

Gresham hospital denied replacement facility

Richard H. Grant, director of the State Health Planning and Development Agency, announced last week that he has denied the \$46,969,086 request to construct a 113-bed replacement facility for Gresham Community Hospital.

He also announced today that he has approved the \$24 million request for expansion of Sunnyside Medical Center in Clackamas.

Grant commented, "I recently denied two Portland area hospitals' applications for bed expansion because of no demonstrated need, and it may seem inconsistent that I am now approving this application."

"However, under federal and state law, Health Maintenance Organizations, (which Kaiser is) must be reviewed under different, more liberal preferential standards. It is believed that HMO's provide a competitive force within the health care system that serves to contain health care costs. Under these special standards, the Kaiser application was

considered necessary."

In denying the Gresham request, Grant stated "My first concern was the lack of demonstrable need to replace the hospital. It is a minority provider of services to the entire service area, although undoubtedly is the primary provider to the immediate Gresham population."

"Nevertheless there are significant numbers of unfilled beds in nearby hospitals, in fact, there are over six times as many unfilled beds available as Gresham Community Hospital now uses to care for its patients, and all within an acceptable travel time, distance and cost."

Grant went on to say, "Apart from the question of need, I was very much concerned with the project's expense, and the effect such an expense would have on society as a whole."

"While the construction project expense would be approximately \$20 million, that whole amount was to be borrowed, and the

applicant projected interest expense to be almost \$27 million in addition. At a combined total expense of some \$47 million it just was not an economic, nor cost justified project."

Grant explained that every time a hospital expends money to replace plant or equipment, and has to increase its charges to cover the expense, society, as a whole in Oregon, feels the effects either through increased insurance premiums, increases in state and federal taxes to pay for welfare and medicare beneficiaries, or through increased subsidies for those patients whose bills are either not paid at all, or are not paid in full.

He referred to a report recently prepared by his agency which estimates that approximately 25 percent of every paying patient's hospital bill (over \$100 per day) actually goes to subsidize government paid patients, bad debts, and bills not paid in full.

Referring to the state's construction and

operational standards for hospital licensure Grant added "While there are some deficiencies with the present Gresham Community Hospital plant and equipment, and some concerns on the hospital administration's part over accessibility, the deficiencies are not serious enough to cause closure, and are correctable at a far more reasonable price than \$47 million, which then becomes a high price to pay for marginally improved accessibility."

Northwest Oregon Health Systems, Inc., Portland, (the regional planning body) recommended approval of the Clackamas hospital's request. It had also approved Gresham's.

Under the state certificate of need law, health care facilities must obtain state approval before developing new health services, making major expansions or capital expenditures. The purpose of the law is to see that health services are adequately distributed around the state.

Some Christmas bonuses must be claimed in taxes

If you got an award or bonus during 1980 for outstanding work, you should include them as income on your 1980 Federal Income Tax Return, according to Ralph B. Short, director of the Internal Revenue Service in Oregon.

Examples of taxable income are incentive awards, Christmas bonuses and prizes, such as all-expense paid vacations awarded for attainment of sales goals. If the prize or award is in the form of goods or services, its fair market value is the amount the taxpayer must include as income, Short said. However, if the employer chooses to pay the bonus or award at a future time, it is not taxable until made available to the taxpayer.

If an employer distributes turkeys, hams or other items of nominal worth at Christmas or other holiday times, the value of these gifts is not taxable.

However, if the employer distributes cash, gift certificates or similar items that may be easily exchanged for cash, the value of the gifts is taxable.

Further information is available in the IRS publication, "Taxable and Non-taxable Income," which may be obtained by using the order form in the tax package. The free publication may also be ordered by calling the Tax Forms-Information number listed in the telephone directory for Internal Revenue Service. It is publication 525.

Hoodland churches set Inauguration Day rites

Four Hoodland churches are taking part in a nationwide prayer effort on Inauguration Day, according to Paul Gross, pastor of the Hoodland Lutheran Church.

"On Jan. 20, when the new president takes the oath of office, there will be a projected one million prayer meetings across the nation taking place in office buildings, schools, and homes," Gross said.

The local effort will be a prayer breakfast, to be held at 7 a.m. in St. John's Catholic Church near Zigzag. Coffee and doughnuts will be served, and leaders, laypersons as well as clergy, from the four Hoodland-area churches, will take part.

The project is jointly sponsored by Hoodland Lutheran Church, Mt. Hood Evangelical Free Church, Hoodland Bible Temple and Chapel of the Hills.

Gross said the group will pray together for good government and specifically for the elected officials, both federal and state. He estimated the meeting would last an hour.

Gross said the pastors "are encouraging lay persons to turn out for the breakfast," but that they will also hand out small flyers throughout the day in Hoodland Plaza shopping center.

The church is located ¼ mile west of Zigzag, just off Highway 26 on Woodsey Way.

Volunteers needed for rape assistance program

The Clackamas County Rape Victim Advocate Program is seeking women volunteers to assist victims of rape and sexual assault.

The program, which has been in existence for nearly five years, requires a six month commitment from its volunteers.

Advocates provide support to victims of rape, working with the police agencies of Clackamas County. Volunteers meet the victim as soon as possible after the attack is reported and provide assistance and moral support through police interviews and a medical exam.

Advocates are expected to provide follow-up services and attend any pre-trial or trial sessions related to her victim's case.

Rape Victim Advocates are required to sign up for one 24-hour shift during each

month and attend one monthly training session. Prospective volunteers should understand that, if a call is received during the 24-hour shift, there will be more hours of follow-up work on that case during the month. Because of the unscheduled duties required by follow-up work, each volunteer should evaluate her time commitment prior to applying to the Rape Advocate Program, according to Roi Hokinson, program coordinator.

The women who are accepted will be given eight training sessions, which will prepare her for Advocate duties. Those sessions include training on rape, Advocate duties, police investigation, hospital procedure, the judicial system and crisis intervention. Classes are expected to begin Feb. 16.

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