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Gazette Times

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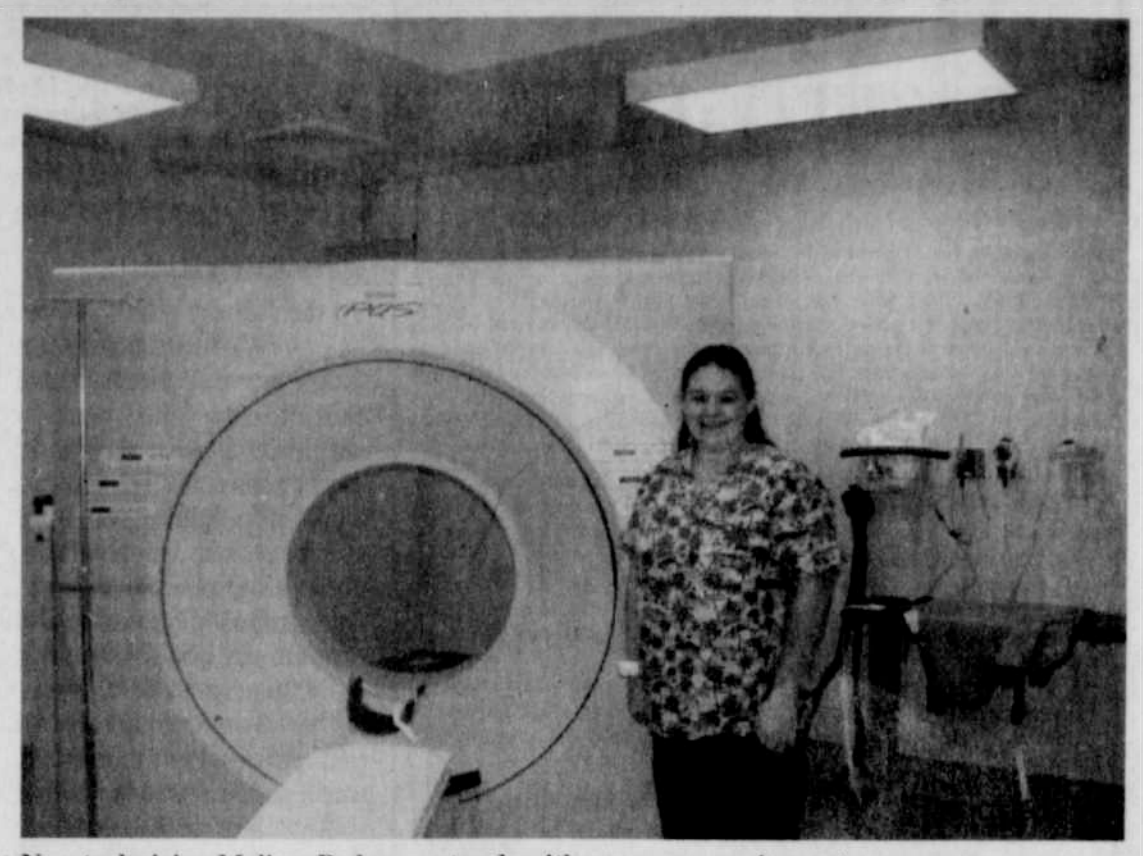
Hospital receives new tech & x-ray equipment



New technician Melissa Pedersen stands with new x-ray equipment

Melissa (Cutsforth) Pedersen has joined the Pioneer Memorial Hospital team in the radiology department. Pedersen graduated in June from Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls with a degree in radiology.

Pedersen, a native Heppnerite, and daughter of Curtis and Kathy Cutsforth, became interested in radiology when she volunteered at PMH in high school.

While in Klamath Falls, Pedersen met her husband Olaf. The couple was just recently married. Olaf will be completing his liberal arts degree at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande.

The couple is excited to be back in the area so as to be close to family and to enjoy the many actives eastern Oregon has to offer. They both enjoy hunting, fishing, four-wheeling and golfing.

Pedersen started at PMH in July. She performs a wide range of activities including, x-rays, cat scans; EKGs and PFTs (pulmonary function tests).

Adding excitement to Pedersen's new position, PMH is obtaining and installing new x-ray equipment. Construction for a space for the new equipment begins mid-September. The new x-ray machine has computed radiography technology.

"I am very excited about Melissa being here," commented Evelyn Carroll, the current PMH radiology manager. "Our goals are the same, we are both organized and we work well together."

Annual Hardman Oyster Bake to be held

Hardman Community Center members are anticipating serving their annual Oyster, Salmon and Ham Dinner to more than 400 hungry hunters and visitors Saturday, Oct. 1.

Hardman is a ghost town with many of its old buildings still intact. The town originated in 1870 and had its first school in 1879, in an area then called Dairyville. Locals in the community also gave the town the handle of "Red Dog." Another town sprang up a mile away and it was called "Yaller Dog." The two communities were untied when David Hardman applied to have a post office in 1882. The application was approved, but it came back as Hardman, Oregon. Some residents also referred to the new town as "Dog Town."

The town prospered with over 300 residents and was the main stop over for the freight and stage route from The Dalles to Canyon City.

The town boasted three hotels, a post office, livery stables, grocery store and an assortment of saloons.

