

## Boardman clinic asks \$70,000 a year for five years from Morrow County Health District

By April Sykes

Ed Glenn, representing Columbia River Community Health Services (CRCHS) of Boardman, asked the Morrow County Health District (MCHD) for \$70,000 each year starting this year and continuing for the next five years. Glenn, current Boardman mayor and former MCHD Board member, presented an intergovernmental agreement laying out the financial agreement between the city of Boardman and the health district that the CRCHS Board wanted the district to approve.

The health district had previously paid the Boardman health care clinic a stipend each year, but had not made the payment recently as the three-year contract between the two entities had expired, according to MCHD. The lack of payment prompted the visit to the MCHD regular meeting in Boardman Monday night by members of the clinic's board.

John Prag, also a former member of MCHD, told the health district board that they should pay the annual stipend to the clinic because Boardman carries the health district in terms of tax monies. He also noted that Heppner taxpayers were

in compression and would not face increased taxes if the levy passed. "You won't have to pay a dime," said Prag.

MCHD Chair Larry Mills responded by saying that some Boardman taxpayers are also in compression. MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does later noted that only around 10 percent of the district's income is from taxes.

In exchange for the \$70,000 yearly subsidy, Mills asked Glenn and Prag for the support of the Boardman community in the district's upcoming levy. The health district board made it clear that the district would not be able to give the clinic the money if the levy did not pass. Clinic representatives also made it clear that if the clinic did not get the money, they were not so inclined to offer their support for the health district. MCHD also asked CRCHS to consider sending their lab work to Pioneer Memorial. CRCHS reps said they were happy with their current lab provider, Interpath, but said they would discuss it with their board. Despite their differences, however, the two entities agreed, albeit somewhat reluctantly, to support each other.

The previous sticking point for the health district was that the Boardman clinic board refused to divulge its financial information. Glenn told the board Monday night that the clinic, which is a private non-profit organization, is not required to divulge its finances and would not do so because the clinic board was earlier subject to "public ridicule" over the salaries and wages paid its employees. "Our fear is that full disclosure of financial statements will be misinterpreted," said Glenn. Vander Does remarked that the Boardman clinic may be in a better financial position than the health district, which will have to survive a year without additional tax monies, that is if the levy does indeed pass.

The Boardman clinic, a "federally qualified health clinic", receives an annual renewable federal grant and they compete with other entities for an additional federal grant every three years. The clinic relies on matching funds, such as the MCHD donation, to assist in qualifying for the federal grants, which have targeted the migrant population. If they lose donations, they could lose their federal grants, which amount

to around \$475,000 a year. The city of Boardman has pledged \$20,000 yearly to the clinic.

Mindy Binder, CRCHS executive director, assured the health district that the clinic is doing well and has greatly increased the percentage of "underserved" patients from around 10 percent to 37 percent. She also said that the clinic has built up a three-month financial reserve. They employ two physicians and two physician's assistants, in addition to other staff, and serve the Boardman area.

Clinic representatives said that they planned to build a new clinic near Windy River Elementary school in Boardman using loans, grants and fundraising projects. They are currently selling inscribed bricks to raise money for the new clinic.

Also at the meeting Vander Does said that workers are in the process of renovating the hospital to accommodate long-term patients with demolition well under way.

In other business the board:

-approved a 3.8 percent increase for union workers;

-approved pur-

chase of a walk-in bathtub for \$14,616, which will make patient bathing safer and easier for patients and staff.

-approved purchase of an endoscope for \$146,935.25, which will allow a new physician, Dr. Nichols, who plans to start employment with the district in July, to be able to perform endoscopies (colon screenings).

-approved a contract with Murray's Drug for pharmacy services.

-learned that the district ended May with a \$43,108 loss. Vander Does told the board that it was actually a very good month with \$484,423 in gross patient revenue, but the district had to pay \$178,000 back to Medicare. He says that after adjustments the Medicare payback amount is expected to be lowered to around \$120,000. Tax revenue for the month was \$81,614.

-approved the 2008-09 proposed budget for \$9,096,988 with \$8,462,446 in resources excluding taxes and \$634,542 in tax revenues.

-viewed the following report: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had four admissions, swing bed had three admissions, 13 were

admitted for observation; hospital respite had one admission; 470 were admitted as outpatients with 71 total emergency room encounters; 1520 lab tests; 117 x-ray procedures; 45 CT scans; 29 EKG tests; one Sigmoid procedure; 19 respiratory therapy procedures; Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner had 440 patient visits with 20 new patients, 59 seen by a nurse and 12 no-shows; Irrigon Clinic had 188 patient visits with 32 new patients, 27 seen by a nurse and four no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 25 page-outs with 23 transports for \$23,899 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 34 page-outs with 16 transports for \$17,346 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 22 page-outs with 11 transports for \$9,719 in revenue; there was one life-flight; Home Health had 174 visits; hospice had three admissions; pharmacy had 1424 drug doses for \$49,356 in revenue.

-learned that Palmer Roofing was the only bid to replace the Pioneer Memorial Hospital roof for \$62,725. The board indicated they would like more than one bid for the project.

-held an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

## Rollins earns promotion at Bank of Eastern Oregon

Ed Rollins, assistant vice president and commercial loan officer, was promoted to vice president of the bank.



Ed Rollins

Rollins joined the bank in February of 2004 after working for two different lending institutions in Montana. He is a graduate of Montana State University in Bozeman. He and his

wife, Tricia, BEO's Heppner branch manager, live in Ione and are raising two young boys, Taylor and Bryce.

