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# HEPPNER 50¢

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VOL. 127 NO. 9 8 Pages Wednesday, February 27, 2008 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

### Heppner Juvenile Department names new director

By Autumn Morgan

The Heppner Juvenile Department recently added a new member to their workforce. Tom Meier from Pendleton recently stepped in to take the position of juvenile director. Meier took on the position vacated by Carolyn Holt who retired from the position in January after 35 years of service.

Meier, who is from Pendleton, worked for 13 years as a probation officer in Umatilla County and for the last year has worked with the child welfare system. Meier, who has a bachelor's degree in history from Whitman College in Walla Walla, said he stumbled into this line of work right out of college. After graduation, he started working in the juvenile detention center in Pendleton and has been working with some aspect



Tim Meier

of the juvenile system ever since.

Meier said he was initially worried about how smoothly his transition from work with child welfare and as a probation officer would go. But he said he was pleased to learn that he would basically be doing the same job he did before as a probation officer but is also acting as an administrator.

"This job works hand-in-hand with the child welfare system in many different ways," said Meier.

Meier said that Morrow County is one of the few counties in Oregon in which the juvenile director also acts as the probation officer. He said he was initially surprised at the differences between how problems are handled here as compared to other counties. "Not much is dismissed here in Heppner," said Meier. "We handle the stuff big counties don't handle. We don't specialize with one aspect, we deal with everything and it keeps us busy. Carolyn (Holt) built good partnerships with the police, courts, schools, attorneys and counselors."

Meier's wife Heidi is employed with the Oregon Youth Authority and is based out of Pendleton.

## Let's hear it for the girls!



Heppner fans, Jared Hedman and Daniel Jeffreys join in with the band to keep the spirits high at the Heppner game last Friday in Heppner. —Photo by Sandy Matthews

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## Data company looks at industrial park

By David Sykes

A California company that specializes in locating data centers has signed an option to lease 25 acres of ground at the South Morrow Industrial Park outside of Heppner, the Port of Morrow has announced.

The following article about the lease option appeared on the "Data Center Knowledge" web site, a site that is a leading source of daily news and analysis about the data center industry: A CDH California data center consultant, CDH Consulting, has leased 25 acres of land in a business park in Morrow County, Oregon with plans to develop a data center project. The vacant land in Heppner, Oregon is within the Port of Morrow and could receive afford-

able electric power from the Columbia Basin Electrical Cooperative. The CDH site is about 50 miles from Google's data center campus at The Dalles, Oregon.

Chris Hardin, president of Santa Clara, Calif.-based CDH, told local officials that he is in talks with clients about building a data center project that could involve an investment of \$100 million. "It's very preliminary," Hardin said, adding that "we've identified some key factors. This particular site has a high percentage of those qualifications."

Jerry Healy, general manager of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative in Heppner, told local media that Heppner isn't the only place in Oregon where corporations are seeking to establish data centers. "Oregon

has probably the cheapest power structure on the West Coast," he said, "and that's why they're looking in Oregon. We'd certainly like to see an opportunity like this in Heppner."

CDH has a one-year option on the site, which is located in the Port of Morrow. The land leased by CDH was previously part of the Kinzua Mill logging operation, and has fiber connectivity from Windwave Communications.

Employment at the facility could vary from 25 to 100, Hardin said, with the building occupying 150,000 to 200,000 square feet.

Hardin said if constructed the facility could house a call center, customer service center, telecommunications center or data center.

## US Army Corps of Engineers hold public hearing regarding Willow Creek Lake

By David Sykes

The US Army Corps of Engineers held a public hearing in Heppner last week to discuss the plan to make long term agreements to release 2,500 acre-feet of water from Willow Creek Lake each year for use in irrigation of farm land down stream from the dam.

Since proposed in November the plan has caused controversy in the community with irrigators saying they need the water and recreationists fearful the drawdown will harm fishing and other recreational activity at the lake.

The Corps of Engineers was asking for public comments on the proposals when it received enough written comments (60) that it decided to hold a public hearing in Heppner to explain the proposal.