The "Oyster, Salmon and Ham Dinner" also includes crisp coleslaw, baked potato, dessert, coffee and punch for $14 for adults, $5 for children under 12 years and no charge for preschool children. Serving will start at 4:30 p.m. and continue to 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to preserve the historic Hardman Community Center.

Hardman is located 20 miles south of Heppner on Highway 207.

Health District in black for July

An exceptionally good month for the Morrow County Health District resulted in a $31,398 gain for the district for July, according to MCHD CEO Nicole Mahoney. The profit was the first for the district several months.

The district brought in $353,979 in patient revenue, $74,483 in tax revenue and $14,889 in other operating revenue, less $42,525 in bad debts and contractual (Medicare and Medicaid) adjustments for a total operating revenue of $400,826. Operating expenses were $381,087, which resulted in a $19,738 gain, added to a non-operating gain of $11,659.

In other business CEO Victor Vander Does reported that renovation of the x-ray department has begun and is expected to take from two to four weeks. During the process to move from a film processing system to a digital system, the district will use a portable x-ray machine and a CT scanner.

In other business, the board:

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 324 patient visits, with 20 of those new patients and an additional 49 patients seen by a nurse; the Irrigon Clinic had 144 patient visits with 21 of those new patients and an additional 33 seen by a nurse, however the clinic had 16 no-shows for the month; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had eight admissions, 394 outpatients, 58 emergency room encounters, 1450 lab tests, 92 x-ray procedures, 30 CT scans, 45 EKG tests, one treadmill procedure, one sigmoid procedure, administered 1473 drug doses for $70,692 in revenue; Home Health had 40 skilled nursing visits, 31 aide visits, five occupational therapy visits and 29 physical therapy visits for 105; Hospice admitted three patients; Heppner Ambulance had 14 runs with 13 transported, Boardman Ambulance had 18 with 12 transported, and Irrigon had 15 with 12 transported; there was also one flight.

The next meeting has been changed from Monday, Sept. 26, to Monday, Sept. 19.

Ione Education Foundation to hold fundraising dinner

The Ione Education Foundation is holding its third annual fundraising dinner on Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Ione American Legion Hall. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m., with the dinner starting at 7 p.m. There will also be an auction and raffle items.

The dinner will benefit the Ione Education Foundation. Tickets are available at Bank of Eastern Oregon in Ione. Ticket prices are $25 for adults; $10 for children 12 and under and children 6 and under are free.

The Ione Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

Cycle Oregon to lunch in Ione

Ione will have a little company for lunch on Sunday, Sept. 11 when the Cycle Oregon entourage stops by for a break. About 2000 cyclists and numerous support vehicles and crews will rest in the Ione City Park before heading on to their day's destination, Condon. The park will be a festive place with Joe and Leanne Lindsay entertaining from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the townspeople welcoming the visitors. All local residents are welcome to come to the park that day and visit the guests.

With 10 times the normal population of Ione passing through, the town and some of the surrounding roads are going to be a bit hectic. Residents should be aware that Main Street will have restricted parking on Sunday morning, starting around 9:30 a.m.

The cyclists will depart Boardman Sunday morning and travel via the Bombing Range Road. At the North Lex Elevator, they will then be on Hwy 207 as far as Baseline Road. They will follow Baseline Road over to Hwy 74 before pedaling on into Ione. Once the cyclists finish lunch, they will head out Gooseberry Road to Condon. Congestion on the route will be significant. If you have plans to travel anywhere between Boardman and Condon on Sept. 11, be

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Fair and Rodeo Court tryouts set

Tryouts for the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court will be held Sunday, Sept. 25, beginning at 1 p.m., at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Application deadline for tryouts is Friday, Sept. 23, at 11 a.m.

Those interested in applying may pick up an application at their high school or call (541) 676-9474 for information. The Morrow County Fair Office address is P.O. Box 464, Heppner, OR 97836.

Students collecting coins for hurricane victims

Ione Community School students in partnership with Bank of Eastern Oregon and Les Schwab Tire Company is conducting a coin drive for the Louisiana hurricane victims. Classes will be competing to see which grade can raise the most money. Students, faculty and community members are encouraged to bring coins to the school office until Thursday, Sept. 15. We can make a difference.

Local graduate suffers injuries in Yakima accident

Kelly Paullus, a graduate of Heppner High School in 2002, was involved in a wreck on Friday, Sept. 2, in Yakima, WA. He was in his company work van for H2O spas out of Richland, WA when the driver lost control of the vehicle. The guardrail came through the engine and down the center of the vehicle, hitting Paullus' lower legs. He and two other employees in the back had been sitting on the floor due to the van not having any seats except for the front two.

Paullus obtained compound fractures of both lower legs, along with a fractured left ankle and injury to his left knee. He was taken to Yakima Memorial and then flown to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle for surgery. He underwent a second surgery Monday, Sept. 5 on the left leg. Due to the damage his left leg obtained it's not known if he'll require further surgeries on that leg or how long he'll be in Seattle.

According to family, he would enjoy hearing from friends who can send cards to Harborview Medical Center, Room 519, Seattle, WA or to his mother's home, 1112 N. Buchanan St. #C, Kennewick, WA 99336.

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