

Search continues for new Heppner clinic doctor

Ione clinic closer to reality

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board learned at its regular meeting Monday night in Ione that the district has two potential physician candidates for the position vacated by Dr. Betsy Anderson when she leaves her position at Pioneer Memorial Clinic at the end of August.

One physician from Montana will be visiting Heppner this Friday, said Nicole Mahoney, MCHD Chief Financial Officer and acting CEO since the departure of former CEO Dan Grigg. The other is still in the process of turning in his paperwork, said Mahoney. Grigg took a position with a hospital in Burns.

The board also heard that an open house is planned for Sept. 3 at the Ione Community Clinic. Monday night the district approved a three-year contract with Eileen McElligott, a family nurse practitioner, to provide patient care services at the clinic five hours a week. Board member Aaron Palmquist, Irrigon, voiced concern that five hours may not be enough. Mahoney, however, replied that McElligott also works for Good Shepherd and has agreed to work in Ione on her day off. "If it (the Ione Clinic) explodes, we're going to have to do something else (to provide care at the clinic)," said Mahoney.



The Morrow County Health District Board hosted Good Shepherd executives Dennis Burke (left) and Jim Schlenker at its regular meeting in Ione Monday. —Photo by April Sykes

The board also learned that the district has hired Cydney McElligott as the Ione Clinic Site Coordinator/Receptionist.

Mahoney said that construction of the Ione clinic is on schedule and she and staff have been working on "finalization of policies, provider contracting and credentialing, Rural Health Clinic Medicare designation and survey, final purchasing of supplies and then move-in."

The board also learned that the sewer system at Pioneer Memorial Hospital is having problems with the four-inch sewer lines

from the building which feed to the main sewer often becoming blocked and previously requiring cleaning with a traditional cable machine every two weeks.

Arne's Sewer and Drain Cleaning conducted an inspection and subsequently cleared the lines with a "hydro jetter" and then cut and extracted roots impeding the flow. According to their report, they discovered "only one fracture in the 6-inch collector line, which was still in place and had not caused a line failure near the large tree before the drop into the parking lot." Arne's Sewer

Get ready for a Ruckus this weekend

The Ruckus in the Boonies Music Festival is back for a second year this Saturday, with event supporters hopeful the 2015 event will exceed last year's smashing success.

"We had a successful festival last year and are planning on making it bigger and better in 2015," says Aaron "Dogbite" Harris, the heart and soul behind the festival's creation.

This year's festival will take place this Saturday, Aug. 1, from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. behind Bucknum's Tavern in Heppner. The event will feature two stages and more



Heppner is gearing up for a real ruckus this weekend with the second annual Ruckus in the Boonies. —Contributed photo
—See RUCKUS IN THE BOONIES/PAGE THREE

Albert Einstein coming to Ione

The late Albert Einstein will be appearing "live and in person" in Ione on Wednesday, Aug. 4, and the public is invited to attend.

Nationally-acclaimed Broadway and film veteran Duffy Hudson of Hollywood, CA will bring Albert Einstein to life in a unique one-man show to be presented free to the community.

"The Relativity of Albert Einstein" will be held at 2 p.m. that day at the Ione Community Church, 395 E. Main St. The lively, one-hour program is suitable for elementary age students through adults.

Imagine Albert Einstein explaining the Theory of Relativity in a fun and exciting way, without any required knowledge of mathematics or physics.

The show covers elements of Einstein's life and humor, the speed of light, time travel, gravity and space-time, and what is E=MC2 anyway? This show is intended to excite students and adults alike to look at the mechanics of the universe with new eyes.

Hudson will be available answer questions afterward on his role as an actor and the years of effort to perfect the Einstein presentation. He has presented at conferences and public places throughout the U.S.

The program is hosted by the Ione Public Library as part of a regional tour sponsored by Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO). For further information, please contact the library, LEO at leolibraries@gmail.com, or see www.duffyhudson.com.

Paving to begin on Gilmore

Morrow County will undertake street improvements related to the construction of the new administrative building in Heppner Aug. 17 through Aug. 20.

The county will be paving Gilmore St., which runs behind the courthouse, from Morrow St. to Hager St., as well as August and Cannon streets.

No local traffic or street parking will be allowed in the area between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. during construction.

The completed project will not impact residents' current access or parking.

Affected residents will be given additional information closer to the project date.

"The city and county appreciate our citizens' cooperation during this inconvenient time," says Heppner City Manager Kim Cutsforth.

For additional information, contact the City of Heppner, 541-676-9618.

Notes from the Hardman Community Center



Bob Allen and Aaron Smythe pull nails in knee-deep sawdust. —Contributed photo

On July 26, the members of Hardman Community Center held a work day on the dining room. Participating were Bob Allen,

Rick McDaniel, Dick Paris, Sam Martin, Aaron Smythe and Claudia Smythe. Sylvia Allen and her daughter-in-law prepared lunch for everyone. Later in the day, the board of directors signed off on the updated bylaws.

The office upstairs was cleaned out and sorted, and some headway was made on the upstairs proper, also. The dining area was cleared for work, and McDaniel and Aaron Smythe finished the hand work on the wainscoting while Paris, Allen and Martin took apart the lower half of the north wall.

The original south wall of the building lay underneath and was too warped to lay wainscoting over, so it was torn off. The building was insulated with sawdust up to the second-floor header, so McDaniel and Martin filled all the big garbage cans full, and McDaniel and Claudia Smythe hauled at least five pick-up loads to a disposal area. And everyone pulled nails.

Lots of nails! During the years the south wall was exposed, every time a board had come loose, someone apparently added a nail to tack it down. It took about six hours total for the crew to get everything done.

However, the HCC crew is now ready for the next step. They way they

—See HARDMAN COMMUNITY/PAGE TWO

Bird flu restricts poultry entries at fair



Avian Influenza, or bird flu, has been prevalent among local waterfowl, but fenced bird areas can help keep poultry flocks safe from contamination. —Photo courtesy of USDA/APHIS

Due to the recent outbreak of Avian Influenza, stipulations have been placed on what poultry can be entered and shown during the Morrow County Fair this year.

All viruses can infect chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese and guinea fowl, among others. Bird flu has been prevalent in wild waterfowl this year, so only non-comingled poultry—a chicken that is only housed with other chickens, for example—will be allowed to enter the fair. Owners enter their poultry at their own risk.

Poultry that are housed or have had contact with any waterfowl will not be allowed at the 2015 Morrow County Fair. No waterfowl or waterfowl eggs will be allowed.

Sign up now for free youth pheasant hunts in September

SALEM, Ore.—Registration is now open for ODFW's free pheasant hunts for youth (age 17 and under) happening around the state in September. Locally, a hunt will take place Sept. 26 and Sept. 27 at Irrigon Wildlife Area. Register online, at a license sales agent or at an ODFW office that sells licenses.

stock pheasants at these special hunts; quail and dove may also be hunted. Volunteers often bring their trained hunting dogs to hunt with participants. Some events also begin with a shotgun skills clinic, so participants can practice clay target shooting before hunting.

These events are only open to youth who have

passed hunter education. (ODFW has many hunter education classes and field days available before the events.) An adult 21 years of age or older must accompany the youth to supervise but may not hunt.

"If your child made it through hunter education but is still new to the sport, —See YOUTH PHEASANT HUNTS/PAGE THREE

NURSERY CLEARANCE SALE!
ALL SHRUBS, PERENNIALS & TREES
NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY!

SAVE BIG - 30% OFF

Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.megg.net