

HEPPNER

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Sample retires from city job



Heppner Mayor Les Paustian (right) presents Randy Sample with a retirement gift. Sample worked with the City of Heppner for 13 years. —Photo by David Sykes

Rev. Grace Drake moving to Idaho

After many years serving as a volunteer in Heppner, Rev. Grace Drake will be moving to Payette, ID, where her daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Tom Ferguson, live. She will be moving into The Cottage Assisted Living.

Born and raised in Kimball County, NE, Grace (Gaden) Drake was raised on a dryland farm. After graduating from Kimball County High School in 1939, she attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, NE. She graduated from college in 1944. That same year she traveled by train to Portland to work as an assistant teacher in the Vanport City Child Care Centers for pre-school children of shipyard workers during World War II.

In September of 1946 Drake came to Morrow County to work as an Oregon State Extension employee. Also in September, she married a returning WWII veteran, Douglas E. Drake. The couple began farming with his parents on their Sandhollow ranch. The couple had four children: Susan (Drake) Ferguson, Douglas A., Gwendolyn, and Richard.

From 1950 to 1955, Drake taught the Jaycette Kindergarten that was held

in the old fair buildings located where the library and museum now stand.

In 1956 the family moved from their town home to their ranch home. Drake was widowed in 1967 when her husband died in a hunting accident.

Drake served at the juvenile court director under Judge Paul Jones from 1968 to 1972.

From 1972 to 1975 she attended seminary at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. After completing her schooling in 1975, she served until 1986 at three different churches in the United Methodist Church. She served in Union/North Powder from 1975-1978. In 1977 she was ordained in La Grande. She served in Filer, ID, from 1978 to 1981 and in Ashton, ID, from 1981 to 1986.

In 1986 Drake retired and returned to Heppner where she began volunteering for numerous organizations. She served on the Home Health advisory committee and on the board of directors of South

Morrow County Neighborhood Center and St. Patrick's Senior Center. She also planned and organized the summer project for the Neighborhood Center which consisted of planned activities and field trips for youth ages 6-14. The project was carried on with the help of volunteers and lasted three years.

Drake also served as a volunteer chaplain of Pioneer Memorial nursing home. Besides calling on residents, she also held memorial services at the hospital for deceased residents. During her volunteer years she also served as a court appointed special advocate of youth under the jurisdiction of juvenile court.

January 3, 2010, will be Rev. Grace Drake's last Sunday in Heppner. The United Methodist Church will be honoring her during the worship service from 10:30-11:30 a.m. A potluck will be held after the service. The public is invited to attend. Anyone who cannot attend the worship service is still welcome to visit the fellowship hall to wish Drake farewell.

Drake's new address will be Grace E. Drake, 1481 7th Ave. N. #7, Payette, ID 83661.



Rev. Grace Drake

Health District provides free Medicare Part D enrollment info to district residents

Morrow County Health District CEO Michael Blauer told the health district board at their regular meeting in Irrigon Monday night that Elizabeth Peterson, who is employed by the district, has been providing advice to district residents regarding enrollment in Medicare Part D. This is a service that the health district has been providing to residents free of charge.

Blauer also reported that the recent personnel changes have gone smoothly. Molly Rhea, who was formerly director of nursing services, Home Health and Hospice, is retaining only the director of nursing services, while former Home Health and Hospice nurse, Robanai Disque, is assuming the position of director of Home Health and Hospice. Blauer said this change will allow Rhea to take on more "risk management" tasks and concentrate on her DNS position. He said that Disque reported that the transition is going well.

Blauer said that during the last two weeks of January, two different electronic health record vendors will be on site to demonstrate their products. He said the district is excited to learn more about the benefits of an electronic system and recognizes that choosing a system will be a very significant decision with long-lasting implications.

He also said that community service fees from wind farms in the county resulted in a higher amount of revenue than anticipated and budgeted. However, he added, the district has received notice that the tax revenue in February may be 30 percent less than anticipated because some businesses in the county had an inflated estimated value.

Blauer also noted that the CT scanner at Pioneer Memorial Hospital has undergone numerous repairs and maintenance

visits and said he was concerned that it may fail. He said that he and Nicole Mahoney, MCHD chief financial officer, are currently looking at funding options to replace the machine, rather than being forced to find a replacement on short notice.

Mindy Binder, the executive director for the Columbia River Community Health Services clinic in Boardman, reported at the meeting that a federal grant that they had applied for to fund construction of a new CRCHS building has been denied. She reported that they will look for alternate funding, but the setback will delay their construction plans.

