

HEPPNER



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Health district still losing money; USDA loan prospects positive

Morrow County Health District CEO Victor Vander Does, at the MCHD regular meeting August 28, cautioned the board that they might have to make some "hard decisions" in the coming months. Vander Does, referring to the district's financial situation, did not specify what or if any action will be taken. While the district's financial situation has improved dramatically since Vander Does came on board, it is still showing losses of around \$50,000 a month.

July's financials show a loss of \$57,104.

"It's not going to get better," said Vander Does. "It's just going to get worse. You're going to have to try some courageous and different things."

"I'd be surprised if things don't pick up," said Larry Mills, MCHD chairman.

Vander Does, however, also had some good news. He said that the chances that the district be approved for a USDA loan have greatly improved. He said that a project on the coast, which would have had priority over MCHD's project, had fallen through.

Vander Does said that the USDA guaranteed loan, which is a loan obtained through a bank at a very low interest rate and guaranteed by USDA, would be used to roll-over the district's higher interest loans, including loans from the Bank of Eastern Oregon. According to Mills, the BEO may also agree to loan the district money through the USDA program.

The monies would also be used for the proposed remodeling project at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Also at the meeting, the board heard a report concerning problems with the billing services contracted with Good

Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. According to Nicole Mahoney, MCHD administrative offices, Good Shepherd is behind in financial reports, as well as billing of private pay clients and insurance companies. Board president Larry Mills expressed the need to rectify the situation because of the district's financial problems. "We're out of cash flow, which we desperately need," commented Mills. Mahoney, who expressed frustration with the situation, said, "The district has \$150,000 in the bank to last until November. If we have to use it for payroll, that's \$90,000."

The district received a report that the district's audit will not be done until October 15.

In other business, the board approved an ambulance bid for \$90,068 to Lifeline to be funded through CSEPP funds.

discussed a contract with

Bob Smith, NRA support Smith

The National Rifle Association has announced its endorsement of Greg Smith for the Oregon House of Representatives for District 59.

"On behalf of the members of the National Rifle Association in Oregon House District 59, we are pleased to announce your "A" rating and endorsement for the November 2000 General Election," said Tara Reilly Mica, deputy director, NRA-ILA State and Local Affairs.

"I appreciate the support of the N.R.A. Preserving our constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms is a high priority of my campaign," said Smith.

Smith is on record opposing firearm registration and mandatory background checks for law-abiding citizens. "I believe we must keep guns out of

Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Center for management services. The contract calls for compensation of \$3,200 for monthly management services. The assisted living project, which is also anticipating USDA funds, is not expected to be completed before November 2001.

discussed a proposal for Rocky Mountain Therapy Services to acquire the physical therapy practice from PMH. Rocky Mountain would purchase the practice for the amount of the accounts payable to Rocky Mountain through July 31, 2000. PMH would sell the existing equipment to Rocky Mountain and Rocky Mountain would pay rent to PMH for \$500 a month. The board were favorable toward the proposal, especially considering that the district owes Rocky Mountain around \$91,000. Billing services would be provided through PMH.

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the hands of criminals, while not infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens," said Smith. "The right to keep and bear arms is paramount to a free society," said Smith.

Greg Smith, a Republican who is running for the Oregon House of Representatives, has earned the endorsement of former U.S. Congressman Bob Smith, R-Medford.

A reception formalizing the endorsement was held Aug. 29. "It is an honor to earn the endorsement of one of Oregon's finest leaders," said Smith. "Knowing how much the citizens of District 59 respect Congressman Smith makes his commitment all the more regarded."

House District 59 is currently served by Lynn Lundquist who is also endorsing Smith.

Air Life seeks Heppner volunteers

The remote location of Heppner offers quiet, solitude and a good feeling of knowing who your neighbor is. It's precisely these individuals who have a lot to offer Heppner in return.

During the 15 years that Air Life of Oregon has provided air ambulance service to central and eastern Oregon, the program has relied heavily on its volunteers. Serving in their own communities, volunteers work to promote Air Life membership and to educate their fellow residents.

In light of a recent shortage of volunteers in the Heppner area, Air Life and the Heppner Air Life Volunteer Team are asking for your help.

"Volunteers are really our link into the communities," explained Teresa Gillette, membership assistant for Air Life. "Heppner is a community that really works together. They have people who are very interested in their community's services."

Air Life volunteers are responsible for staffing Air Life booths at a variety of community events, distributing literature and answering questions. They also maintain the supply of brochures at different locations in town. On average, an Air Life volunteer commits between two and five hours a month to the cause.

Robanai Disque of Lexington has volunteered with Air Life for 12 years. As a volunteer for a number of other local organizations, Disque said her work with Air Life is particularly fulfilling.

"The membership staff at Air Life is easy to work with," she said. "It's a very worthwhile cause. I always tell people it's one of the best presents you can buy your family."

Volunteers receive free orientation and training. After six months of service, volunteers receive a free Air Life shirt. After a year of service, they get a complimentary Air Life membership.

"They've got to be willing to give us some time," Gillette added. "A self-starter would be helpful. Of course we give them all the training they need, but it helps if they have some initiative to keep the program running in Heppner."

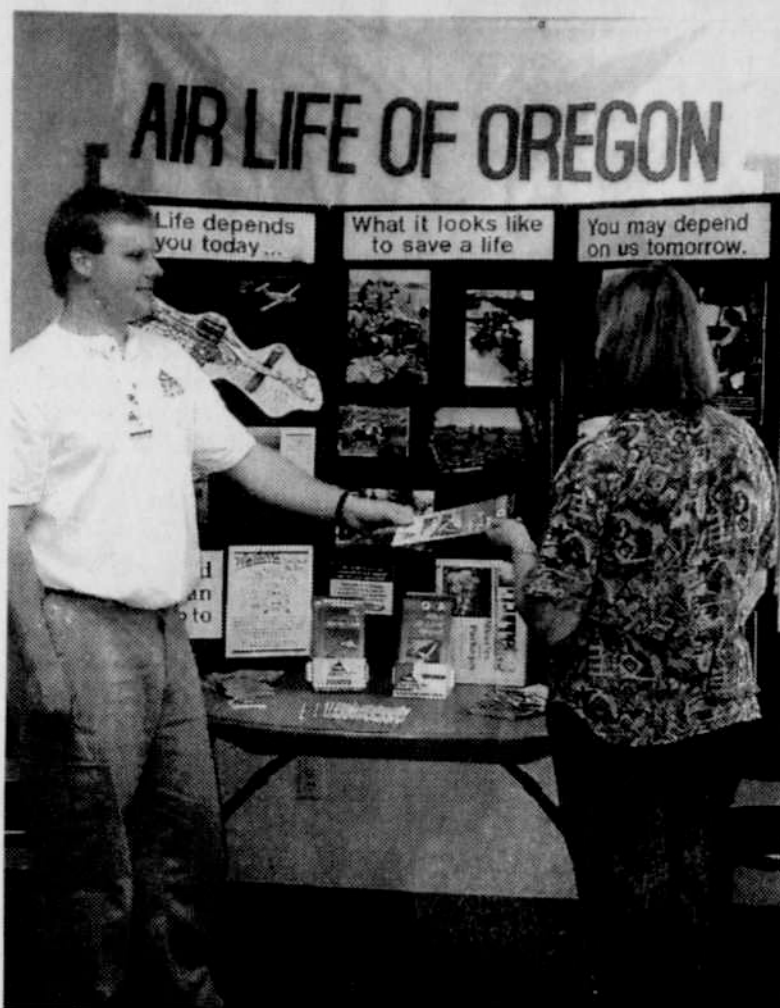
Heppner volunteers are included as part of the Condon team, but will focus on events and people in the Heppner area. Gillette has a team meeting scheduled for the Heppner volunteers on Wednesday, Sept. 13 and she and membership coordinator, Wanda Grindstaff would welcome the opportunity to explain the program to new recruits. Those interested in participating should contact Gillette at 1-800-522-2828, ask for a volunteer packet and come to the meeting to meet other volunteers. The packet includes information to help decide if volunteering for Air Life is right for you.

Disque has five team members and could use some additional support. "I just think that if we had a couple more people, aside from being a lot more fun, we could do a lot more," Disque said. "We could set up booths at various events and invite Whilbird to our annual parade."

Wheat Commission plans meeting

The Oregon Wheat Commission will hold a regular meeting on Monday, Sept. 11, at the O'Callahan's Restaurant, located in the Shilo Inn, (541) 298-8225 at 3223 Brett Clodfelter Way, The Dalles, at 9:30 a.m.

Dress is business casual. The commission meeting is open to the public and anyone wishing to attend is invited to do so.



Volunteer hands out literature at an Air Life display. More help is needed

OTPR results listed

Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo cowboys and cowgirls earned a grand total of \$22,874 in payoffs during the August rodeo in Heppner.

Local Jerry Gentry won the calf roping event with a time of 10.1. He won \$956.42.

Jess Kayser was second with 10.2 for \$791 in winnings and Dan Erickson and Tony Curran tied for third with 11.0 and \$544.17 each. Jeff Coelho took fifth with 11.8 for \$296 and Ryan Gallagher, sixth, with 164.90.

