

Public health department... more than immunizations

Contributed by the Morrow County Health Department.

All parents want their kids to have a healthy start in life, and many of us learn, the hard way, that providing that healthy start is a harder job than we expected. The luckiest of people find help from their own parents, but many of Oregon's families rely on home visits by nurses and other professionals to help guide them in nutrition, safety and child development. These home-visiting programs can improve the health and development of our youngest kids, while saving substantial taxpayer dollars in the long run.

The benefits of home visiting in Morrow County are clear. Of home-visited children (fiscal year 2012-2013), 96 percent are up-to-date with immunizations, 100 percent have health insurance, and 100 percent have a primary care provider and receive scheduled well-child checks.

The benefits of home visiting extend beyond healthy children. Of par-

ents who entered Morrow County Healthy Families home visiting program, 96 percent had a primary care provider of their own and 95 percent reported the home visitor encouraged them to think and take action toward their own goals and dreams.

Morrow County Healthy Families participants are linked to essential resources like education assistance, housing, job training, mental health services and social support.

Families that participate in home visiting services are more likely to raise children to be healthy and safe, and their parents are more likely to graduate from high school and gain employment.

Home visiting is a confidential and voluntary method of service delivery. It is a way to offer support, guidance, information and child development services directly to families in their homes. Using the family's own home environment, home visitors create rich learning opportunities that build on everyday routines

and support their child's development.

In Morrow County, the Healthy Families program is located in the Morrow County Health Department. The county has two full-time home visitors, one of which is bilingual. They serve families county-wide. Home visitors are flexible; they can offer support and child development services during nontraditional hours to families who work or go to school.

Parenting is difficult for everyone, but it can be made easier with home-based services and supports. Morrow County Healthy Families is a program where families partner with trained professionals to improve their parenting skills, and be connected to community resources and supports during pregnancy and throughout their child's first three years of life.

The program is currently accepting new families. If you or someone you know is interested in the home visiting program, call the Public Health Department at 541-676-5421.

Local boys play in Pendleton basketball league



A group of local boys participated in the Pendleton Youth Basketball league this year. Pictured top is the third- and fourth-grade team of Trevor Nichols, Caden George, David Cribbs, Landon Mitchell, Jake Lentz, Ryan Lindsay, Paul Lindsay, Ty Boor, Kyler Wilson, Adan Guerra, Austin Brown and Ethan Delibertis. The team was coached by Russ Nichols and Mike George. Pictured bottom are fifth-grade players Kaden Combe, Kason Cimmyotti, Joe Sherman, Cody Fletcher, Jett Stewart, Wyatt Wilhelm, Coen Little, Brock Hisler, Derick Smith, Brian Lindsay and Tucker Ashbeck; the boys were coached by head coach Matt Combe and assistant coaches Andrea Fletcher and Sybil Stewart. —Contributed photo

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Sheriff's Report

Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/ Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, Theft II. Bail was set at \$6,000.

-MCSO received request from a Heppner resident to turn over some old ammo to the sheriff's office.

-MCSO received report of a possible dispute at the Boardman Market.

-MCSO received report of a deputy out at the location of a possible motor vehicle accident from the previous day.

-MCSO attempted numerous civil service contacts.

-MCSO received report from a Heppner woman that three dogs were just on her back porch.

-MCSO Deputy advised he was out with an injured deer on Hwy. 74.

-MCSO received report from a woman in Irrigon that her brother is at her

house and he was not supposed to be. She said he was on the side of the ceramics spot getting bike parts and she was inside.

-MCSO Deputy advised he was at a location on Hwy. 74 regarding a harassment call.

-MCSO received report of a vehicle parked several days in the back parking lot at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner.

-MCSO received report from an auto sales company that they had just repossessed a vehicle from a subject at a trailer park in Irrigon. They reported that the owner handed over the keys with no altercation.

-MCSO received several reports of speeding cars in Irrigon.

