

## Health district loses \$35,000 in August; prepares for levy

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 The district move from their current carrier, Hudson, which they have had for the past year, to a new carrier, Washington Casualty. The cost for malpractice insurance from Washington Casualty will be \$45,332 a year, compared to Hudson, which estimated a yearly premium cost of \$49,697. Mahoney said that malpractice insurance with Hudson cost \$57,163 last year. She said the switch would provide better service and better risk management services. However, Washington has a B+ rating, which was lower than Hudson's rating. Mahoney said that with backing by FinCorp, Washington's rating improves to an A-. "Well if we're going to do this, we need to be there (with the new carrier) for awhile," said MCHD CEO Larry Mills. While the district is changing carriers, it is not changing brokers, said Mahoney.

-received a request for a letter of support from the district from Karen Pettigrew and Mindy Bind-

er, representing Columbia River Community Health Services. CRCHS is once again seeking a \$70,000 yearly donation from Morrow County Health District by the end of December. The district has donated funds to CRCHS each year for the past three years, however, board member expressed concern that the district would not be able to donate to CRCHS if the levy did not pass.

CRCHS is a federally-funded migrant clinic in Boardman, but also serves the general populace. Dr. Robert Boss, who previously operated a privately-owned clinic in Boardman, is employed as a physician at CRCHS. CRCHS has had a reputation of not supplying requested financial information to MCHD.

Vander Does said that he would send each board member a copy of the interagency agreement that CRCHS is requesting that MCHD sign.

CRCHS has indicated that a pledge from MCHD is important for CRCHS to continue to receive federal funds and funds from the city of Boardman. The health district has been used as a pass-through agency between CRCHS and the city of Boardman, whereby the city of Boardman donates to CRCHS, but sends the payment to MCHD, which in turn forwards the money to CRCHS.

-heard from board member John Murray who reported that the time for the Medicare Part D sign-up is nearing. The district has previously offered people

assistance in signing up for the program and is once again planning to offer assistance.

-reviewed a fact sheet which would provide factual information to the public concerning the proposed levy.

-heard the following report: Heppner Ambulance received 11 page-outs for August with 11 transports for \$16,909 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance received 22 page-outs with 15 transports for \$17,266 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance received 21 page-outs with 15 transports for \$15,422 in revenue; there were two flights; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 399 patient visits with 34 new patients, 52 seen by a nurse and seven no-shows; Irrigon Clinic had 198 patient visits with 46 new patients, 38 seen by a nurse and 28 no-shows; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had two admissions, one swing bed admission, one swing bed nursing facility admission, 10 admissions for observation, 453 total outpatients, 73 emergency room encounters, 1460 lab tests, 94 x-ray procedures, 43 CT scans, 17 EKG tests, one treadmill procedure, seven respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 196 patient visits; Hospice had one admission; pharmacy had 1011 drug doses for \$37,579 in revenue; the district had \$446,114 in gross patient revenue and \$509,281 in total operating revenue for August with \$559,579 in total operating expenses and a \$15,115 non-operating gain for a \$35,182 loss for the month.

## M.C. Tippage Fee Award applications available

Morrow County is kicking off its annual Needs and Issues Inventory process that will result in the selection of projects to receive Tippage Fee Awards. The County Court has set aside \$500,000 to be allocated in the 2008 funding round.

Eligible applicants include cities, special districts, ports, non-profit organizations or other groups that provide services that benefit the people of Morrow County. All projects seeking financial assistance from the Morrow County Tippage Fees must be listed on this Inventory.

To be included on the Inventory, sponsors must submit an application for

each proposed project. The Morrow County Economic Development Committee, with representation from throughout the county, will evaluate all proposals and make a funding recommendation to the County Court.

There have been a few changes for 2008 based on the recommendations of a countywide advisory committee that was appointed by the five cities and the County Court. Some changes include the ability of applicants to accumulate funding for up to three years prior to implementation of a larger project and the expansion of funding categories to include non-capital expenses.

