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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES

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Katie Foster Editor

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Critical Access designation increases PMH's contributions to health district

By Molly Rhea

It is a widely held assumption that Pioneer Memorial Hospital loses money. This makes perfect sense, when the hospital only has one or two patients on most any given day, how could anyone expect it to make money. This line of thought used to be correct, but the truth is, since PMH received the Medicare designation of a Critical Access Hospital, in April 2002, the hospital actually makes money and helps offset losses in other areas such as in the clinics and ambulance service.

Critical access hospitals are limited-service hospitals located in rural areas that receive cost-based reimbursement. To be designated a critical access hospital, a facility must, among other requirements: (1) be located in a county or equivalent unit of a local government in a rural area; (2) be located more than a 35-mile drive from a hospital or another health care facility; or (3) be certified by the State as being a necessary provider of health care services to residents in the area. These hospitals can have up to 25 beds designated as either acute-care or swing-bed, beds that may at times be used for acute care and at other times for post-acute care.

When a hospital receives this Critical Access designation the Medicare reimbursement increases the payment for both inpatient and outpatient services (outpatient services refers to lab, x-ray and pharmacy) rendered by critical access hospitals to 101 percent of reasonable costs.

Since becoming Critical Access the hospital helps, along with our tax money, to offset losses in other areas such as clinics and ambulance service. Money lost due to insurance discounts, such as Preferred Provider discounts mandated by insurance companies, amount to more than \$700,000 per year.

Critical Access Hospital- critical to the community, critical to the patients, critical to Morrow County Health District.

BMCC workshop location changes

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Debt Free and Prosperous Living Workshop originally set for Heppner on Wednesday, Oct. 20 has been moved to the Boardman Center of BMCC. The Boardman Center is located at 300 NE Front Street in Boardman.

The class is designed for people who want to live a debt-free lifestyle. How would you like to pay off all your consumer debt in one to three years? Then pay off your 30-year mortgage in another three to five years?

You can do this with your current income. No second job or living like a hermit. Learn specific powerful and proven strategies that work every single time. This workshop utilizes linear math, critical path technology to eliminate all your debts. You are also being taught how to operate 100 percent on cash, never needing credit again. Bring a list of your debts with current balances, monthly payments and interest rates. During the workshop, you will develop your own debt elimination plan that can be implemented immediately in your lifestyle. Bring a calculator to the workshop. The comprehensive "Debt Free and Prosperous Living" educational materials will be available at the class.

Cost of the class is \$35 per person and pre-registration is required. Contact the Boardman Center of BMCC at 481-2099 or the South Morrow County Center at 422-7040 for more information.

Marriage Licenses

Oct. 8: Shayne Allen Myers, 27, Hermiston and Kimberly Inez Claflin, 33, Hermiston.

Elect
Bobbi Childers
Morrow County
Clerk



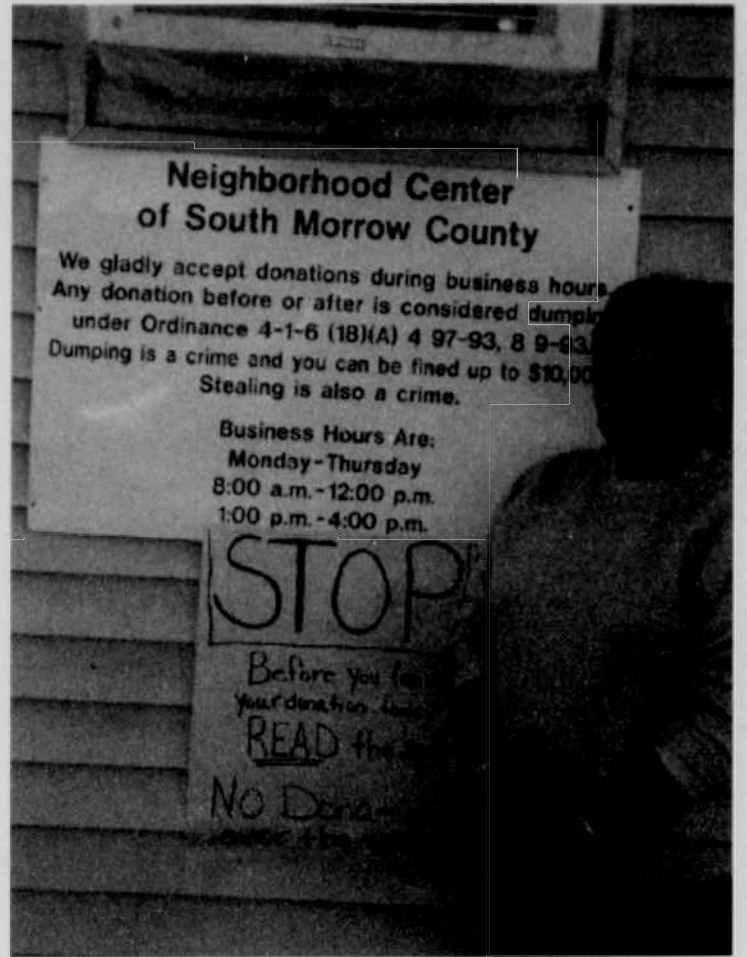
Current Chief Deputy for Barbara Bloodsworth, Morrow County Clerk

