Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

Sager to retire from BEO

Harley Sager will retire on Thursday, September 27, from the Bank of Eastern Oregon after 13 years.

Sager was born in Caldwell, ID to Harley and Eula Sager. When he was six, Sager's family moved to Payette County where he attended the Fruitland Schools across from Nyssa. Sager graduated in 1955 and started working at First Interstate Bank on March 6, 1956. He worked there for 17 years.

In April of 1973, Sager went to work for C&B Livestock and continued working there until May of 1982. Sager went back to work for the First Interstate Bank in 1982 and worked there for 12 more years.

Sager first came to Heppner in June of 1962 and has come back to Heppner three other times since then. Sager and his wife, Bertha, will celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary on Thursday, September 27. The Sagers have four children and 16 grandchildren. Kelly J. Sager and his wife live in Africa with their six children where they serve as missionaries. Kirk D. Sager and his wife have four children and live in Grants Pass. Cheri L. Ross and her husband live with their three children in LaHabra, CA. Kimela K. Griffin and her husband live in Stanfield with their three children.

Harley Sager

Sager commented that retirement plans include "anything my wife wants me to do." The Sagers have been to Africa twice to visit their son and family and hope to be able to go again, if their health permits. He is proud to say that he has had 51 years of continuous employment.

Sager, who drives 98 miles roundtrip from Hermiston to Heppner, waves at everyone he sees. "I will miss waving at everyone," said Sager, "I will miss Heppner."

A retirement party will be held at the Bank of Eastern Oregon on Thursday, September 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the lobby.

HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 126 NO. 39 10 Pages Wednesday, September 26, 2007 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Explosion still under investigation

On September 22, 2007 at 6:50 p.m., the Morrow County Sheriff's Office 911 Center was contacted by Fawn Cate at the Bulow Farms at 77082 Pole Line Road outside of Boardman regarding a large explosion. Morrow County Sheriff's Office deputies along with Boardman Ambulance, Irrigon Ambulance and Boardman Fire Department responded.

Upon arrival, deputies located a white male adult identified as John Brandon Paradiso, 29, that had been seriously injured. Initial investigation believes that the explosion was a result of an explosive devise. The subject was transported by Ambulance to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston. Paradiso died due to the result of the injuries sustained in the explosion.

The Oregon State Police Bomb Squad Unit was called to assist Morrow County Sheriff's Office in making sure that the residence and outbuildings were secure and to assist in the investigation.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office is still currently investigating the explosion. Morrow County Sheriff's Office, along with Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, OSP, ATF, as well as other law enforcement, are continuing the investigation at the location of the explosion. Boardman Fire Department, as well as Boardman EMS, were available on scene to assist.

Additional information, when learned, will be made available at that time.

Heppner Chamber to hold dinner dance

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce will hold their first annual Rawhide and Rhinestones Dinner Dance on Saturday, October 20 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds from 7 to 11 p.m.

Cover fee for this event is $8 for singles and $15 for couples.

Ladies, wear all the sparkly jewelry you can stand. Men, wear your jeans.

A no host food and beer, wine will be provided by Bucknum's Catering. The meal cost will be $10-15 per plate.

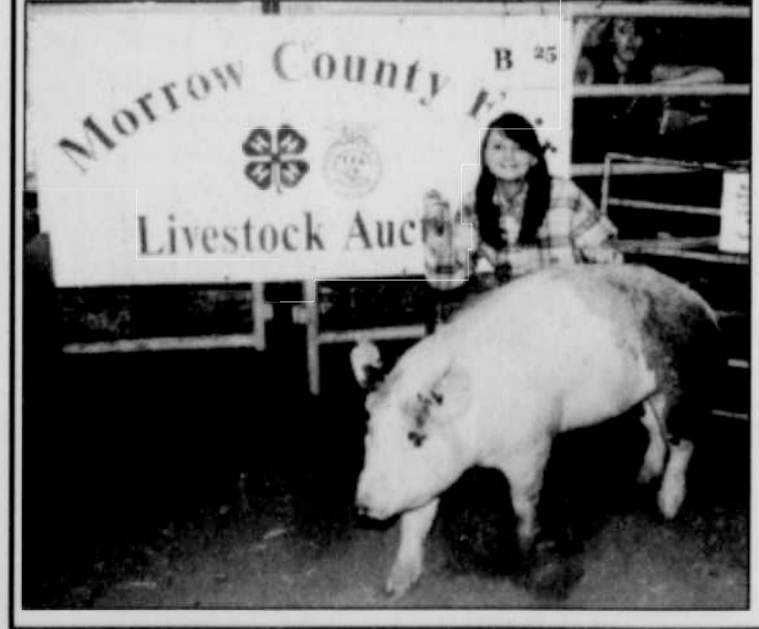
Proceeds will benefit the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets can be purchased at City Hall, Heppner Chamber of Commerce, and Murray Drugs. For more information contact the chamber at 676-5536.

