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Broderick set to retire after 21 years

By Autumn Morgan

After 21 years of work at the OSU Extension Service, Bill Broderick will retire on Friday, November 30. Broderick has worked as the 4-H agent and staff chair, providing classes for 4-H students.

Born in Hanford, CA, Broderick was raised on Sauvie Island and went to high school in Scappoose. He graduated from college Fresno State University in 1969. Broderick lived in

lone for 17 to 18 years before moving to Hermiston. His wife, Laura, works at McNary Heights Elementary School. The couple has two sons, Kyle and Bryan, who both live in the Portland area.

Broderick works with 4-H camps during the summer at Cutsforth Park. The camps, consisting of 4-6 graders, provide campers with an outdoor experience. "4-H camps are always a special time," said Broderick. "The volunteers I've worked with over the years are fantastic. It's special how they work with kids."

Broderick has a few plans for life after he retires. Broderick hopes to get some traveling in at some point. He also hopes to build a house sometime in the future. But until then, immediate plans are to paint the



Bill Broderick will retire on Friday, November 30, after 21 years at the OSU Extension Office.

house they live in now.

A retirement party for Broderick will be held on Friday, November 30, from 5-7 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds Pavilion. Hors d'oeuvres, punch and coffee will be served. Anyone wishing to bring a

light appetizer may do so.

When asked about his 21 years spent at the OSU Extension Service, Broderick replied "These are great people that I work with. It has been unbelievable."



And onward they go



The team celebrates after their 8-6 win over the Lakeview Honkers. -Photo by Sandy Matthews



Lane Bailey runs the football during the semi-final game on Saturday, November 24. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

The Heppner Mustangs won their semi-final game 8-6 against Lakeview on Saturday, November 24, to advance to the 2A State Football Championship game. The game will be played on Saturday, December 1, at Hillsboro Stadium. Directions and transportation information can be found on page three.

On Thursday, November 29, after the Parade of Lights, a community pep assembly will be held at approximately 6:15 p.m. at the Shamrock on the corner of Main and Willow Streets for the HHS football team.

Parade of Lights to be held this Thursday

Heppner will hold its eleventh annual Parade of Lights on Thursday, November 29, at 6 p.m. Entrants will begin lining up at 5 p.m. at MCGG Green Feed. Individuals, families, and businesses are all welcome to enter.

Prizes will be awarded for the following: Best Community Float; Best Commercial Float; Best Individual Float; and Best School Float. A prize of \$75 will be awarded for each.

For more information contact the Chamber at 676-5536.

Congratulations Mustangs
Your community is behind you!

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Health district hears good audit news, but bottom line buoyed by special tax levy, one-time Medicaid payment

By April Sykes

Konrad Capeller of Michael R. Bell & Company, PLLC, certified public accountants, Spokane, Washington, presented the Morrow County Health District Board with good news concerning their annual audit report at their regular meeting Monday night in Heppner.

The district ended the year with a \$658,107 net gain, compared to a \$480,139 net gain for 2006, which amounts to a 37 percent increase, said Capeller. He said that the district's overall business grew, with gross patient revenue increasing \$668,125, nearly 15 percent over the previous year and the net patient revenue increasing \$872,041, 21 percent over last year.

The district's overall operating expenses increased by \$690,970 or 14 percent, and salary and wages increased \$312,085, 13 percent. Employee benefit expenses increased by \$125,776 or 21 percent. Gross accounts receivable increased from \$740,908 in 2006 to \$1,025,358 in 2007.

Capeller reported that the district spend \$122,039 on capital expenditures, with the largest purchases for enhancement of the acute care cardiac monitoring system and a new district-wide telephone system. The district also purchased a defibrillator for the Boardman Ambulance to expand their scope of services. The district now pays the salaries for full-time paramedics in Boardman and Irrigon. Some other expenditures were made with specific grants and other expenditures were made to replace worn or obsolete equipment, he said. The district received \$44,021 in grant revenue, of which

\$17,492 was from Morrow County tippage monies. The tippage fee monies were earmarked for equipment and training for Hospice and installation of handrails for the crosswalk from the hospital to the clinic. The district also received funds for employee customer service training and other small equipment purchases.

Capeller told the board that the district has around 90 days cash on hand which, he said, was very good.

He noted, however, that two issues contributed to the district's healthy bottom line. One was the one-time settlement of nearly \$575,000 from Medicaid for payment of rural health claims dating from 1999 to 2007. According to Capeller, "The cost per Medicaid visit increased, but the state of Oregon refused to pay it for a good five years." That settlement was recorded in 2007, however, the cash payment will not be received until 2008. Capeller credited Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney for "rallying the troops in our favor" with "persistent letter writing and prodding to state and federal governments" to resolve the issue.

The other area is the district levy which voters passed which has provided MCHD with around \$861,000 over a three-year period and allowed the district to retire some of its long-term debt in 2006. However, the three-year levy will soon expire and the district will receive no levy funds in 2008. The district could put up another levy in November 2008, but will not receive any levy funds until 2009.

Capeller said that if the district did not have the Medicaid payment and the additional taxes, MCHD

would have a \$200,000 loss and would not have the cash balances it currently has.

The board plans to schedule a meeting to discuss the levy issue and decide whether it will put another levy before the voters.

Also at the meeting, Mahoney reported a \$5,620 gain for October and a \$176,885 gain for the year to date, for an average monthly gain of \$44,221.

In other business, the board:

-learned from CEO Victor Vander Does that a physician is "extremely interested" in working for the health district and MCHD should know for sure in a few weeks.

-learned from Vander Does that the long-term swing bed plan is on track. The program, which includes remodeling to accommodate swing bed patients, will restore long-term care to the district.

-learned from Vander Does that the district has received three grants for around \$20,000 each-one from the Pioneer Memorial Foundation, one from the Wildhorse casino and one from Morrow County tippage monies.

-learned that an informational/fund raising mailer is in the process and will be sent out soon.

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 417 patient visits, with 22 new patients and 80 patients seen by a nurse; Irrigon Clinic had 168 patient visits with 32 new patients, 72 seen by a nurse and 15 no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 19 page-outs with 15 transports for \$11,140 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 30 page-outs with 22 transports for \$22,411 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance

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