

Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403

HEPPNER

50¢



azette  
imes

VOL. 125 NO. 13 10 Pages Wednesday, March 29, 2006 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Public invited to discuss Boardman Speedway



Steve Brucker,  
Oregon  
International  
Speedway



Gary Neal,  
Port of Morrow  
General  
Manager



Terry Tallman,  
Morrow County  
Judge

their questions answered about the speedway.

On hand to discuss the speedway, its economic impact and the excise tax and answer the public's questions will be Steve Brucker from Oregon International Speedway, Terry Tallman, Morrow County Judge and Gary Neal of the Port of Morrow.

The meeting is sponsored by Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group and refreshments will be served.

A public meeting to discuss the proposed Boardman Speedway and the activity tax will be held Tuesday, April 4 at the St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Heppner at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend and have

## Pioneer Memorial Hospice to host HFA's 13th annual teleconference

Each year the Hospice Foundation of America (HFA) presents a nationally recognized distance-learning program, live via satellite, to more than 125,000 people in 2000 communities. For more than a decade, this annual educational program has been instrumental in educating health care professionals and families on issues affecting end-of-life care. It also provides an opportunity for a wide variety of professionals—including doctors, nurses, ethicists, educators, social workers and bereavement counselors—to share and exchange ideas and obtain continuing education credits.

This year, HFA's 13th annual National Bereavement Teleconference focuses on "Pain Management at the End of Life." The teleconference will examine the gap between knowledge and application of effective pain control in the person with a terminal condition, including pharmaceutical, psycho-social, spiritual and complementary aspects of pain management.

Moderated by Frank Sesno, Professor of Public Policy and Communication at George Mason University and Special Correspondent with CNN, the program will be broadcast Wednesday, April 5, 2006 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. PST.

Sesno will lead the panel of noted authorities that includes: Yvette Colón, MSW, ACSW, BCD; Kenneth J. Doka, PhD, MDiv; W.A. Drew Edmondson, Attorney General of Oklahoma; Kathleen M. Foley, MD; Kelli Gershon, APN, RN; William Lamers, Jr., MD; Brad Stuart, MD; and Douglas J. Weschules, PharmD, BCPS.

This distinguished panel of ethicists, educators and hospice experts will look at laws and regulations that hinder the practice of pain management. Discussions will examine ways in which health care workers and the general public can work together to improve the societal approach to pain management.

"Many people tell us they are not afraid of death, but are afraid of

dying," states Pioneer Memorial Hospice Coordinator, Robanai Disque. "One of our goals at Pioneer Memorial Hospice is to help ease the pain of this transition. This teleconference offers an excellent opportunity to learn about, and discuss difficult issues that may cause distress at the end of life."

The teleconference is produced by Hospice Foundation of America, a not-for-profit organization, which acts as an advocate for the hospice concept of care through ongoing programs of professional education, public information and research on issues relating to illness, loss, grief and bereavement. This year the program is sponsored by the Foundation for End of Life Care and Purdue Pharma and produced in cooperation with the Adventist Communications Network, the Association for Death Education and Counseling, the National Association of Social Workers and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

## Health district approves contract with Dr. Berretta

The Morrow County Health District Board Monday night unanimously voted to accept a one-year employment contract for clinic and emergency room services with Dr. Ed Berretta as negotiated. The current contract will be retroactive to October 2005 when his previous contract expired and will be in effect until October 2006.

Board members John Gochnauer and John Murray told the board that Dr. Berretta has been with the district for 17 years as a full-time and part-time physician.

Also at the meeting Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney told the board that the district ended February with another gain. The district saw a \$22,524 gain for February, a \$92,855 gain for January and a \$366,287 year-to-date gain, for an average monthly gain of \$45,785.

"They (the financials) look really good," said Mahoney. "We were

pleasantly surprised. We generally see a loss in February."

At the meeting, the board approved the low bid of \$43,396 for a new GE ultrasound machine. The machine is compatible with the district's software and ultrasound information may be transmitted electronically. Vander Does estimated that the payback for the ultrasound will be around two-and-a-half to three years. Another bid for \$59,931 was received for a Phillips ultrasound machine, which, according to Vander Does, included "more bells and whistles."

Vander Does also told the board that two physicians have indicated interest in employment with the district. Dr. Sam Datta, who is currently employed with the district, has announced that he will be leaving the district's employ in May. Dr. Ken Wenberg, who operates a private clinic in Heppner, continues to provide emergency room coverage for the district.