I have over four years of experience and training in the Clerk's office.

I can do all the duties of Clerk. It's my job.

Paid for by Bobbi Childers

Neighborhood Center takes steps to reduce dumping and stealing



Heppner Neighborhood Center Coordinator Jan Skaggs with a newly installed sign stating the Center's policy on donations.

Due to continued problems with dumping (donations that are left after hours) and stealing (after-hours donations that a rifled through) the Heppner Neighborhood Center has installed a sign outside the building detailing the Center's donation policy.

Donations should be delivered during the Center's business hours, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed 12-1 p.m. for lunch. Donations should not be left after hours.

Also, many donations that are being left after-hours are "garbage" that must be thrown away, sometimes causing a need for a second garbage pick-up in the week. This unnecessary expenditure cuts into the Center's tight budget.

"If you wouldn't use it, don't leave it," a Center volunteer offered as a guideline on donations.

Another problem facing the Center is the stealing of items left after hours. The bags or other

items left are being picked through before the Center even has a chance to sort through them. Besides the mess that is generally left from this, the Center is also not being compensated for the items taken.

In a continued attempt to curb these problems, the Center will be installing a security camera. The camera will allow the Center to enforce the dumping ordinance (Ordinance 4-1-6 (18)(A) 4 97-93, 8 9-93). Violation of this ordinance can carry up to \$10,000 in fines.

The Center is hoping to remedy this problem so that they will have more time to work with the many good donations they receive, as well as help those in need in South Morrow County.

"We appreciate all the good donations given and still need them," said Neighborhood Center Coordinator Jan Skaggs. The monies received from the sell of donations helps support the Center and its programs.

Nazarene Church to host Men's Breakfast

All men in the Heppner, Ione, Lexington, Hardman and surrounding areas are invited and encouraged to bring their sons and/or daughters to the Men's Breakfast to be held Sunday, Oct. 17 at 8 a.m. The breakfast will be held at the Heppner Church of the Nazarene, 335 N. Gilmore.

The purpose of the meeting is to encourage men to be better husbands, fathers

and role models with-in their communities. They use Biblical principles for their foundation of guidelines.

The Men's Breakfast is sponsored monthly by First Christian Church, Assemblies of God Church and the Church of the Nazarene.

The breakfast is free of charge, however, donations are accepted.

Missionary to speak at Christian Life Center

Missionary to the Netherlands Steve Kramer will be speaking at Christian Life Center in Heppner on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 6 p.m.

Kramer will share his testimony of "how God can do the impossible." Born two-and-a-half months premature and weighing about 3 pounds, he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and given little hope of survival. However, he did survive and at age 12 felt called to be a missionary to the Netherlands. "It seemed unlikely... because I couldn't walk unassisted and

daily life was enough challenge on its own."

Yet, after many "miracles," Kramer is now able to walk and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon and also earned his master's degree in theological studies. He is now ministering in the Netherlands and sharing his life story.

Christian Life Center, located at 535 W. Morgan St., invites everyone to attend this meeting and hear Kramer's story.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HEPPNER'S NEWEST DRIVER!

HAPPY, SAFE, 16th BIRTHDAY TONY!

Love, Dad, Mom, Brian & Carrie

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

VOTE YES

Morrow County Health District Levy

A YES Vote means continued support for the Hospital, Clinic, Emergency Room, Ambulance, 1st Responders, and Home Health & Hospice Support your Health Care Services.

Vote YES for Continued Health Care!

Paid for by Vote Yes for Continued Health Care Committee

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Wall to Wall Close-out!

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Store hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday