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Gazette Times

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Health district prepares for CEO interviews Friday

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board, at their meeting Monday night in Heppner, formulated a series of questions in preparation for CEO candidates' interviews. The board has three phone interviews scheduled to begin this Friday starting at 5 p.m. The board will then schedule in person interviews with the successful candidates.

Current CEO Victor Vander Does earlier announced his impending retirement.

Also at the meeting, Vander Does and Director of Nursing, Home Health and Hospice Molly Rhea said that the emergency room has been extremely busy during the month of March.

The district shows a loss of $56,467 for the month of February with a $345,333 loss for the year. February gross patient revenue was $534,393 with deductions for bad debts and contractual and other adjustments for total operating revenue of $494,320. The long-term care facility at the hospital currently has five patients, below what was anticipated. The number of colonoscopies scheduled, a new service offered by the district, also were not as many as anticipated.

"The revenue is still falling short of our projections," commented Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney. "It's not that bad revenue-wise, but still not up to our expectations." "I for one thought we were overly optimistic on our budget this year," added board Chair Larry Mills. "I am concerned, though, about the long-term beds."

In other business, the board:

-received information from Rhea on the Hospice program. She also introduced Patti Smith, who is the Hospice chaplain.

-approved replacement of the outdated sprinkler system in the hospital and awarded the bid to Western Automatic Sprinkler for $10,461. Viking Sprinkler Co. submitted a bid for $13,866.

-received the following report for February: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had seven admissions, one swing bed admission, 13 admitted for observation, one admitted for respite care, 481 outpatients with 56 emergency room encounters, 1711 lab tests, 94 x-ray procedures, 41 CT scans, 21 EKG tests, nine colonoscopy procedures, 34 respiratory therapy procedures; Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner had 485 patient visits with 32 new patients, 39 patients seen by a nurse and five no-shows; Irrigon Clinic had 208 patient visits with 15 new patients, 58 seen by a nurse and 18 no shows; Heppner Ambulance had six page-outs with five transports for $4,104 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 33 page-outs with 17 transports for $17,854 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 15 page-outs with 10 transports for $11,904 in revenue; Home Health had 119 patient visits; Hospice had two admits with 87 total days; Pharmacy had 1004 drug doses for $66,480 in revenue.

Boardman to sponsor spring clean up

The City of Boardman will sponsor a community-wide clean-up the month of April. The city has garbage vouchers available, with a fifty dollar limit, to residents of the city of Boardman.

The vouchers are valid during the month of April at Finley Butte Landfill and the North Morrow Transfer Station. The garbage voucher program encourages citizens to clean up their residences by disposing of yard debris. City residents may pick up their vouchers at Boardman City Hall at 200 City Center Circle beginning April 1st.

For more information on this program, call Boardman City Hall at 481-9252.

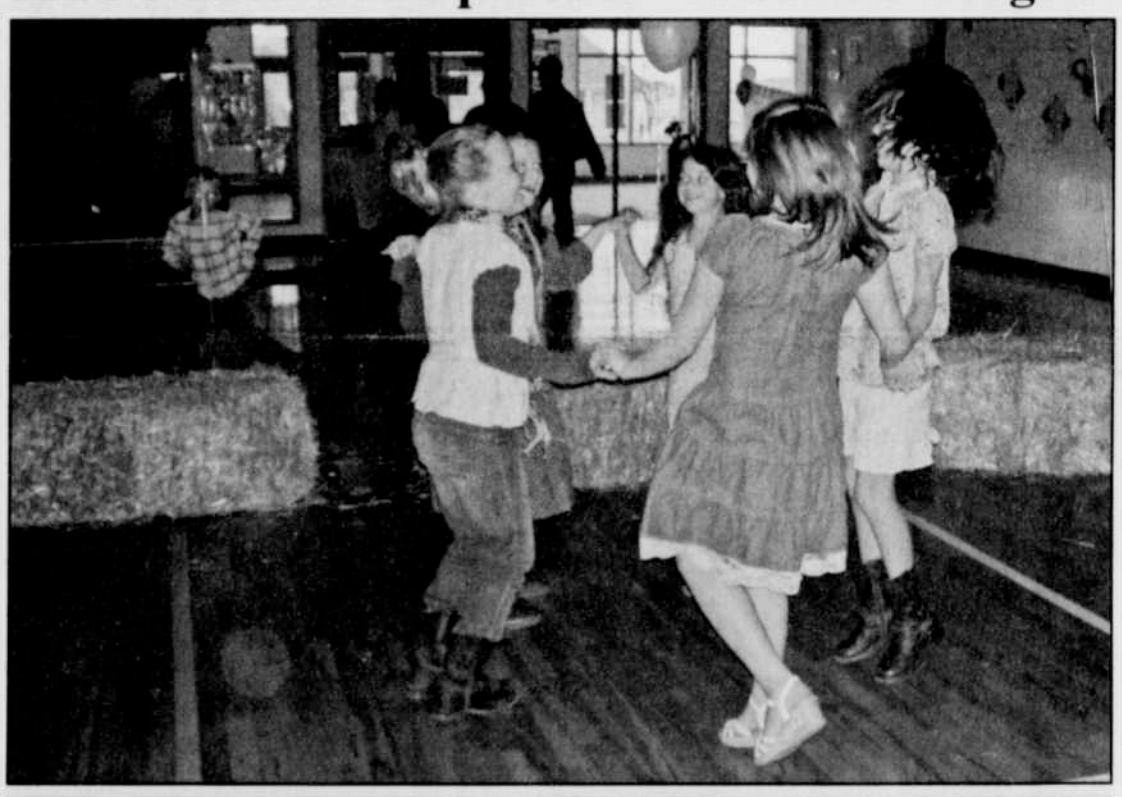
Home delivery meal program available in Heppner

