

HEPPNER 50¢ Gazette Times

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Sherry Ewing retires from home health and hospice



Sherry Ewing sits at her desk in the Pioneer Memorial Home Health & Hospice office in Heppner; she will bid farewell to the office and her long-time coworkers this week. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

By Andrea Di Salvo

After nearly 24 years, Sherry Ewing will leave work for the last time this Thursday, May 29.

Ewing, who turned 66 over Memorial Day weekend, has served in the "Clerk III" position at Pioneer Memorial Home Health & Hospice since December of 1990. It's a position that required her to wear the hats of office manager, clerical, billing and a little bit more.

"I was really lucky; it's been a great job," says Ewing. "We're like a close-knit little family."

Ewing was born and raised in Selah, WA, in the Yakima Valley. She says Selah is a small town, similar to Heppner, so she felt Heppner was a great fit when she came here. She didn't come here right away, though. After graduating from Selah High School in 1966, she went to work as a dental assistant in Yakima, WA. She lived there with her family until 1984. They then moved to Spokane, where she also worked as a dental assistant.

It was while playing on a co-ed softball team in Spokane that she met

husband Bill Ewing. She moved to Heppner and started at Pioneer Memorial in 1990, and the couple was married in 1991. Her other family mostly remains in the Yakima and Spokane areas, she says, with her son Mark and his family in Spokane and stepson Ben a teacher in Newport, OR.

Ewing says she has worked longer for home health and hospice than she has for any other employer in her life; leaving now is a bittersweet transition.

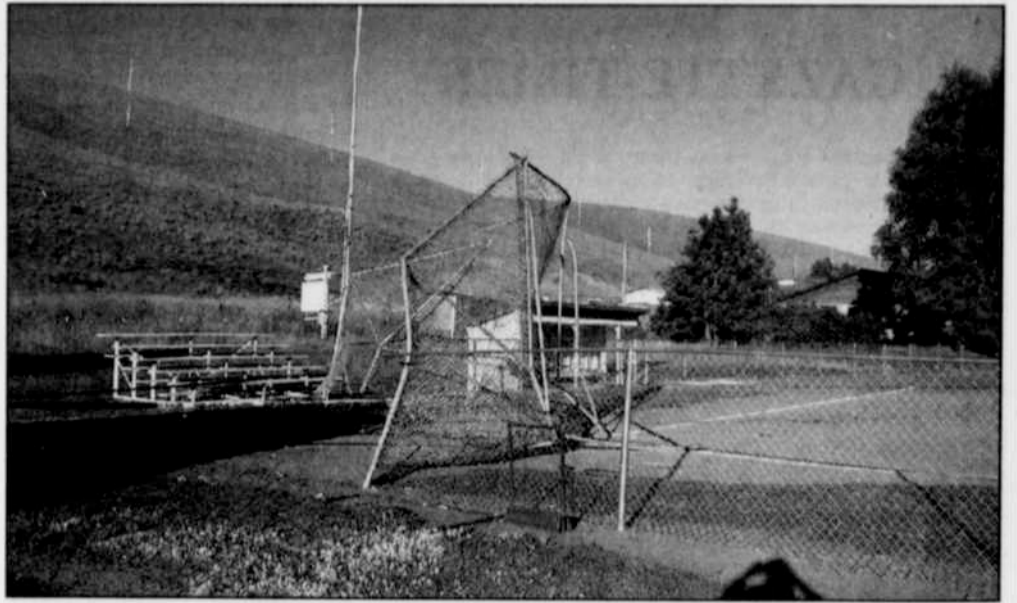
"It's sad. I'll miss all the people here. There are a lot of great, caring people here," she says. "Home health and hospice is really important in our area, to the residents of Morrow County; it does a great service for Morrow County."

At the same time, she says, it's time to leave.

"My husband's been retired for a couple of years. We've got a new place and enjoy working on that," says Ewing. "It's time to move on and do some other things, do some travelling, see family a little more."

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It's a grand slam...



Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded after a driver crashed into the backstop at the Heppner Little League field last Wednesday, May 21, leaving the structure a little worse for wear. MCSO could not be reached for comment by press time. -Contributed photo

Health levy tops in every precinct; Russell wins commissioner by 45 votes

County-wide turnout at 39.7 percent

By David Sykes

Voters in every community in the county passed the health district levy, and three out of four cities voted for Don Russell over Ken Grieb for county commissioner, results of the recently-completed election show.

County-wide the five-year medical levy passed 1,391 yes to 373 no, a 79 percent approval rating. Morrow County Health District Board Chairman Larry Mills said he was appreciative of voter support.

"The board of directors of the Morrow County Health District want to thank the voters for their overwhelming support of the levy request. The board's goal is to keep the equipment and facilities of the district updated to provide the best possible

health care for the citizens of the area, and the passing of the levy will certainly help us achieve those goals," Mills told the Heppner Gazette-Times.

Don Russell and Ken Grieb had a much closer contest, with Russell winning by 45 votes 510 to 465. Russell won in Boardman, Irrigon and Lone, and Grieb won in Heppner and Lexington. The election was for the Republican slot for county commissioner. No one ran for the Democratic position; however, Russell won that also by write in ballots, so he will most likely run unopposed in the November election. The only way Russell could face an opponent in November is if an independent candidate

filed for the position. "This was a really close race. I don't think that winning by 45 votes or a four percent margin sends any mandate to the rest of the county court. I think that it is hard to beat an incumbent, especially when they are a genuinely nice person. I need to thank the people that allowed me to use their names publicly as supporters, and those that wrote letters of endorsement. I think that was the difference in the race," Russell told the Gazette.

County-wide total voter turnout was 39.7 percent, with 40.9 percent of Democrats voting, 53.2 percent of Republicans voting, and 5.9 percent of independents voting. -See COUNTY ELECTION/
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Don Russell wins county commissioner nomination in three out of five communities.

Getting to know your exchange students

Johann "Johnny" Maier Age 17, Junior, Lone Where are you from? Nuremberg, Bavaria, Germany

Host Parents: Tom and Heather Baumgartner, Boardman What do you think of Lone/Morrow County?

"Small. I'm from a city with half a million people. That's the biggest difference. We don't have a lot of rural areas in Germany. That's also a difference."



Johann "Johnny" Maier

How has the experience been for you?

"Good. There are always small problems, but you always have small problems (wherever you are)."

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"I had to get used to how people act in America. They act really different, especially the teenagers. They're pretty disrespectful."

What did you like best?

"We go fishing from time to time. We also got

to hunting once; that was fun, even though we didn't get anything. We don't really get to go fishing and hunting in Germany."

Did you go to prom?

"No."

You stay in Boardman but attend school in Lone; what was that like for you?

"You have to get up pretty early; that's pretty annoying. But, I don't think I would have enjoyed Boardman schools more (than Lone)."

Any last thoughts?

"School is easier; it's way easier than in Germany."

Mustang golf girls take second at state



The Mustang girls' golf team placed second in the state tournament in Corvallis. Pictured (L-R) are: Coach Greg Grant, Coach Barry Munkers, Paige Grieb, Macy Gibbs, Blake Greenup, Maddie Lindsay, Emily Rea, Amanda Rea and Coach Matt Schrivner. -Contributed photo -See full story PAGE SIX

Heppner relay team places at state



Heppner's boys 4x100 relay team placed seventh in finals at the OSAA 2A State Championships track meet in Eugene on Friday with a time of 47.41a. Pictured L-R: Jared Lemmon, Jeremiah Petzoldt, Jacob Moses and Kayden Clark. Also representing Heppner at the state meet was Kelly Wilson, who finished 10th in long jump finals with a distance of 14-05.50. -Contributed photo

Graduation approaches for local seniors

Graduation day is quickly approaching for seniors at Heppner and Lone high schools.

Heppner's commencement ceremony will take place Saturday, May 31, beginning at 2 p.m. in the Heppner Jr./Sr. High

School gymnasium. Baccalaureate services for Heppner will take place this Wednesday, May 28, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

The service will be at 6 p.m., not 7 p.m. as announced in last week's

Gazette. Lone's commencement will be held Friday, June 6, beginning at 7 p.m.

Baccalaureate services will be held Monday, June 2, at 6 p.m. at St. William's Catholic Church.

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