

Big Valley votes

from front page

a pilot program in California allowing paramedics to make calls to homes serving as a Home Health component.

This would be especially useful in Big Valley where there is no home health care available. Eric Rudnick, MD, Medical Director for Nor Cal EMS said one thing patients would be able to undergo at home would be

IV therapy of antibiotics. With no home health this is currently not an option. The paramedics would also be able to do wellness checks on patients recently released from the hospital. When the District and Tax pass this is one of the recommendations the Working Group will make to the Board.

Questions from the community members started

with "Why will the ambulance be housed in Adin?"

The answer: Adin is the exact center of the historical district for the Big Valley Ambulance. The property that has been donated for the Ambulance Station is in Adin. The Station being located in Modoc County puts it in a unique position to apply for more grants.

"How do we know you will be able to operate in the black?"

Both hospitals have stated they would lose between \$138,000-150,00 operating an ambulance in Big Valley. The proposed tax will bring in approximately \$220,000. This should cover the gap between the cost of running the service and reimbursement for services rendered, also allowing for replacement of equipment and supplies.

"How do we know the money collected for this tax will go to this service?"

There will be a Board made up of five citizens living within the District. They are accountable to the taxpayers and voters. This Board will administer the funds collected by the two Counties involved. The District is subject to an annual audit. The Board members are unpaid volunteers. Jean Ludwigsen, Kathy Peterson, Gordon Campbell, Clinton Davis and Bob Fisher will make up the first Board.

"Why will some people not pay at all (renters) and others are paying more?"

This tax has been structured to charge each unique parcel owner \$65 per parcel with a cap of two or \$130. If someone has parcels in both counties this does not change. There is a cap of two for each unique parcel owner. People who rent will no doubt have the charge passed on through an increase of their rent. Davis mentioned his landlord has already told him to expect an increase of \$10 per month, making his contribution \$120. A tax to occupied dwellings only would result in a much higher tax per dwelling.

There was also some discussion of how the other entities represented on the panel could help each other and the new District. Williams said he buys 25 ambulances at a time. If he buys 26 and one comes to Big Valley it doesn't make that much of a difference to him. The Southern Cascade Community Service District would benefit tremendously with a lower price paid for that ambulance. SEMSA is willing to help with education and billing as well. Mayers Memorial Hospital is willing to help with discounted supplies. Ward stated the price they pay for 300 of something is much lower than the District would be charged for 20 of the same item.

Norman Hawkins, local resident, summed it up with his statement of "I just sleep better with an ambulance in the Valley."

Bike

from front page

telling herself if she could make it to Romania, she could make it to Australia. When she reached Australia, she set her sights on Japan, then Asia, then the Americas.

"I like being away from it all. It needs to be quiet and peaceful, a campfire, nature, looking up at a night sky filled with millions of stars, a bite to eat, a nice person to talk to, my bike, my tent and the adventures ahead of me," explained Heike.

Exploring the planet became an addiction to Heike. Her schedule is open ended.

"When I tire of pedaling, I stop. It might be an extra special nice spot or a tough spot. I may get discouraged when I'm traveling through a country where I can't make myself understood or even read the highway signs."

Heike speaks both German and English and relies on hand gestures to communicate in countries where no one understands either language.

At times she will search out someone who is fluent in either language and the language of the country she is traveling through. She asks them to write an explanatory letter in their native language, explaining what she is doing and asks if she can pitch her tent on their property overnight. Most times permission is given, then she is invited in for a meal and to get to know the family.

"I am learning about the customs in each country I visit. I see my own country differently now. Each country seems to do something special that makes me wonder why we don't do it the same way."

While traveling in an Islamic country Heike realized that Muslim women were not allowed to ride bicycles. Many of the Muslim men assumed she was a man. To avoid conflict, she didn't argue, however most of the women knew and practically idolized her for her courage.

In Dec. 2015, Heike landed in Los Angeles. She bicycled across Calif., around different parts of Arizona, into Mexico, (so she could renew her US visa), then through Utah and across northern Nevada.

A few weeks ago several Surprise Valley residents saw a lone cyclist coming into Cedarville from Vya. While at the market she met Amy Beller. After learning a bit about Heike, Beller invited her for supper, gave her the use of a washing machine, a warm shower and to spend the night indoors. The next day, after enjoying a lunch and conversation at the Senior Center, Heike set off for Oregon over Fandango Pass. Her visa expired on March 26 and she had to be in Canada by that date. After Canada will be Alaska, then she will decide what direction to go.

"Sometimes I get discouraged and I want to give up, but then someone will drive by and offer me an ice cream, and then things start looking better again."

Heike summarizes the most compelling piece of wisdom she has learned in her travels, "I have learned how beautiful and safe the world is. There are wonderful people all over. Even in the poorest places the families have shared their food and their homes. We have been taught to fear and it's sad. The white people warn me about the Indians. The Indians warn me about the Mexicans. The Mexicans warn me about certain whites. But they've all been nice to me, a solo woman on a bicycle. I've come to learn that there is no reason to be scared. Everyone just wants to live in peace and harmony."

Heike has a blog with photos she's taken of her travels, the people she's met and the adventures she's had. Her blog is rated in the top 50 travel blogs in the bicycling world. To see the exciting adventures and magnificent places she's been, go to www.pushbikegirl.com. Click on the photo "New Blog" then choose English, unless you want to read it in German. Heike has created a beautiful photo story of her travels through Nevada, Surprise Valley, Oregon and Washington.

Heading north out of Cedarville, pedal by pedal, mile by mile, Heike continues learning about the world in a way most would never dream of doing.

Once it was just a schoolgirl's dream, but she decided to hold onto that dream, now it's become reality. She's living it.

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