

# Pregnancy center celebrates start of third year

## Dinner planned Nov. 13



Birthright Board members Janet Greenup and Marge Rolen in the Heppner Birthright's counseling room, a place for expectant mothers to find help, information and compassion.

-Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

**By Andrea Di Salvo**

One Heppner organization will be celebrating a special birthday next month. Birthright of Morrow County, which opened its doors Nov. 3, 2020, will celebrate its second anniversary with a special dinner Sunday, Nov. 13, at 4:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church parish hall. Birthright of Morrow County started as an idea more than two years ago. The idea was to have a place in south Morrow County where women facing unplanned pregnancies could go for help and support.

"There is a definite need in this area because, with our culture, pregnancy is not popular with younger people," says Birthright board member Janet Greenup. "The terminology has changed."

Birthright isn't a medical facility, and there are no paid salaries. Rather, the "friend-volunteers," as they refer to themselves, are trained to offer confidential information, free pregnancy testing and ongoing assistance as requested by clients. For the last two years, they have managed this with four two-hour shifts staffed by eight friend-volunteers every week, as well as a three-person board.

"We are here as friendships in the community to represent people who care," says Rolen.

Volunteers have helped administer several pregnancy tests and shared information with community members who wanted help to persons they knew who were experiencing unplanned pregnancies.

Though the organization is openly pro-life, board member Marge Rolen says they aren't there to push anyone into a decision.

"It's non-judgmental," Rolen says. "We don't push anything. We don't tell them what to do. It's the mother's decision," she adds, saying that their goal is to take a lot of the stress and pressure away from the situation. "People need information. There's just a lot of confusion."

When asked if she every thought Birthright would make it two years, Rolen at first hesitated. "Maybe? Yes," she added. "Yes, because we had so many good people."

Original volunteers and substitutes were Jean Creswick, Julia Finch, Tayllor Brannon, Marge Rolen, Maryann Elguezabal, Anna McElligott, Sandra Johnson and Laurie Wood. Over

time, the pregnancy care center has lost and gained volunteers, but has continued to reach out through community celebrations, parades, Morrow County Fair, and other gatherings and open houses at its office at 128 West Willow Street in Heppner.

In an effort to further reach out to the community, Birthright of Morrow County will introduce the Mom Connection next month. The program will offer newly pregnant girls and women and new moms a time to share and learn from one another. The first meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 17, followed by a second meeting on Dec. 15. The meetings will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Birthright location, 128 West Willow Street. They say they hope to continue the Mom Connection throughout 2023.

The organization will also have a diaper donation drive and giveaway during December in anticipation of the needs of families for Christmas. Those who wish to donate may bring donations to the Birthright office or ask a volunteer to bring them. Families needing baby supplies are asked to pick up diapers in December during Birthright office hours: Mondays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursdays 5-7 p.m. or Saturdays 1-3 p.m.

## Burn ban lifted for the City of Heppner

The City of Heppner Fire Chief has lifted the city-wide burn ban effective last Saturday, Oct. 22. Residents are reminded to purchase a burn permit from Heppner City Hall and remember to call the sheriff's office at 541-676-5317 before burning. Burn permits are \$5 and are good through the winter and spring fire months up until the next fire season.

Residents can also request the fire department to burn natural vegetation and debris piles. A signup list is available at Heppner City Hall or by calling Heppner Fire Chief Steve Rhea at 541-980-4232 or assistant fire chief Eric Chick at 541-701-4910. It is illegal to burn petroleum products at any time.

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They also hope to find a bilingual director willing to operate an office in Boardman.

Volunteers say the dinner on Nov. 13 will be both a celebration of the past two years and a fundraiser to help keep Birthright's doors open. Jerry Conklin, Morrow County Health District Hospice Chaplain, will be the main speaker. Stuart Dick will be moderator for the evening. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. Tickets are available at the Birthright office, at the Heppner Gazette-Times, or at Murray's Drug, or by calling 541-676-0530.

Aside from financial support, Birthright also asks that people consider volunteering, even if only a few hours a week.

"Families are really struggling," Rolen says. "Information is needed to support them."

"We are here, and we are ready to help with any questions, any information," Greenup adds. "All of the recent things that have been happening lately just make you realize how precious life is."



Welcome to Our Team

## Spread the News!

Morrow County Health District is pleased to welcome Dr. Lary Stieglitz, MD to Boardman Immediate Care! Dr. Stieglitz has been practicing medicine for over 35 years in various settings, including the United States Air Force and VA.

Learn more about Dr. Stieglitz and why he enjoys rural healthcare at HealthyMC.org.



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Do you graze your livestock?  
Crop insurance can help Protect your Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF).  
PRF is an area-based plan that covers for lack of normal rainfall.  
Sales closing is just around the corner, December 1st.  
For questions or quotes, contact Stacie at Wheatland Insurance, 541.422.7410.

## Heppner FFA holds apple sale

The Heppner FFA chapter is again selling apples and pears by the box. The fruit is fresh from Thomas Orchards in Kimberly and is available in 20- and 40-pound boxes of all varieties, though the supply of Jonagold apples is limited. Box prices are \$30 and \$55.

The fall fruit sale is one of the Heppner FFA

chapter's main fundraisers for the year. Funds raised are used for everything from chapter fun events like hockey games in the Tri-Cities to helping cover the registration cost for members to go to the state FFA convention in March.

With questions or to place an order, email advisor Beth Dickenson at dickene@morrow.k12.or.us or reach out to any ag student.

## Neighborhood Center bag sale planned

### Canned food drive Nov. 7

The Neighborhood Center is having its monthly bag sale on Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at 441 N Main Street, Heppner.

Cost of the first bag is \$15, with the second bag at a discounted price of \$5, for any clothing, shoes, books, games, music and movies that will fit in the bag. All other household merchandise is 50 percent off this day only. Proceeds from the sale help fund the food pantry and other emergency assistance programs.

The Neighborhood Center canned food drive will be on Monday, Nov. 7, at 5:30 p.m. Heppner and Lexington residents are asked to have their donation of canned goods left on their porches with the porch light on to alert the Heppner High School students to stop by and pick up the donation.

Finally, need a little

extra help from Santa this year? The Neighborhood Center Giving Tree program helps families in financial crisis provide Christmas for their children. If anyone has children who would benefit from winter clothing items or would otherwise go without a present this holiday season, they are invited to sign them up for the Christmas Giving Tree. Participation is limited to families who live in South Morrow County and receive food boxes from the center. Community members select a tag from the tree and bring the unwrapped presents to the center to be given to the parents.

Stop by the Neighborhood Center to pick up an application. Deadline to apply for the program is Wednesday, Nov. 16. The Giving Tree will go on display at Heppner Market Fresh on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

## FREE HALLOWEEN EVENT

**Heppner Trunk-or-Treat outside & Halloween Activities inside**  
**Where: Corner of Church & Gale Street - Hopeful Saints Ministry**  
**When: Halloween Night from 5:30 to 7:30pm**  
**Serving: Hot Dogs w/ Chili, Warm Cocoa, Cider and Hot Coffee.**  
**All are welcome to join us for a free Spooktacular evening!**  
**Funded by MCURD.**

## COLUMBIA BASIN ELECTRIC

### ANNUAL MEETING and LUNCHEON

Thursday, November 3, 2022

American Legion Hall - Ione, OR

Registration 11:15 a.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.

Meeting to Follow - Door Prizes

Free to all members in our service territory