Hunting party has double success

Dale Pearson (right) of Portland had a good day Sunday, September 9, when he bagged his nice six-point elk near Heppner. Mike Rowe of Damascus (left) later shot a five-point elk.

Odd Fellows make donation to Assisted Living Center



The Heppner branch of the Odd Fellows recently purchased a hog at the 4H/FFA Auction during the Morrow County Fair. The hog was raised by Kassey Wilson. The organization then had the hog butchered and donated the meat to the Assisted Living Center. "It was a natural choice," said Randall Peterson of their decision to donate the meat to the Assisted Living Center.

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

Health district approves contract with new physician, contract negotiations with Dr. Ed Berretta

The Morrow County Health District Board, at their regular meeting Monday night in Boardman, approved a three-year contract with physician Betsy Anderson and gave the go-ahead for MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does to complete negotiations for a new contract with Dr. Ed Berretta.

Vander Does said that the district has sufficient providers to staff the clinics in Heppner and Irrigon and the emergency room at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. However, he said, all the new physician prospects have "bailed out".

Also at the meeting Vander Does told the board that he expects to receive plans for the swing bed remodel by the end of the week with the project expected to be started in January and completed by May or June. The remodeling would enable the district to once again offer long-term care patients. The district has already accepted one long-term care patient and has four people expressing a "firm desire" to be admitted to that program, said Vander Does.

The project is expected to cost in the neighborhood of $800,000. Vander Does said that the district has received $20,000 in Tippage Fee money, $20-25,000 from the hospital foundation and another $30,000 in previous nursing home donations, with around $700,000 left to finance. Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney said that the additional monies could be financed through a flex-lease, but added that the district expects around $400,000 from the state and has around $1.2 million in the bank.

In other business, the board:

-learned that the district plans to hire an additional receptionist at Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner to assist staff because of the increased number of providers working there.

-learned from Vander Does that a new portable x-ray machine is in the budget for next year, because the wheels on the current one are deteriorating. The district plans to opt for a demo model from Turn-Key which would cost $37,000. A new model was quoted at $42,000. The machine will be compatible to the district's existing digital equipment.

-approved moving from AIG to Hudson for malpractice insurance. According to Vander Does, AIG provided poor service and hiked their rates from $57,000 per year to $83,000. He said that Hudson provided the low bid, the same benefits and the policy has no deductible, compared to AIG with a $10,000 deductible. He added that Hudson was also low bid last year, but because rates were comparable with AIG, the district decided against switching companies at that time. However, said Vander Does, "I'm not going to stick with AIG when its $30,000 more."

-approved an expenditure of $15,000, plus or minus $1,000, for purchase of a new vehicle for the district and approved a plan to replace the existing vehicles on a yearly basis. Vander Does said that mileage on the district's current vehicles, four Ford Focuses that were purchased very economically several years ago, is now in the 80,000-100,000-mile range and they need replacement after hard use. Three of the cars were used by Home Health and Hospice and one was used for administration. Vander Does suggested that the district purchase Toyota Corollas.

-approved a resolution authorizing the Morrow County Treasurer to invest funds for MCHD for 2007-08, usually in the state pool.

-learned from Mahoney that the district ended July with a $162,350 gain and ended August with a $54,381 gain for a $216,732 gain for the first two months in the new fiscal year. "We started off the year very well," she said. The district made $209,401 more than budgeted for those two months.

-heard the following report: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 350 patient visits for August with eight new patients and 60 seen by a nurse; Irrigon Clinic had 249 patients with 55 new patients, 32 seen by a nurse and 14 no shows; Heppner Ambulance had eight page-outs in August with six transports for $8,815 in revenue and 16 transports in July for $16,486 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 36 page-outs with 15 transports in August for $15,681 and 18 transports in July for $17,185; Irrigon Ambulance had 16 page-outs with 13 transports in August for $11,542 and 10 transports in July for $8,810; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had one admission in August and three in July, 17 admitted for observation in August and 24 in July, 425 outpatients in August and 375 in July; 49 emergency room encounters in August and 64 in July; 1,434 lab tests in August and 1,727 in July, 91 x-ray procedures in August and 103 in July; 24 CT scans in August, 26 in July; 19 EKG tests in August, 37 in July, 37 respiratory therapy procedures in August, 184 in July; Home Health had 200 visits in August, 178 in July; Hospice had six admits in July; pharmacy administered 1,109 drug doses in August for $66,449 in revenue and 1,769 in July for $110,173.

Heppner Booster Club to host steak feed and auction

Mark your calendars. The Heppner Booster Club Steak Feed and Auction is coming October 13. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. and the auction will be at 8 p.m.

The dinner will consist of steak, potato, salad, bread and dessert. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the following locations for $12 each, Holloman's, Heppner TV and Green Feed.

10% OFF PARTS AND LABOR
through February, 2008
We also have special financing:
six months no interest, no payments on $1,500 or more of
Case IH parts and service from Sept. 1, 2007 through Dec. 31, 2007
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net