Applications must be submitted by October 24 to be included on the 2008 Needs and Issues Inventory. The meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on November 6. All applicants are invited to give a brief oral summary of their projects.

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) is facilitating this process for Morrow County. Program Guidelines, applications, and other information are available by calling Sondra Lino, GEODC, at 541-575-2786, via e-mail at slino@oregonvos.net or they may be downloaded from www.geodc.org.

## HES elects student council for new school year



HES elected the 2008-09 student council on September 18. President, Maddie Lindsay; vice president, Paige Grieb; secretary, Macy Gibbs; treasurer, Kelly Wilson; publicity director, Makenzi Hughes; and 4th grade representatives Logan Grieb and Caden Hedman are ready to get things going. Advisor Sue Gibbs said of the new group, "They are already ahead of the game, helping with open house and making plans for Red Ribbon Week." Student Council members look forward to continuing popcorn days, helping at assemblies, and making HES the best school it can be. -Contributed Photo

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### MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

#### Voter Fact Sheet

The District provides healthcare to Morrow County residents in many ways:

**Ambulance Service**  
 Ambulances & EMTs located in Boardman, Heppner & Irrigon  
 Quick Response teams with EMTs located in Lexington & Ione  
 Standby coverage for community & sporting events

**Pioneer Memorial Home Health & Hospice**  
 Services provided to the entire county  
 Nurses & therapists see patients in their homes

**Irrigon Medical Clinic**  
 Primary healthcare (nurse practitioner & physicians), free sports physicals & blood pressure checks

**Boardman Health Care Center Subsidy**  
 Primary healthcare to all residents of the Boardman community

**Pioneer Memorial Clinic**  
 Primary healthcare, free sports physicals & blood pressure checks

**Pioneer Memorial Hospital**  
 Emergency Room, Inpatient & Swing Bed care, Lab, X-ray & CAT scan, upper endoscopy, colonoscopy

**County-wide**  
 County-wide assistance to sign up for Medicare Part 'D'

**Comparison of Health District Current Tax Rates**

John Day	\$ 2.1329 per \$1,000
Burns	\$ 1.9314 per \$1,000
Enterprise	\$ 1.7997 per \$1,000
Morrow	\$ 0.6050 per \$1,000

*With this Local Option Levy, the District is proposing to continue a tax rate of \$0.39 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This equates to \$39 for a house valued at \$100,000. Even with the proposed levy, the Health District's rate would continue to be only Half of what the other districts in our region average.*

**Why the Health District needs a Five-Year Local Option Levy**

- ✓ To **Maintain** the current level of services.
- ✓ Current year budget projections indicate insurance discounts and charity care will climb to a high of \$984,780. Our current tax rate is estimated to generate only \$634,542 this year.
- ✓ In the near future, current tax rate collections are projected to be flat due to reductions of property values in the entire county.
- ✓ Same 0.39 cents per \$1000 as voted in 2004.
- ✓ To provide **Stability** to local healthcare.

## Christian Life Center welcomes Antonucci as new pastor

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 Dean and Teri, who was born and raised in Heppner and graduated from Condon High School, have no children now but plan in the near future to begin classes for foster care with the state of Oregon with the intent to adopt.

The couple has started three private Christian schools, two on the Oregon coast and one in central

Oregon. Most recently they started a certified daycare in Hermiston that was ranked in the top five in eastern Oregon.

Teri, the daughter of Vern and Florence Nolan, was recently awarded an early childhood education degree from Blue Mountain Community College. She is currently serving as children's pastor and women's ministries director

for church. Dean enjoys cooking, golfing and bowling and Teri enjoys scrap-booking. "At Christian Life Center it is our aspiration to minister to the whole family through our various programs which include the whole family," said Dean. "We have something for everyone. Come give us a try."

### HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL

## HOMECOMING WEEK!

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