The Area Agency of Aging division of CAPECO, also offers a home delivered meal program – designed for those people that are home bound (a person who is unable to prepare meals or shop for food by reason of injury, illness or an incapacitating disability). Again, the suggested donation is $3.50 per meal. The Home Delivered Meal program is able to deliver both a hot meal and frozen meals – enough to enable the client to have one nutritious meal each day of the week.

If you or anyone that you know fits into the category of homebound and is interested in having meals delivered to your home each Wednesday, please contact Barbara Thomson at the CAPECO office 1-800-752-1139 ext. 130. Please leave a message if she is not in the office and your call will be returned.

Also, a hot meal is offered each Wednesday at the Heppner St. Patrick's Senior Center for seniors in the area. Serving time is 11:30 a.m. A suggested donation of $3.50 per meal helps to support the meal program.

HES students and parents 'Celebrate Oregon'



Heppner Elementary students and their parents had a joyous time 'Celebrating Oregon.' Students and parents danced to several country songs as well as a little doe se doe and hokey pokey. The Heppner High FFA made ice-cream for students and provided roping opportunities and a bean bag toss into a cowboy boot. The Parent-Teacher club, who sponsored the free event, provided snack foods for all to enjoy as well as covered a large cut-out of Oregon with dozens of blue cupcakes.
–Contributed Photos

Ione chapter of National Forensics League to hold 5K run/walk

The Ione Community School chapter of the National Forensics League, a national honor society for speech and debate, is sponsoring a 5 kilometer run/walk on Sunday, April 5, at 1 p.m.

The course will start and end at the school in Ione. The event is to raise money for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF). The sister of Ione speech coach Jim Raible was recently diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood. Barbara McCarrick was the inspiration for Raible starting a speech and debate team in Ione and has been a supporter of the team.

In February McCarrick hosted the team when they went down to California for competition at Stanford University. Upon hearing of McCarrick's diagnosis, the team wanted to help any way they could. On Sunday, April 5, the MMRF is holding a fund raising run/walk in San Francisco, which Raible wanted to attend but was unable. So Raible and his speech team are doing the next best thing.

Besides holding a bake sale at the school, they are also sponsoring their own run/walk to raise money for McCarrick's team running in San Francisco. Runners, walkers, and friends are invited to the school on Sunday afternoon to show their support for McCarrick's team and the MMRF. A donation of $5 per participant is requested, but all donations are welcome.

Columbia River Community Health Services receives grant

Columbia River Community Health Services has received a grant in the amount of $20,000 from PacificSource Health Plans. These funds will be used to support the clinic's efforts in serving the needs of the community. The purpose of the PacificSource Charitable Foundation is to provide resources and funds for the health and welfare of the underserved, and lessen the burden of government in this regard.

Columbia River Community Health Services will use the funds to continue to improve patient access. The focus will be on the flow of the clinic and patient capacity. The demand for medical services in the Boardman area continues to increase and the clinic must continue to adjust to these requirements.

Columbia River Community Health Services provides preventive and acute primary care, urgent care, family planning, women's health, well-child exams and immunizations, sports physicals to school children, and physical exams to all. We are a non-profit, Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC) whose primary purpose is to protect and improve the quality of life for all people, particularly the medically underserved and vulnerable population.

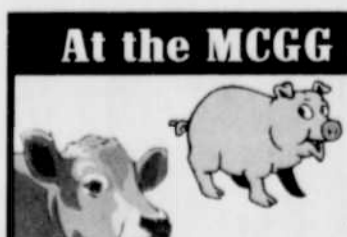
Also to serve the needs of the community, the clinic is involved in a fund-raising campaign for their

-Continued on Page TWO

Easter messages due Friday

Pastors of area churches are invited to send in their Easter messages to the community to run in the April 8 edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times. Messages are due on Friday, April 3 and can be emailed to editor@rapidserve.net, faxed to 676-9211, or dropped off at the Gazette-Times office.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:

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