

Good Shepherd reverts to limited visitation

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston again limited visitation to protect against the continued spread of the COVID-19 infection.

Good Shepherd in a press release Friday, Jan. 14, announced the change went into effect immediately in particular due to the omicron variant — which is more contagious than previous variants.

The visitor restriction is in accordance with the recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and other health authorities, according to the press release.

Good Shepherd is prohibiting visitation for patients admitted to the hospital or the Emergency Department but may allow one visitor per day for:

- Children admitted to the hospital:
- One parent/guardian of

children admitted may stay with the minor child 24/7.

- No infant/child patient under 5 years of age shall be left unattended.

Patients receiving end-of-life or palliative care.

Other special circumstances, as needed:

- Special circumstances may be determined by the nurse manager, nursing supervisor, or vice president of nursing.
- Special circumstances shall be communicated to Patient Financial Services for access privileges and documented in the patient's chart

• Maternity patients may have one visitor with them through labor, delivery and the initial postpartum recovery time. This visitor may not depart the hospital during the duration of the patient's hospitalization. If they depart, they may not return. Additional precautions may apply for the care of newborns.

Patients also may qualify for additional support persons

pursuant to policy, "Disabled Patients Right to Designate Support Persons."

If visitors have been approved due to a circumstance as outlined above, visitors must adhere to the following requirements:

- Visitors will be screened about their health before they can enter the hospital and will be required to wear a mask.
- The designated visitor must be age 16 or older and healthy (no cold or flu-like symptoms and no fever).
- Visitors must follow safety guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19, including washing their hands, limiting the surfaces they touch and using any personal protective equipment required by the hospital.
- Visitors must remain in the patient's room except during certain care procedures.

For all other services including but not limited to surgical services, diagnostic imaging, laboratory, speech therapy, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, treatment center

and cancer center, one parent/guardian may accompany a minor patient. All clinics within Good Shepherd Medical Group will allow one escort for adult patients (18 and older) and two escorts for minors (under 18).

For up-to-date GSHCS information, visit the GSHCS Facebook page or www.gshealth.org/coronavirus. A complete copy of Good Shepherd's current visitation policy is available here: bit.ly/33CtNcC.

For general COVID-19 questions, community members can call the OHA hotline by dialing 211 from a cellphone (not a landline). If a community member believes they have been infected by COVID-19 or are exhibiting symptoms, such as fever or respiratory illness (cough or shortness of breath), they should call their primary care physician's office and/or Umatilla County Public Health at 541-278-5432. For medical emergencies, dial 911.

Lawsuit against Good Shepherd seeks more than \$4.6 million

Plaintiff alleges surgical error and failure to dismiss doctor

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — A medical malpractice lawsuit against Good Shepherd Healthcare System and a doctor seeks more than \$4.6 million.

Kimberly A. Helms of Ione is bringing the lawsuit, which claims negligence on the part of Dr. Andrew John Haputa as well as "vicarious liability" by Good Shepherd. Attorney Kelly L. Andersen of Medford filed the complaint Jan. 10 in Umatilla County Circuit Court.

According to the document, Helms received gallbladder surgery from Haputa on April 3, 2021, and during the surgery Haputa cut her common bile duct and her right hepatic artery.

"Not realizing his mistakes, he then compounded his errors by using surgical clips to clamp the common bile duct and the hepatic artery," the complaint states.

The lawsuit also accuses Haputa of several acts of negligence, including performing a surgery beyond his abilities, not obtaining a "critical view" during the surgery of key organs, not taking photographs during surgery to help identify and locate the key organs and "failing to

discontinue the surgery rather than cutting what he could not see."

Helms in the complaint claims she has suffered an extended hospitalization and corrective surgery because of injuries resulting from the surgery, in addition to pain that limits her "normal and usual activities."

She seeks the \$4.6 million to cover the loss of physical abilities, medical bills, impairment of past and future earning capacity.

The lawsuit further claims Good Shepherd is negligent in retaining Haputa. It states that six months after being hired, police arrested the doctor at Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, for driving under the influence of intoxicants, as well as for third-degree assault, reckless endangering and reckless driving. He pleaded guilty to the DUI charge and the state dismissed the other charges. He was sentenced to jail and the suspension of his driver's license.

"Haputa's arrest at Good Shepherd and his resulting criminal conviction were warnings to Good Shepherd that Haputa posed a danger to Good Shepherd patients. Good Shepherd was negligent in retaining Haputa after those events," the document states.

The lawsuit added the Oregon Medical Board on Oct. 7, 2020, publicly reprimanded Haputa.

Good Shepherd has not yet responded to a request for comment.

County considers \$600K bid award for bridge

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A Walla Walla company is the low bidder in Umatilla County's project to install a new bridge across the Walla Walla River.

The county sought bids to install the crossing by the South Fork Walla Walla River Road and received seven bids. The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners plans to award the contract when it meets Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 9 a.m. at the county courthouse, 216 S.E. Fourth St. in room 120.

The highest bid came in at almost \$1.1 million, and three came in at below \$650,000, according to county documents. The lowest bid was

\$600,397.50 from Harry Johnson Plumbing & Excavation Inc. of Walla Walla.

The low bid includes \$27,600 for bridge removal and \$39,000 for the installation of a prefabricated steel bridge.

The bid from Harry Johnson also listed three subcontractors for the project: Jensen Drilling Co., of Eugene, for \$197,050 for foundation work; Coral Construction Co. Inc., of Wilsonville, for \$39,999 for guardrail work; and Central Washington Asphalt, of Moses Lake, Washington, for \$55,500 for paving.

The board also will consider a request from Umatilla County Community Justice for the creation of two

new specialists in the county's CARE program to serve the Justice Reinvestment Program Grant.

The CARE Program supports families with at-risk children. The focus of CARE is prevention. The Justice Reinvestment Program is an effort from the state to provide counties with funds for crime prevention and treatment services with the goal of cutting down on Oregon's prison growth.

Umatilla County Justice and the county CARE program have entered into an agreement for services related to the grant program. According to county documents, Umatilla County's

Justice Reinvestment funding for the 2021-23 biennium is \$342,000.

Under the deal, the CARE program will provide two specialists to work with the county's corrections clients to help with their needs.

The county board also plans to approve a payment of \$22,600 to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, Hermiston, for renting bleachers for the 2021 county fair and for parking management for the 2019 and 2021 fairs.

To see the full meeting agenda, visit www.co.umatilla.or.us and under "Departments," follow the link to the board of commissioners' agenda.

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2021 COMMERCIAL RECYCLER of the Year

DOLLAR TREE



At the end of each year the employees of Pendleton Sanitary Service, Inc. (PSSI) nominate several commercial businesses or institutions for the Commercial Recycler of the Year award. The winning recipient is also determined by a vote of PSSI employees. This award is given to a commercial recycler that does an outstanding job in recycling or has made significant improvements in their recycling efforts over the past year.

The employees of Pendleton Sanitary Service voted unanimously and selected the Dollar Tree as Pendleton's Commercial Recycler of the Year for 2021.

The Dollar Tree began recycling cardboard in 2014. Since that time, the Dollar Tree has continued to be a community leader in recycling efforts. In 2021, the Dollar Tree recycled over 36 tons of cardboard! They have also recycled plastic wrap/film in the past and PSSI would encourage them to reinstate as a part of their future recycling plans.

The Dollar Tree has consistently worked with PSSI and does an excellent job of recycling. They maintain consistent good quality material to simplify our process and minimize the amount of waste going to the landfill.

Pendleton Sanitary Service would like to congratulate and thank the Dollar Tree and their employees for their outstanding efforts in recycling!



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Compost!