"Ed continues to tackle some of our largest and most complex relationships. He is primarily responsible for our participation relationships and handles things very professionally," said George Koffler.

## Damages from weekend storm adding up



Damages caused by a storm that rolled through on Sunday night are adding up significantly. According to Tom Wolff of Columbia Basin Electric, approximately \$300,000 worth of damage has resulted from the storm.

Heavy winds took down power lines throughout the county. Also, power was turned off on Monday afternoon for approximately three hours in Heppner, Lexington, Ione and Olex while electrical crews worked on a transmission pole. The above photo was taken of damages sustained during the storm on June 27.

## Morrow Wheeler Behavioral Health changes name

Due to the addition of Gilliam County, Morrow Wheeler Behavioral Health has changed their business name to Community Counseling Solutions. The change went into effect on Tuesday, July 1.

Except for the addition of Gilliam County to the program, services, staff and locations will not be changing. The location of the Gilliam County offices will also remain the same.

For more information call the Heppner office at 676-9161.

## Public meeting for a potential Boardman Urban Renewal District

A potential new urban renewal district in the vicinity of downtown Boardman will be discussed at a public meeting at Boardman City Hall, July 16, 2008 at 6 p.m. A map of the proposed area is available at City Hall or at [www.cityofboardman.com](http://www.cityofboardman.com) on the City Council page.

As currently envisioned, the urban renewal area boundary encompasses approximately 164 acres in the area to the south of I-84 freeway and on both sides of Main Street. The meeting will focus on the process of forming an urban renewal area and potential urban renewal projects in the area. Urban renewal consultant Elaine Howard along with City Manager, Karen Pettigrew and Community Development Director, Barry Beyeler, will provide information.

Urban renewal allows for the use of tax increment financing to pay for urban renewal projects. Tax increment revenues, the amount of property taxes generated by the increase in total assessed values in the urban renewal area from the time it is first established, are to fund investments in the urban renewal area.

Urban renewal investments can include construction or improvement of streets, utilities, parks, and other public facilities.

The main objective of the Boardman urban renewal area would be to provide infrastructure improvements to facilitate development in the area.

For additional information, contact Barry Beyeler, Community Development Director, City of Boardman at 541-481-9252 or [bbeyeler@cityofboardman.com](mailto:bbeyeler@cityofboardman.com).

## Boardman Council meeting schedule update

The City of Boardman Council meeting for July has been changed. The meetings have been rescheduled to July 22 at 7 p.m.

*Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Drake and Mr. and Mrs. David Gunderson would like to invite you to the wedding of their children Amy Nicole Drake and Derek James Gunderson on July 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Drake Ranch on Sandhollow Road, Heppner*

*There will be a reception to follow with dinner and live music*

## Grand marshals announced for Ione Fourth of July celebration

Sixty years ago the returning World War II veterans came home to Ione and started our fireworks celebration. Many of these men had just returned from the war and were excited to be home and wanted to celebrate our country's victory and the return to normal life. They deserve special recognition, many of these 19 servicemen participated in the fireworks for many, many years.



Ernie McCabe

Bob Rietmann, Bob Hoskins, and Jim Barnett were the original lighters of the fireworks. Bob DeSpain, Joel Engleman, Gene Normwell, and Jiggs Fisk carried the fireworks. Collecting donations from the crowd were Rod Wentworth, Melvin Brady, Ted Palmateer, Ted Peterson, Don Peterson, Pinkie Allyn, Ernie McCabe, Walt Corley, Eldon Padberg, Don McElligott, Ralph Smith, and Harry Normwell.



Bob DeSpain

They almost had an accident that first year with

the fireworks not going straight up, so Rod Wentworth (a welder in Ione), and Walt Corley, who worked for Rod made a steel tube, welded it to a wheel, to use the next year. The first year fireworks cost \$100, the group collected \$200 so had a start toward the second year's fireworks.

In honor of all 19 veterans, the city of Ione wishes to honor those that are no longer with us and the eight of the remaining veterans will be grand marshals for 2008. Jim Barnett, Melvin Brady, Bob Hoskins, Bob DeSpain, Ernie McCabe, Don Peterson, Ted Peterson, and Ralph Smith. This will be a great tribute to the Fourth of July celebration and to those who made this an annual tradition. The Ione American Legion Post is providing the float and will have the Honor Guard at the beginning of the parade. The parade will begin at 1 p.m. on Main Street.

## July Chamber Luncheon meeting schedule

There will not be a Chamber Luncheon meeting this week due to 4th of July weekend. The entity report that would normally take place this week has been moved to Thursday, July 10. There will also not be a meeting on Thursday, July 24th.

Effective with the July 10<sup>th</sup> lunch, price for lunch will now be \$9. RSVP's will be taken through Wednesday so an approximate number can be known, but if your schedule opens up and you can make the meeting and haven't been able to RSVP, come anyway.

## BEO Bancorp leads earnings releases

BEO Bancorp, parent company of Bank of Eastern Oregon, announced that in the recently published D.A. Davidson Oregon Bank quarterly report for 3/31/08 for all community banks headquartered in Oregon, that BEO Bancorp ranked first for all banks in this group for Return on Average Equity at 22.8% for the first quarter of 2008.

"We are pleased that our organization has achieved this level of profitability," said President and CEO, E. George Koffler. "Our employees continue to add value to our stockholders' investment with great results," he added.

For more information on the company or to access Internet banking, visit the website at <http://www.beobank.com>.

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