The board received the financials for November which showed that the district lost \$27,340 for the month. The district had \$456,641 in gross patient revenue with \$16,194 in revenue deductions, \$95,521 in tax revenue and \$1,079 in other operating revenue for \$537,047 in total operating revenue. Total operating expenses were \$574,214 with a \$9,826 non-operating gain. The district had a \$5,277 average monthly year to date loss.

Reports indicated that Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 370 patient visits for the month, with 31 new patients, 45 seen by a nurse and six no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 215 patient visits, 20 new patients, 45 seen by a nurse and 10 no shows.

Heppner Ambulance had nine page-outs and nine transports for \$11,544 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 21 page-outs with seven transports for \$8,326 in revenue; and Irrigon Ambulance had 22 page-outs with eight transports for \$7,912 in revenue.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital had seven admissions, two swing bed admissions, 11 admitted for observation, 399 total outpatients, 53 emergency room encounters, 1230 lab tests, 101 x-ray proce-

dures, 14 EKG tests, two colonoscopy procedures, three endoscopy procedures and 67 respiratory therapy procedures.

Home Health had 117 patient visits; Hospice had one admission; and pharmacy had 1180 drug doses for \$63,566 in revenue.

The board meeting calendar for 2010 is as follows: January 25, Ione Community Church; March 1, Sand Hollow Room, Port of Morrow, Boardman; March 29, Home Health Office, Heppner; April 26, Lexington School District office; May 24, Home Health Office; June 28, Morrow County Annex, Irrigon; July 26, Ione Community Church; August 30, Home Health Office; September 27, Sand Hollow Room; October 25, Lexington School District Office; November 29, Home Health Office; December 27, Morrow County Annex. All meetings are held on Mondays at 7 p.m.

Motor home rolls on icy roads near Lexington

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reported that a motor home was totaled after it wrecked on slick roads at milepost 34 on Hwy. 74 between Lexington and Ione on December 28. MCSO said the accident occurred just past the long straight stretch not too far out of Lexington.

They reported that a motor home was towing a pickup and the motor home rolled.

According to MCSO one elderly female was transported by ambulance.

According to reports, the driver of the vehicle was Leo DeZoete of Heppner. His wife Rita DeZoete was injured in the accident and taken to Pioneer Memorial Hospital by Heppner Ambulance.

Gazette-Times closed on Friday

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed on Friday, January, for New Year's Day. We will re-open on Monday, January 4, at 9 a.m.

M.C. Sheriff's Office vehicle damaged in traffic crash

According to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, on Monday, December 28, a Morrow County Sheriff's Office vehicle was damaged in a traffic crash while attending to another crash. At the time, a 23 year old male and a two year old female were sitting in the sheriff's office car to keep warm.

Sgt. Randy Rayburn of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office had responded to a report of vehicle roll-over crash on

Interstate 84. After he arrived, two of the three occupants of the car that crashed were placed in his car to keep warm. Another car, driven by Sierra Ames of Pendleton with a female juvenile passenger, struck Sgt. Rayburn's vehicle, knocking it into Boardman firefighter Rick McKee, 22, of Boardman.

EMTs evaluated McKee and he was released with minor injuries. The two occupants of Sgt.

Rayburn's patrol car were also evaluated and refused treatment.

Boardman Fire Department, Morrow County Ambulance, Morrow County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police all responded to the scene. Oregon State Police are investigating the incident.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office urges all driver to slow down when approaching and passing accident scenes.

M.C. Health Department announces flu clinic schedule

The Morrow County Health Department announces its schedule for flu clinics:

- January 5 - H1N1, Boardman Senior Center (11-1 p.m.)
- January 6 - H1N1, Heppner Senior Center (10-2 p.m.); H1N1, Ione Fire Hall (4-7 p.m.)
- January 7 - Free Seasonal Flu, Heppner-Gilliam Bisbee Building conference room (8:30-12 & 1-7), H1N1 will be available
- January 11 - H1N1, Irrigon Senior Center (11-1 p.m.)
- January 11 - Free Seasonal Flu Boardman Health Department office (9-12:30 & 1-7), H1N1 will be available

Town and Country Awards event to be held Jan. 14

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce Town and Country Community Awards event, sponsored by CenturyLink, will be held in the Pavilion at the Morrow County Fairgrounds on Thursday, January 14, at 6 p.m. Catering will be provided by "Pudding on the Ritz".

Tickets will be \$20 and will be available for sale on Monday, January 4.



We will be closing at 5 pm
December 31st and opening
again Monday, January 4th

Morrow County Grain Growers

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