

Mustang volleyball starts 2013 season with a kick

The Heppner High School Mustang volleyball team started their season with strong showings at the Umatilla Jamboree and at the Grant Union Invitational tournament. The Mustangs are defending CBC District Champions and finished fifth at the state volleyball championships last year.

The varsity team members this year are seniors Micha Hinz, Ryan Dougherty, Mekayla Kindle, Kyla Dyer and Nicole Kempken.

Junior team members are Kelly Wilson, Maddie Lindsay and Paige Grieb. Sophomore Jessica Kempken rounds out the roster.

Coaches for the Mustangs are Dieter Waite and Molly Rhea.

At the Umatilla Jamboree held on Friday, Aug. 30, the Mustangs finished the day with a 3-1 record. They got off to a

quick start in their first game and never looked back as they defeated the Stanfield Tigers 25-10.

In the second game against the Riverside Pirates the team struggled early and was down 22-16. They then showed lots of heart and desire and rallied back to take a 25-23 win.

Their next game was against the Weston-McEwen TigerScots. The Mustangs played well overall, and the score was tied 18-18 before the TigerScots pulled out the win 25-19.

The final game of the day was with the host team, the Umatilla Vikings. In an exciting game where the lead was never by more than two points, the Mustangs' serving and power game led them to a 26-24 victory. Overall, it was a great first day of volleyball to start the new season for the Mustangs.

The Mustangs next made the long road trip to John Day for the GU Invitational. It was an early start on Saturday morning for the team but they responded well and had another great day. In pool play the team beat Dayville/Monument by scores of 25-20 and 25-19. Strong serving and passing led the Mustangs to that victory.

The next match was with Crane. Strong serving, good passing and big spikes for kills led the Mustangs to win both games by scores of 25-24 and 25-22.

The team moved into bracket play as the second seed from their pool of teams. The tournaments

quarterfinal match for Heppner was with Powder Valley. A fast start and strong overall play in both games allowed the Mustangs to win 25-22 and 25-12.

In the tournaments semifinal match, the Mustangs had to play the hosting Grant Union Prospectors. The long trip, long day and heat in the gym appeared to slow the team down some and they lost a hard-fought match to GU 25-15 and 25-17. The team's next match was with Nyssa for third/fourth place. They played the Bulldogs tough again but lost by scores of 25-19 and 25-18. The Mustangs finished fourth out of the 12 teams that were at the tournament.

The Mustangs will host a tournament this Saturday, Sept. 7, starting at 9 a.m. in the Heppner High School gymnasium.

Gibbs wins Gar Aviation buckle



Kelly Boyer (left) poses with Sue Gibbs of Heppner, winner of the Morrow County Rodeo senior barrels buckle sponsored by John and Kelly Boyer/Gar Aviation. Gibbs won the buckle with a time of 17.91 seconds. -Photo by April Sykes

Boardman quilt group to raffle quilt

The Boardman Quilt Group is raffling off its most recent project.

Raffle tickets will be available at the 2013 Boardman Quilt Show at the Port of Morrow, Oct. 11-12.

Tickets can also be purchased at various Boardman events and locations in September and October; contact Kathy Morgan, midnite_kat@hotmail.com, for details.

The 2013 quilt is composed of floral scenes enhanced by blue and

gold sashing. The quilt was pieced by Kathy Hyder, Kathryn Sparks and Marge Shankle, and custom-quilted by Danelle Pettyjohn.

Tickets are one for \$1 or \$5 per "yard." The group suggests using return address labels to speed up filling out the tickets.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the close of the quilt show on October 12. The winner need not be present to win. Raffle proceeds will benefit the Boardman Quilt Group.

IMESD to offer free hearing screenings to students through November

PENDLETON—The InterMountain Education Service District (IMESD) will provide free hearing screenings to public elementary school students through November.

Hearing screenings will take place in Ione and Heppner on Thursday, Sept. 12. Rechecks for Heppner and Ione will take place Thursday, Oct. 3.

Hearing screenings are conducted annually by

the IMESD's Audiology Department for public school students in Umatilla, Morrow and Union counties, and is cooperatively sponsored by local school districts.

Students to be screened include nearly 4,000 kindergarten, first- and third-grade students, new students to a county, and parent/teacher/principal referrals of students in other grades. Children who fail

the initial screening will be re-screened within a three-week period.

Screenings began earlier this week and will continue through November.

Parents who do not want their child's hearing to be screened should notify their child's school as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding the hearing screening program, please contact

your local school principal or the IMESD Audiology Department at 541-966-3140.

Other Morrow County schools will conduct screenings as follows: AC Houghton and Irrigon Elementary, Wednesday, Sept. 11, with rechecks Wednesday, Oct. 2; Sam Boardman and Windy River Elementary, Wednesday, Oct. 16, with rechecks Tuesday, Nov. 5.

SWEEK RETIRES

-Continued from PAGE ONE in Brothers, OR, or to return to take a job as an appraiser for Morrow County.

"Working in the middle of nowhere didn't sound too exciting," he says, "at least, not at the time."

