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Health district approves Dr. Berretta's contract

The Morrow County Health District Board approved a part-time hourly contract with Dr. Ed Berretta to provide emergency room and clinic patient care at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Clinic.

MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does also told the board that another physician, Dr. Nichols, is "moving into employee status." Dr. Nichols is expected to be on board in July.

Also at the meet-

ing the board learned that the district lost \$25,589 in November. The district still has a \$151,295 gain for the year and a \$30,259 average monthly year-to-date gain. Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney told the board that she expected December's bottom line to be up, with \$460,000 in patient revenue anticipated for the month. The district had \$398,585 in gross patient revenue for November.

In other business, the board:

-learned that the district has purchased a duplex in Heppner for \$93,000. The district expended an additional \$1,200 expense for testing an oil tank at the duplex premises. Vander Does told the board that the heating system may need to be upgraded, along with the electrical system to accommodate the heating system upgrade. He said that two electric furnaces are expected to cost around \$4,500 and the electrical upgrade around \$3,500, although the district is awaiting another

bid for the furnaces.

The duplex will be used to provide housing for fill-in doctors and nurses.

-learned from Mahoney that the district anticipates financing improvements to the hospital with a combination of cash and flex loans. Remodeling is planned to accommodate the new swing bed program which would allow the hospital to provide long-term care once again. Vander Does told the board that six people are already on the long-term care list.

-learned from Vander Does that a recent direct mail campaign garnered around \$4,000. He said the district also has also received around \$60,000 in grants. Vander Does and Mahoney say that Medicare will pay close to 80 percent of the costs for the long-term care remodel project over 15 years.

-learned that the district can expect no significant changes in property tax receipts the coming year.

-heard the following

report: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 400 patient visits in November with 17 new patients and 76 patients seen by a nurse; Irrigon Clinic had 201 patients with 20 new patients, 46 seen by a nurse and seven no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 15 page-outs with 11 transports for \$12,244 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 17 page-outs and 14 transports for \$14,477 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 14 page-outs and six transports for \$5,242 in revenue; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had six admissions, 18 admissions for observation, 442 outpatients, 88 emergency room encounters, 127 x-ray procedures, 27 CT scans, 27 EKG tests, 37 respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 138 visits; Hospice had two admissions; pharmacy had 698 drug doses for \$43,707 in drug revenue.

-held an executive session to discuss physicians' contracts and other personnel issues.

HEPPNER

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Dessert auction to be held



Clockwise from top left: Sarah Ballard, Kathryn Strouse, Lynnell Bowie, Cyde Coil, Katie Kilkenny and Sophie Grant (center).

The 8th annual dessert auction will be held by the HHS cheerleaders on Saturday, January 19, in the gym during half-time of the girls' and boys' varsity basketball games.

Cheesecake, sugar cookies, German chocolate cheesecake, caramel pecan cinnamon rolls, and red velvet cake are among some of the items that will be auctioned. Ken Grieb will be the auctioneer.

SWCD and MCLG to hold annual meetings

The Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District and Livestock Growers will have their annual meeting and joint program on Thursday, January 17, at the Heppner Elk's Lodge.

The SWCD regular monthly meeting will begin at 10 a.m. A hosted lunch will be held from 12-1 p.m. A joint program will be held at 1 p.m. The SWCD and MCLG annual meetings will be held at 3:30 p.m.

Table displays include: FFA, Willow Creek Weed Management Area, Oregon Department of Forestry, Cattleman's Beef Marketing, OSU Extension/4-H, Wheat League, Wheatland Insurance, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Soil and Water Conservation District.

NOAA issues monthly climate summary

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged warmer than normal during the month of December.

The average temperature was 36.5 degrees which was 2.0 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 43.3 degrees, which was 1.1 degrees above normal. The highest was 62 degrees on the 4th. Low temperatures averaged 29.7 degrees, which was 3.0 degrees above normal. The lowest was 17 degrees, on

the 11th.

There were 21 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were 2 days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.16 inches during December, which was 0.19 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 12 days with the heaviest, 0.46 inches reported on the 7th.

Snowfall totaled 6 inches with at least 1 inch of snow reported on 4 days. The heaviest snowfall was 3.0 inches reported on the

7th. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was 3 inches on the 7th.

The outlook for January from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near to below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during January are 42.3 degrees and normal lows are 26.3 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.46 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Deadline nearing for 2008 Wheat Foundation Scholarships

The Oregon Wheat Foundation will provide up to 12 scholarships for high school seniors whose families are members of the Oregon Wheat Growers League. Students whose family members are employed by OWGL members are also eligible. The scholarship requirements include an essay on any topic related to the wheat industry and a

summary of the student's school and community involvement.

One \$500 award will be made to a qualifying student from each of the participating counties, which include Baker, Gilliam, Klamath, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wasco. In addition one award will be made in the Willamette Val-

ley Counties and the Central Oregon Counties.

Application forms are available from the Oregon Wheat Growers League website at www.owgl.org, or Cindy Osterlund, scholarship coordinator for the Oregon Wheat Foundation, P.O. Box 322, Condon, OR 97823. Applications are due February 1.

Elks Hoop Shoot winners announced

The annual Elks Hoop Shoot was held Sunday afternoon, January 6, at the Heppner High School gymnasium. Approximately 40 kids participated in this event and fun was had by all.

The winners for the 8-9 year old girls were: first place, Bethany VanCleave; second place, Ryan Wizner; and third place Siera Robie. Winners for the 8-9 year old boys were: first place, Logan Grieb; second place, Henry Padberg; and third place, Wyatt Neal.

The winners for the 10-11 year old girls were: first place, Maddie Lindsay; second place, Paige Grieb; and third place, Macy Gibbs. Winners for the 10-11 year old boys were: first place, C.J. Kindle; second place Brian Rill; and third place, Tate Gentry.

The winners for the 12-13 year old girls were: first place, Shadow Kendrick; second place, Alana Wilson; and third place, Emma Osmin. Winners for the 12-13 year old boys were: first place, Austin Gutierrez; second place, Trey Waite; and third place, Garret Robinson.

Town and Country Banquet to be held

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual Town and Country Banquet on Thursday, January 17, at 6 p.m. at the Elks Club. This year's theme is "Celebrating Small Time Life" and is sponsored by CenturyTel.

Prime rib will be served for dinner and tickets are \$25 per person. Tickets can be purchased at BEO, Murray's, Heppner City Hall, and Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Award categories for this year are Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Citizen-Educator of the Year, Youth Recognition, Business of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement.

Dinner will be prepared by the Elks Club and served by the Heppner High School Senior Class. The Heppner Garden Club will be providing the decorations. Jewelry has been donated by Peterson's Jewelers.

Grant funds available

The Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow Creek OWEB Small Grant Team, consisting of members from the Morrow SWCD, Umatilla Co. SWCD, Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Walla Walla Watershed Council, Ticham SWCD and CTUIR (Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), announces the availability of up to \$10,000 small grants to private landowners, and others eligible for regular OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) grants, for the purposes of enhancing watershed conditions to improve water quality and quantity while meeting the needs of all beneficial uses; flood plain and upland improvement and enhancement; and reducing erosion, sedimentation and nutrients. Projects will also be considered dealing with invasive plants and noxious weeds. Funding is provided through OWEB.

OWEB Small Grant information is available on their website at www.oregon.gov/OWEB/index.shtml. Interested landowners can also contact a team member in their area. A two week sign up for small grants will be held January 15-31 with funding decisions being made in February. Contact (Morrow SWCD) for application materials and requirements.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT

DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:

PURINA SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE
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