Cody Jessee won the bareback riding event with a score of 80 for \$686. Matt Weishoff had a score of 75 for \$515; and Sean Culver and Joe Ketter tied for third/fourth with a time of 73 and \$257 each.

In the saddle bronc riding even, Glen O'Neill was first with a time of 80 and a purse of \$935. Todd McKay and Gary Alger were second/third with 79 and \$584 in winnings. Chance Dixon and Josh MacKenzie were fourth/fifth with a score of 78 and \$116 each.

Jace Davis won the steer wrestling with a time of 3.6 and a whopping \$1279 in cash. Shawn Grainfield was 3.8 for \$1059. Kyle Lockett and Tim Segelke tied for third and fourth with 3.9 and \$428 each. Johnny Silva was fourth with a 4.0 for \$397 and Shawn Merz, sixth with 4.3 and \$220.

The team of Bobby Hurley and Steve Northcott won the team roping event with a 5.1 and \$940 in earnings apiece.

The teams of David Motes and Kirt Jones and Mike Fuller and BJ Campbell finished with 5.9 apiece and \$588 each in prize money. Ryan White and Tammy

West teamed up to win fourth place with a 6.0 and \$235 in prize money.

Corey Navarre was first in the bull riding with a score of 82 and \$1012 in prize money. Vic Dubray was second with 81 and \$759 in winnings. Vince Stanton was third with 79 and \$506 in winnings. A three-way tie between Mickey Nelson, Josh O'Byrne and Ty Portenier, with 77 netted each \$84.

In barrel racing, Gloria Freeman had a time of 17.28 for \$742 in prize money. Terrie White was second with 17.38 and 646 in prize money. Sue Miller was third with 17.39 for \$549. Randy Rae Britt was fourth with 17.42 and \$452; Carolyn Jensen was fifth with 17.43 and \$355; Brenda Mays, sixth with 17.56 and \$258; and Sandra Tye and Karen Gleason tied for seventh/eighth with 17.59 and \$113.

Heppner mayor honored

On Saturday evening, Aug. 19, during the closing banquet of the Oregon Mayors Association Summer Conference (OMA), held this year in Enterprise and Joseph, Bob Jepsen, Heppner's mayor was presented an award of merit.

Paul Thalhofer, the mayor of Troutdale, Harold White, Aumsville, also received awards of merit.

Mayor's Leadership Award plaques were presented to Mayor William Duckett of Riddle and Mayor Colleen Johnson of La Grande.

E-mail directory now available

A new directory containing the e-mail address of many people and businesses in the Heppner, Lone and Lexington area is now available at locations around town. Called the Willow Creek Valley E-mail directory, it is available for free at the Heppner Gazette-Times, Heppner City Hall, Chamber of Commerce and at Zeller's Market in Lone. The directory also has the web site addresses for local businesses.

The directory was compiled and printed by The Heppner Gazette-Times. If you would like to add your e-mail or web site address for the next printing of the directory, go to www.heppner.net/directory and follow the on-line directions.



Willow
Creek
Valley

E-mail
Directory

Including businesses,
organizations
and individuals
from
Heppner
Lexington
Lone
and surrounding areas

School enrollment up in north, down in south

The Morrow County School District enrollment news is as most people expected-north Morrow schools are gaining students while south county schools are losing or maintaining status quo.

County wide, the district has shown a very modest increase, from 2,181 on August 30 of last year to 2,185 on August 28, the first day of school of this year. The 2000 enrollment increased to 2,245 on September 5, the day after Labor Day.

Heppner Elementary listed an enrollment of 213 students on August 28, which increased to 224 on Sept. 5, compared to 224 students on August 30 of '99.

Heppner High School has seen

a loss of around 20 students compared to last year. On August 28 of this year, HHS had 197 students, compared to 217 last year. On Sept. 5, the HHS enrollment had decreased to 194.

Lone Schools have also seen a loss over last year with 155 students on August 28, compared to 170 last year. One additional student had enrolled by Sept. 5.

A.C. Houghton Elementary in Irrigon saw a loss of one student between August 28 this year and August 30 of last year, down from 361 to 360. On Sept. 5 of this year, however, the student population mushroomed to 397.

Sam Boardman Elementary's enrollment increased from 406 on August 30, 1999, to 435 on

August 28, 2000. Their enrollment took a slight downturn to 428 on Sept. 5.

Columbia Middle School in Irrigon bucks the trend, with fewer students this year than last. On August 28 of this year CMS had 338 students, compared to 378 on August 30, 1999. By Sept. 5 they had regained some of their loss, with 365 students enrolled.

Riverside High School's enrollment showed the most dramatic increase, from 425 on August 30 of last year to 487 on August 28 this year. Enrollment was 481 as of Sept. 5.

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