So, Sweek took the job as appraiser. Two years later, when Morrow County Assessor Everett Harshman retired mid-term in 1979, Sweek was appointed to replace him. He has held the position ever since. He says he doesn't believe he is the longest-serving assessor in Oregon—he says retired assessor Gordon Dunn of Wheeler County probably deserves that honor—but he is the longest tenured of the currently sitting assessors in the state.

"I'm the last of the 'class of '70' assessors," he says. "You never think you're going to end up in that category when you start. I never would have thought I'd be here this long."



Greg Sweek

Sweek's plans for retirement include travelling. His wife, Marsha, passed away in 2004 after 25 years of marriage, but his travels will likely include trips to visit their children, Ian and Talia, in Boise, as well as and Sweek's five-year-old grandson. Other than that, he says he would

like to spend time with his brother, who also is in the process of retiring.

"Hopefully we will have some joint trips in the future."

On the top of his list, he says, is a trip to Washington D.C., as well as to Gettysburg, PA, Williamsburg, VA and some of the other historical sites near D.C.

"So much history, so close," he says.

He admits to being a bit of a history buff, though World War II is more his area of interest. So, he plans to visit the World War II Memorial in D.C.; he says he would also like to visit the Vietnam Memorial, since his brother is a Vietnam vet.

Sweek's last day was Tuesday, Sept. 3. He says he went to the top of the courthouse to take a last look around—though minus the familiar clock tower—with county treasurer Gayle Gutierrez and county clerk Bobbi Childers tagging along to share and record the moment.

Because, says Sweek, that's what he'll miss...the people who have become a second family to him over the past several decades, especially his coworkers in the assessor's office.



Ghosts of courthouse past: Gayle Gutierrez, Greg Sweek and Bobbi Childers take a moment to appreciate the view from the courthouse windows on Sweek's last day as assessor. -Contributed photo

"When you have a long-term office," he says, "You have an office family, aside from your real family."

Long-term is right; his replacement, Mike Gorham, is the "newbie" of the bunch, having worked in the office only 11 years.

Of course, Sweek says there are some things he won't miss.

"I'm not going to miss the preparation of the tax

roll. That's a very nerve-racking time," he says. "I've made it through 34 years without any serious errors—and I know that will continue—but when you're dealing with people and their money, it can become a personal issue."

Though Sweek's last day was Tuesday, he says he plans to return Wednesday to watch Gorham be sworn in, "to complete that cycle."

HEALTH DISTRICT HIRES NEW DOCTOR

-Continued from PAGE ONE that she may be interested in serving in that capacity.

Also at the meeting, Grigg showed a video presentation concerning improvement of the quality of hospital care by Dr. Donald Berwick. Dr. Berwick advocates for "no needless deaths, no needless pain, no helplessness, no unwanted waiting and no waste." Dr. Berwick, who is currently running for governor of Massachusetts, is the former administrator of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services, appointed by President Obama, a Harvard professor and a pediatrician.

Board member Leann Rea remarked about the great quality of care she had received at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Board Chair Larry Mills agreed, commenting that personalized care "is a big asset for us." Dr. Ken Wenberg, who was in attendance at the meeting, also commented on the quality of care.

"I think we have a really good hospital," said Grigg, who indicated that he wants to bring more quality data information to the board meetings in the future. "That said, I think we could be better."

"I agree we're doing well," he added, "but we don't have a lot of data to prove it."

In other business, the board:

-heard reports from Grigg on provider recruitment; the Eastern

Oregon Coordinated Care Association meeting, which he attended; the hospital's recertification with the Hill-Burton uncompensated services regulations; the state of the hospital's kitchen's rusted drainage pipes, which have been replaced; an upcoming assessment of the reliability and security of the district's information systems; and the fall board retreat, planned for Thursday, October 17, at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Heppner from 2-9 p.m.

-received the following profit/loss statement for July: the district received \$659,131 in gross patient revenue, less \$13,357 for bad debts and a positive \$25,355 in contractual and other adjustments, \$106,839 in tax revenue and \$14,337 in other operating revenue for \$792,306 in total operating revenue; \$757,036 in total operating expenses; and \$13,799 in a non-operating gain for a \$49,070 profit for the month.

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 379 patients for the month with 12 new patients, 37 seen by a nurse and six no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 201 patients for the month with 31 new patients, 47 seen by a nurse and 11 no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 20 total page-outs with 17 transports for \$28,376 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 34 page-outs with 22 transports for \$30,454 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 21 page-outs with eight transports for \$9,284 in revenue; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had five admissions, four swing bed admissions, 12 admitted for observation, 455 total outpatients, 57 emergency room encounters, 1,737 lab tests, 98 x-ray procedures, 14 CT scans, 17 EKG tests, one treadmill procedure, three colonoscopy procedures, one endoscopy procedure and 39 respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 67 patient visits; Hospice had three admissions; and Pharmacy had 1,720 drug doses for \$90,036 in drug revenue.

Congratulations on your 50th Wedding Anniversary

Larry & Corrine Lindsay

September 7, 1963 - September 7, 2013

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| | | | Caleb | | | | |

We will be celebrating with a party at the Cathy & Lawrence Pedro home, Hermiston, Saturday, September 7th, 5:30 pm. Call Ann for more information 541-676-9631