature from forgery; You have the right to know who is really behind the measure; and You have the responsibility not to waste your signature.

If you are asked to sign a petition and feel you need more information before you sign, call the Voter Education Project or the Oregon Secretary of State or visit their website, 1 (800) 295-5597 or [www.votereducationproject.org](http://www.votereducationproject.org).

**How are the District's enrollment numbers this year?**

The enrollment numbers show an increase for the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year. At first glance it appears our numbers have dropped from last year. Because of the opening of the two new elementary schools one cannot just look at the school totals and tell if enrollment is up or down. One also, cannot simply subtract last year's total from this year's total. However, when one subtracts the lone student population from last year's number (2331 - 158 = 2173) and compares that number to this year's number (2243) it shows an increase of 70 students. We hope this increase continues through the year.

**Since we now have students in Irrigon Elementary School does that mean that the construction projects are completed?**

Well, no, it doesn't quite mean that. It means that the actual "building" part of the project is finished. We have been occupying the buildings on what is known as temporary occupancy permits. We have some "punch list" items to be completed by the contractors and we have just received our final list from the building inspector of items that need to be done at each site before he will issue a final occupancy permit for each project. There is also a lot of paper work to be completed, design drawings to be updated to as built drawings, workbooks on how to use and maintain various pieces of equipment to be assembled. All of these items are in some process of completion now. There are also some landscape issues to take care of at each site. Heery International has sent Eric Manus to finish all the paper work and watch over the last bits of the project.

Nan Hall of Heery International, who has over seen the design, bid and build parts of the projects over the last two years, has left us in Manus' hand and she has moved on to another Heery project closer to her home. On behalf of the District, I would like to say how much we appreciate Nan for all of her help and guidance in all phases of the bond projects as well as her willingness to provide advice on questions we had on other district projects. We will miss her and we wish her well.

**Did the School Board change the starting time of the regular monthly meetings?**

Yes they did. Starting with the November Board meeting at Heppner Elementary School, the regular board meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

In an effort to streamline the board meeting, they also will be receiving the principals' reports and the maintenance director's report in writing each month. The board feels this will shorten the board meetings by approximately 45 minutes.

The Board will also be having the meeting in a larger room, with a sound system, and a microphone for members of the audience to use during the time on the agenda for audience participation.

The Board will continue to ask patrons to fill out a request to address the Board, with their name and the name of the group they represent and the topic about which they wish to speak. This enables the Board Chair to arrange the speakers according to topics as well as helping with the taking of the minutes. Both items help to move the meeting along and keep everyone on task.

If you have questions about items in this article or desire an explanation of items concerning education, please write or e-mail me in care of this newspaper or write to me or stop in and see me at either the Morrow County School District office at 270 West Main, Lexington, OR 97839 or on Thursdays or by appointment at 500 Tatone, Boardman, OR 97818 (Windy River Elementary School Room B3).

## Willow Creek Terrace available for respite care



Bed area



Sofa area

"Every caregiver needs a rest from time to time," say Willow Creek Terrace Board Chairperson Suzanne Jepsen, which is the reason for the respite care apartment at the assisted-living facility.

One of the sixteen studio apartments at Willow Creek Terrace is available to individuals who need some care while their regular caregivers are away for a period of time. Manager Nancy Vander Does reports that "the door is open and we would love to help out with someone's care whether for a few hours or for several days, whether the caregiver needs to

be gone for some shopping or go for a trip."

Willow Creek Terrace provides assistance with daily living activities and features amenities such as laundry and housekeeping services, TV reception, kitchenettes and meals served in the dining room. Nursing attention is available if needed, as is transportation. The apartment used for respite care is fully furnished.

The assisted-living facility at 400 Frank Gilliam Drive accepts qualified Medicaid residents. Detailed information about this service at Willow Creek Terrace is available on site and by calling 676-0004.

## Candidates for Student Council elections at HES



Heppner Elementary School held student council elections Nov. 4. (Top to Bottom): Candidates include, President: Ashley Wolff, Catherine McElligott and Emily Thompson; Vice-President: Chance Day, Jared Huddleston and Jared Hedman; Secretary: Taighler Dougherty, Ian Murray and Jessica Hughes; Treasurer: Torri Lovgren, Mark McCabe and Brynna Rust; and Publicity Manager: Erin Price, Araceli Zavala and Wacy Coil. 4<sup>th</sup> grade representative candidates: Logan Wanous, Natalie Rauch, Justin Pranger, Justin Bailey, Carrie Haguewood, Chance Raver and Zach Hintz.

## RCSC to hold meeting

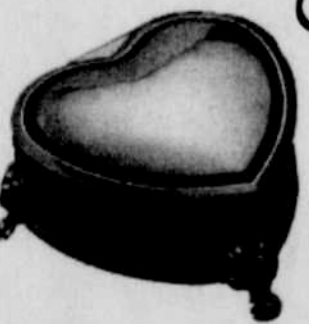
The Rhea Creek Social Club will be holding a meeting Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 10 a.m., at GD's.

George Koffler, president of Bank of Eastern Oregon, will be the special guest speaker for the meeting. Koffler will discuss the

consolidation of the Bank of Eastern Oregon and Klamath First. He also said that he is glad to answer any questions.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend the meeting.

Silverplated  
Boxes



Velvet-lined

We will be closed on Veteran's Day,  
Tuesday, Nov. 11



**ALL CAREGIVERS  
NEED A REST**

WILLOW CREEK TERRACE ASSISTED LIVING  
has a respite care studio apartment available

**WHEN YOU NEED A REST  
OR ARE GOING TO BE GONE  
YOUR LOVED ONE CAN STAY WITH US**

The apartment is nicely furnished.  
Meals, assistance with laundry, medication,  
and activities of daily living are provided.

CALL NANCY AT 676-0004