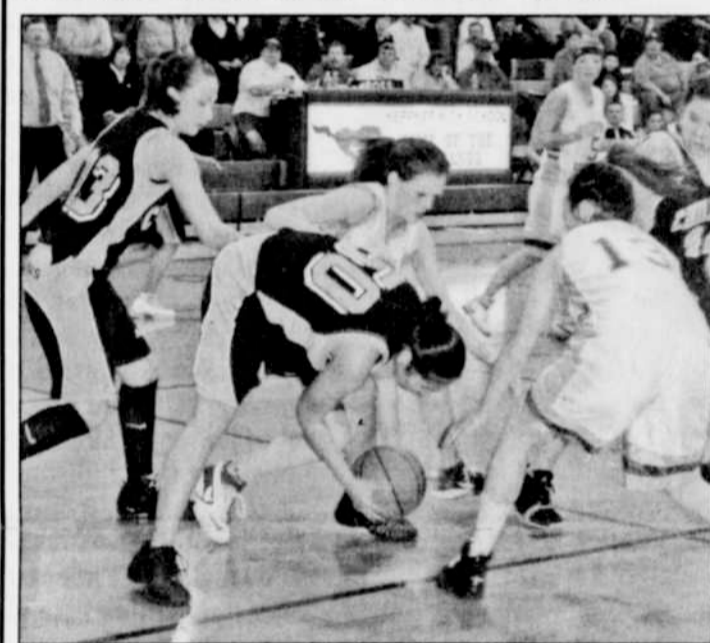
Tim Kuhn, project manager of the lake was on hand and told the crowd of

75 that under the lake's original operating instructions 3,500 acre feet of water were allocated for irrigation

purposes. He said irrigators have not taken advantage of the water until several years

*Continued on page 8*

## Heppner girls continue on in bid for state title



Senior Taylor Kempas of Heppner hustles to get the ball from a Chiloquinn Queen. The Mustangs advance to Pendleton, beating the Queens 66-39. The Mustangs took on Santiam today at 3:15 in Pendleton. —Photo by Sandy Matthews

## Health district sets timeline for remodel proposals to accommodate long-term patients

By April Sykes

Morrow County Health District CEO Victor Vander Does, at the regular board meeting Monday night in Boardman, presented the board a timeline for requesting and receiving proposals for the planned remodeling of Pioneer Memorial Hospital to allow for the care of long-term patients. The hospital has not provided long-term care since the closing of the nursing home several years earlier.

Vander Does said that the remodeling project will be advertised in several media on March 5; a pre-bid walk-through is planned March 10; bids will be opened on March 24; and recommendations will be presented to the board at their next regular meeting March 31. Documents are available for viewing at several locations around the state.

Vander Does said that when the long-term care remodeling is complete, Pioneer Memorial may also accept Alzheimer's patients in addition to other long-term care patients, however their admission will be on a case-by-case review, depending on the level of care the facility is able to provide.

Also at the meeting, board members came to a consensus that the district will most likely seek a bond measure to allow the district

to continue to "provide quality care" for its patrons. District Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney had earlier projected the district's long-term financial outlook, which showed that the district will require passage of another bond measure to provide up-to-date care. The board's goals include expanding the Irrigon Clinic and continuing to provide funding for the Boardman community clinic, in addition to remodeling Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Vander Does and board members stressed that they have to continually upgrade technology, equipment and facilities to provide the best possible care. The district also now pays for a full-time paramedic in Irrigon and two full-time paramedics in Boardman. Vander Does and board Chair Larry Mills also noted that the district will continue to require a subsidy if they continue to take Medicare, which does not reimburse at the district's rate.

The board agreed that they would not pursue a voters' survey to indicate how patrons may vote on the issue because of the survey cost. Vander Does said that the district can, however, put out facts concerning the services the district provides.

In other business, the board:

—learned that the district lost \$35,598 in Janu-

ary with \$450,706 in gross patient revenue and \$531,141 in total operating expenses, with an additional \$17,818 in other funds. In December the district had \$450,998 in gross patient revenue and \$473,734 in total operating expenses with an additional \$17,402 for a \$68,275 gain.

—received the following report: In January, Pioneer Memorial Hospital had 426 patients with 16 new patients and 51 seen by a nurse; Irrigon Clinic had 202 patients with 29 new patients, 36 seen by a nurse and 11 no-shows, which may be attributed to the several weather; Heppner Ambulance had 19 page-outs with 15 transports for \$14,684 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 21 page-outs with 10 transports for \$9,785 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 23 page-outs with 16 transports for \$14,028 in revenue; there was one flight; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had five admissions, three swing bed admissions, 15 admitted for observation, two admitted for respite care, 355 outpatients, 70 emergency room encounters, 1460 lab tests, 102 x-ray procedures, 26 CT scans, 23 EKG tests, 219 respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 166 visits; Hospice had one admission; pharmacy had 1320 drug doses for \$51,713 in drug revenue.