

## Health district discusses possible migrant health clinic in Boardman

The Morrow County Health District, at its regular meeting Monday night, approved sending a letter "strongly" showing support of a migrant health clinic proposed for Boardman.

"It's a good thing all the way around," MCHD Board member Linda LaRue told the Gazette-Times Tuesday.

The proposed clinic would serve members of the general community as well as migrant and seasonal workers.

The Morrow County Health Department (public health department) is serving as a liaison between the community effort to apply for a federal grant for the program and the state and federal levels of the program.

Morrow County Health Department director Sheree Smith also indicated her support of the program, which, she says, could allow more low income, underserved people access to medical care.

The Morrow County Health District will have no direct connection with the program, but has indicated its support of the plan. (The Morrow County Health District operates Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Pioneer Memorial Clinic, Irrigon Clinic and provides home health, hospice and emergency services county-wide, as well as a subsidy to Dr. Robert Boss' private clinic in Boardman.) MCHD also approved up to \$1,500 to hire an interpreter for use at migrant health program meetings.

One possibility that has surfaced is that Dr. Boss may be able to sell his clinic building to the migrant health program for use as their clinic building. According to Boss' supporters, Ed Glenn and John Prag, both from Boardman and both members of the Morrow County Health District Board, the doctor has indicated that he would like to retire.

Currently, however, Alberto Moreno, Migrant Health Coordinator with the Oregon Department of Human Services, has indicated that he may have some reservations with regard to selection of the migrant program's local committee, the Columbia River Community Health Services Committee. The CRCHS Committee includes Enrique Aguilar, Gene Allen, Bill Brown, Auralia Campos, Susan French, Dagoberto Hernandez, Cecilia Montoya, Jesse Pena, Lynn Prag, Odilon Ramirez and Don Russell. Glenn responded that the committee included a wide sampling of community members.

In other business the Morrow County Health District Board:

-learned that the district had a profit of \$709 for the month of February, despite a \$25,784 write off for bad debts.

-approved an update of information in the contract for physician Dr. Sam Datta, particularly for immigration purposes. Dr. Datta's contract is up in May of 2005.

-learned that Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 398 patients in February with 15

new patients and an additional 41 patients seen by a nurse; Irrigon Clinic had 177 patients with 27 new patients and an additional 30 patients seen by a nurse; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had 10 admissions; Heppner Ambulance had 10 runs, Boardman Ambulance had 15, Irrigon Ambulance had 15; and the Boardman Health Care Center had 240 patients seen by Dr. Boss and 260 seen by his physician's assistant.

-learned that the state has approved the use of nurse practitioners and physician's assistance at the Pioneer

Memorial Hospital emergency room.

-learned of concerns with regard to funding the Morrow County Sheriff's dispatch system. Apparently state-wide funding for the system has decreased and Gilliam and Sherman counties, that previously contracted for dispatch services with the M.C. Sheriff's Office, have opted to form their own 9-1-1 system. MCHD board members learned that one funding option discussed was that communities may be billed for their proportionate use.

-selected Michael Bell as the district's auditor.

## Sheriff's Office active in promoting bike safety



Deputy John Bowles and Sheriff Verlin Denton with bike helmets provided to Morrow County youth

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office is continuing in its efforts to protect the children of Morrow County by promoting bicycle safety. Through donations to MCSO they have been able to provide children with bicycle helmets that fit properly and meet safety standards.

"Children can contact any Morrow County deputy for a free helmet or bicycle inspection," said Deputy John Bowles. "We can also help them register their bicycles to help in recovery if they are stolen."

Along with providing helmets for the children, MCSO promotes bicycle safety with a Bike Rodeo. The Red Lion stunt team from Washington helps put on the Rodeo, which teaches kids safe ways to have fun on their bicycles. A rodeo is held in Heppner, Lone, Irrigon and Boardman.

"This has been a successful program," explained Sheriff Verlin

Denton. "Lots of businesses have donated to this project."

Sheriff Denton also explained that this project has helped children to obey the law, as all children under the age of 16 must wear a helmet while riding a bike. "It is good for the children to have positive exposure to the deputies," remarked Sheriff Denton.

In Heppner, the Rodeo will be held May 14 at 2 p.m. at Hager Park by the BMX track.

