

Wheat seminar here April 2

Morrow County Wheat Growers are invited to a Wheat seminar on Monday, April 2, 10:00 a.m., at Beecher's Cafe in Ione.

The program, sponsored by Oregon State University Extension Service, will feature talks on fertilizing wheat,

grain drying, registration of chemicals and how wheat is priced by U.S. grades and markets.

Speakers include: From Oregon State University Extension Specialist staff, Dr.

Hugh Gardner, soil specialist; Walt Matson, Ag Engineer,

and Dr. Norm Goetze, extension agronomist. Tom Thompson from the Oregon Wheat League (retired extension agent), will speak on Chemical Regulations.

A no host lunch will be served at noon, and the program will end about 3:00 p.m.

Management offers considered by Pioneer Hospital Board

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largest hospital supply purchasing group in the nation, which should provide savings in materials, and has a system-wide insurance program, which could provide a savings in malpractice insurance.

A representative of the firm emphasized that although Northwest is affiliated with the Seventh Day Adventist faith, "our goal is not to establish religion."

The firm seeks \$30,000 per year base rate, plus an

inflationary clause to keep up with rising medical costs.

Next to address the board was Jim Larson of A.E. Brim and Associates of Portland. Brim offered two proposals, one for a consulting service package and one for a

management package. The consulting package would include physician recruitment, management training and human resources training for the hospital staff, the availability to develop a long range plan, and consult on other matters, such as renewing the hospital's certificate of need, which expires in May.

Under the management proposal, Brim and Associates would handle the day-to-day management of the hospital under the direction of the board of trustees. Brim representatives indicated that they would prefer to continue to use the services of current administrator Bob Byrnes, placing Byrnes on their payroll, although the board would have final say on whether Byrnes would be retained.

The Brim representatives stated that most of Pioneer Memorial's current woes, caused by poor patient load "relate directly to fluctuations in the medical staff." The representatives commend Byrnes major improvements in the hospital's record keeping and financial statements.

Brim and Associates seek a three-year agreement for the management package, seeking five per cent of the hospital's gross posted income, or a minimum of \$35,000 plus \$250 per month in expenses, whichever is highest. The consulting package carries a \$29,000 price tag.

Making the final presentation to the board was Tom Mack of Central Oregon Hospitals, Inc., the firm operating hospitals in Prineville and Redmond.

Mack said Central Oregon Hospitals allows member facilities "to remain autonomous," while using the system's shared services. Mack's firm seeks a three-year contract, which includes a 90-day cancellation clause, which could be initiated by either party. Central Oregon Hospitals "would be totally responsible to the board of Pioneer Memorial," Mack said.

No major shakeup in staffing would be likely to occur should Central Oregon Hospitals receive a contract for Pioneer Memorial, Mack said, indicating he would prefer to retain Byrnes as administrator, as well as the existing department heads. "We have a lot of qualified people in rural hospitals," he said. "We like to develop the existing people."

Services provided by Central Oregon Hospitals would include short and long term planning, writing grant applications, the use of a nursing coordinator to handle training programs and recruitment, the services of a financial officer, group purchasing through Portland's Metropolitan Hospitals chain, and a centralized labor pool.

Cost for the management package would be \$3,950 per month or \$47,400 per year. Physician recruitment would cost \$3,500 per doctor, to be handled through the Metropolitan Hospitals group, which would also provide continuing education and medical library services at no further charge.

Written proposals were received from Hyatt Medical Management Corp., operators of Polk Community Hospital, for a consulting package to cost \$70,000 per year, and from The Dalles General Hospital to provide consulting at two and a half times the specialist's regular hourly wage.

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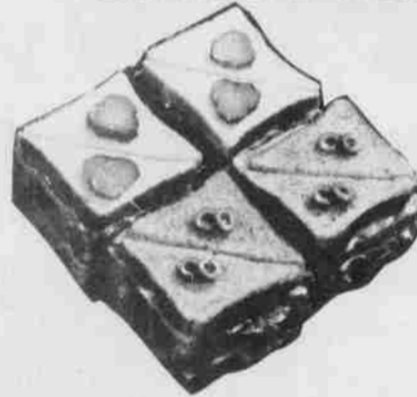
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