-MCSO received request from an Irrigon woman to speak to a deputy regarding the welfare of her granddaughter.

July 16: -Morrow County Sheriff's Office received information that Sunflower Flats and the 23 roads were closed due to fire in the area as per Forest Ranger.

-MCSO received report from an anonymous person that they believed that a dog was being neglected at an Irrigon address.

-MCSO received report of silly string in the bowl at the Irrigon Skate Park. A deputy was to take pictures, but was unable to locate it.

-MCSO attempted several civil service contacts.

-MCSO received report of a fire call at Clarks Canyon Rd./ Hwy. 207.

-MCSO assisted with several disabled vehicles.

-MCSO received report from an Irrigon woman who said that her son was walking down the street and when he passed a residence on Wyoming St., a group of

kids came out with pistols and called him names.

-MCSO received report of a possible drunk driver heading into Heppner from Hwy. 207/Clarks Canyon where the fire is.

-MCSO received report of a male outside his residence in Irrigon yelling obscenities regarding a possible shooting the previous week.

-MCSO received report that a highly intoxicated subject called 911 about subjects who fired a gun a couple days previously at an Irrigon trailer park.

-MCSO received report of subjects riding four-wheelers on property in Irrigon with no muffler.

-MCSO received report of two very intoxicated males yelling back and forth to each other in Boardman. The caller said there was also a child screaming.

July 17: -Morrow

County Sheriff's Office, Boardman Ambulance received report of a man lying on the I-84 freeway, Boardman. The caller said he did not see the man until it was too late to stop. A male was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

-MCSO received report from an Irrigon woman that her neighbors left three days earlier and no one came since to check on the dogs. She said there were dogs in the house as well. The call was unfounded.

-MCSO received report of an alarm at Windy River Elementary School in Boardman. It was a false alarm.

-MCSO Deputy advised of subjects who set off fireworks at the Irrigon Skate Park and then took off. The deputy gave the subjects a warning.

-MCSO, Heppner Ambulance received report of a motorcycle accident six miles north of Hardman with one person injured. MCSO and Heppner Ambulance responded and transported the subject to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

-MCSO received report from an Ione woman that she received a voicemail that said that there was legal action against her and she would be arrested at home or at work. She advised MCSO that she hadn't done anything. She said when she called the number back they hung up on her and then when she called back again, they said it was none of her business and hung up on her again.

-MCSO received report that the fire on Upper Rhea Creek had started up again. Heppner Fire Department and MCSO responded and determined there was no fire on Upper Rhea Creek or Clarks Canyon. The smoke was coming from the fire on Sunflower Flats in the mountains.

-MCSO advised subjects at the motel in Heppner that bikes cannot be parked on the sidewalk.

-MCSO received report of juveniles opening up power boxes at the Irrigon Skate Park. MCSO

responded, checked the area and determined that there was no damage.

-MCSO received request for an agency assist from Umatilla County Sheriff's Office to arrest Jack Dale Castator, 30, for probable cause for violation of restraining order. MCSO responded, but was unable to locate and detain for UCISO.

-MCSO received report of a vehicle driving over 100 mph, passing in an out of traffic on Hwy. 730, Irrigon.

-MCSO received report of a possible domestic dispute in Heppner. The male subject he would go somewhere else for the night.

-MCSO received report that an 80-year old man in Heppner wanted to drive to Spokane with his wife and was trying to get her in the vehicle, but she did not want to go. The man's son said he was in no condition to drive. MCSO and Heppner Ambulance responded and transported the woman, who had stomach pain, to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

-MCSO, Irrigon Ambulance received report of an 80-year-old man in Irrigon who had fallen over backwards and was unconscious. EMS responded, but the patient refused transport.

-Boardman Ambulance received report of a 26-year-old female with chest pain. She was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

-Boardman Fire Department received report of a fire north of the railroad tracks with active flames and smoke around a mile long.

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