Another project MCSO is active in working on is the BMX track in Heppner. "It will be a good thing if we can keep it out there," said Deputy Bowles. MCSO is looking to redo the track and possibly have restrooms and a picnic area included at the track area. MCSO is looking for volunteers to help with this project.

Anyone interested in the helmet project, the Bike Rodeo or the BMX track project can contact Deputy Bowles or the Morrow County Sheriff's Office at 676-5317.

## Judge assigned to McCabe proceedings

The Honorable John V. Kelly, Wasco County Circuit Court Judge, has been assigned to hear the April 8, 2004 entry of plea proceedings in State v. Sonja Rae McCabe. The proceeding is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. in the Morrow County Courthouse, Heppner.

McCabe, 40, of Heppner, was indicted by the Morrow County Grand Jury on Feb. 20, 2004 on two counts of Aggravated Theft, 48 counts of Theft in the First Degree, 90 counts of Theft in the Second Degree, 25 counts of Forgery in the First Degree

and 56 counts of Official Misconduct. She was released from custody by Umatilla Circuit Court Judge Garry Reynolds on Feb. 23, 2004 and has yet to enter a plea to the charges. The April 8 proceeding is scheduled as an entry of plea.

## Ducks Unlimited Banquet April 2

There will be a Ducks Unlimited Banquet on Friday, April 2 at the Heppner Elks Lodge. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. An auction and raffle will follow dinner. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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## Annual TV shoot to be held

The annual 1000-yard TV shoot will be held April 14 at Frank and Joe Halvorsen's Farm. Sign-in will be from 8:30-9:30 a.m. The shoot will begin at 9:30 a.m. sharp. All participants should park in the designated area and proceed to the registration area with rifle (unloaded), bolt open with several bullets.

There is a \$20 entry fee for each shooter who will receive one shot. Participants who want to shoot again will be allowed another shot for an additional \$20. There will be no back-to-back shots.

All money (after expenses) will go for the prizes for kids at Lone's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

The prize for the event is \$100 for hitting and breaking the TV tube. If more than one person breaks the TV

tube, then a shoot-off will commence after everyone has shot. Only one person will win the \$100 prize.

Each person will be given a shooting number and their rifle and bullets will be placed on a carpeted trailer by the safety officer for display. No one will handle the rifles while they are on display. If a participant chooses not to display their rifle, it should be left locked in their vehicle until they are ready to shoot.

There are no rifle restrictions. However, the whole purpose of this shoot is to have fun shooting your elk or deer rifle. Large caliber rifles (50 cal) are not encouraged, as they would not normally be taken hunting.

Spotters will notify participants if they have hit or miss the TV tube.

Food and drink will be furnished for \$6 for all you can eat. Children 10 and under eat for \$3.50. Food available will include hot dogs with chili or sauerkraut, barbecued chicken, doughnuts and pastries and drinks.

Participants are asked to not bring their dogs.

They may also be clay pigeon shooting away from the rifle range so you can bring your shotgun as well.

If you would like to help sponsor this event and get your company's name on the reader board, a donation of \$100 or more would be appreciated.

If you have any questions you can contact Terry Mewhinney at 422-7259.

## Local students participate in Bible quiz competition



(L-R): Evan Unruh, Rebecca Jepsen and Kristen VanCleave participated in the Awana Bible Quiz Competition in Richland, WA.

Three Truth and Training Bible Club members competed last month in the annual Awana Bible Quiz Competition in Richland, WA. This year's contest included some 40 teams from several churches in Richland, Kennewick, Walla Walla, Milton-Freewater and Yakima, as well as two local teams sponsored by Lexington Baptist Church.

There were six different contests covering two

grade competition on Book 1. He earned several points, but with the handicap of being a single member he did not place in the top four.

In the fifth and sixth grade girls' division, Kristen VanCleave and Rebecca Jepsen of Heppner, claimed first place honors out of nine teams on Book 2. They each received a golden medallion for their efforts and their team was awarded a plaque as well. VanCleave also went on to win one of the highest awards by being named Bible Quiz Individual Champion.

Awana Bible Club meets every Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. at the Lexington Baptist Church. The "Sparks" Club division is for kindergarten to second grade. Kids in grades three through six are in the "Truth & Training" group. Various local churches help with the program. All kids in kindergarten through sixth grade are welcome to attend. Awana will be having its year-end awards program and dessert on Wednesday, April 14.

Evan Unruh, a third grader from Heppner competed as a team of one in the boys' third and fourth

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