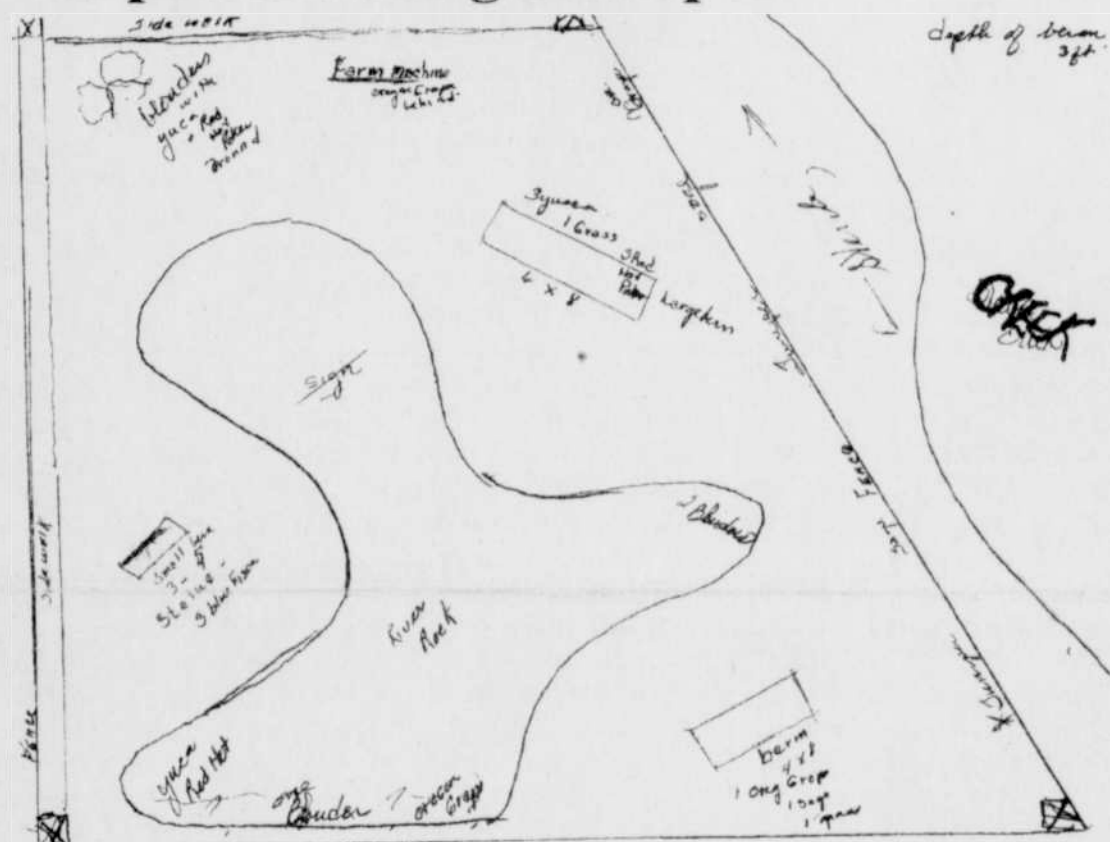
In other business, the board:

—received a copy of the 2006 budget for Columbia River Community Health Services migrant clinic, which is located in Boardman. The budget shows income of a \$463,000 federal grant, a \$70,000 subsidy from Morrow County Health District, a \$20,000 subsidy from the city of Boardman, \$37,200 in occupational services, \$655,461 in patient income, including pharmacy and medical supplies, and \$2000 in donations, amounting to \$1,247,661.

The 2006 CRCHS budget includes \$830,880 in personnel costs and benefits for employment of one physician (Dr. Boss), two physician assistants, nurses and other employees. "I think they were all extremely overpaid," said Mahoney. The budget also includes \$54,000 (\$4500 per month), which is paid to Dr. Boss for rent of the clinic. He operated a private clinic at the site prior to his

...continued on page 2

## Old pool site being developed



Proposed layout of improvements

Work has begun on the old pool site. It is hoped to have it finished by June. The site will have a sign, river rock, large boulders, pea gravel, a fence and berms with plantings.

The plants being used are low maintenance and are native to the area. This will include sagebrush, juniper, red hot poker, yucca and Oregon grape. If you have any of these and would like to donate them, call Jo Anne Bureson at 676-8981.

If you have a suggestion for a name of the site, please drop it by the City Hall.

## Burns announces candidacy for commissioner



Loyal Burns, Jr.

Loyal R. Burns, Jr. has announced his candidacy for Morrow County Commissioner Position 2.

Burns, a Vietnam Veteran, attended Corvallis High School and served in the U.S. Navy from 1966 to 1971. He has been married to Betty Burns for 35 years and together they have two children and three grandchildren. He is an electrician and has operated his own business, L.R. Burns

Electric, for over 25 years.

Burns, an Ione resident with a long history of community involvement, is the current president of the Ione Community Agricultural Business Organization (ICABO), vice president of the board of directors for Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op, chairman of the Ione Fourth of July Celebration and a member of the Ione School Foundation and the Ione Booster Club.

In the past, Burns has served on committees for economic development, budget committees and was a member of the Oregon Electrical Apprenticeship Board.

"The most important issues facing Morrow County are family-wage jobs, affordable housing and secure, safe schools to educate our children. I believe parents are looking for jobs, to

support their families with a lifestyle that provides adequate housing in neighborhoods that offer good education for their children to become young adults, and hopefully live and thrive in Morrow County," Burns said.

Burns' experiences, he believes, have prepared him to adequately fill the position of Morrow County commissioner.

"As a business owner, I have experience with budgets, employee issues and public communications. I have the experience and knowledge to deal with development and construction. I am familiar with land use. I work well with others. My experience will aid in the challenges Morrow County faces now and in the near future."

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:  
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner

NOW TAKING ORDERS  
FOR BABY CHICKS

Plus 10% OFF Chick Start & Grow

Morrow County Grain Growers

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