

New health district CEO presides over first meeting

By April Sykes
New Morrow County Health District administrator Michael Blauer presided over his first meeting as CEO at the district's regular meeting held in lone Monday night. Blauer said that he and his wife really like the community and are in the process of getting settled in.

Chief Financial

Officer Nicole Mahoney told Blauer and the board that the district ended the month of June with a \$31,042 gain. The district ended the fiscal year with a \$152,543 loss. She emphasized that the financial figures are preliminary, pending end of year reconciliation.



Michael Blauer

Director of Nursing, Home Health and Hospice, Molly Rhea. Rhea said she recently participated in a conference call with the Senator Ron Wyden's staff as a representative for Home Health agencies for Oregon. Medicare reimbursement levels continue to be a concern, especially considering proposed federal changes to the health care system and proposed drastic cuts.

Blauer told the board that the district is encountering difficulty in recruiting a mid-level provider for the Irrigon Clinic, but added that he will continue the search. Two of the clinic's mid-level providers have relocated over the past year. Blauer said that current providers with the district will continue to fill in at the clinic in the meantime and he will continue to work with recruiters. Some scheduling difficulty may arise with scheduled provider vacations and time off for their continuing education. Blauer added that he is planning to contact firms that may be able to provide temporary placement.

Blauer also discussed the possibility of once again establishing a connection with a cardiologist since Dr. Hanlon, who previously scheduled local appointments through MCHD, is no longer associated with the Bend clinic. Blauer also discussed resuming plans to remodel the Heppner clinic. Blauer also discussed scheduling a strategic planning meeting and may invite a representative with the Office of Rural Health to attend.

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and insured by the district, are operated by volunteers to provide emergency services at the park. While the board expressed appreciation to the volunteers, board members are concerned that the vehicles currently have logos on them that have not been approved by the MCHD and may not be considered appropriate. They were also concerned that the vehicles also do not have any logos on them that indicate they are the property of the district.

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HEPPNER

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Kicking off fair and rodeo week



4-H members recently participated in their fair horse show on Saturday, July 25. Pictured is Jenna Taylor at the games. More photos can be found on Page FIVE. -Contributed Photo

New health clinic set for Boardman

Boardman has needed a new facility for several years. Pinnacle Architecture of Bend, OR has been awarded the contract for the design of this new facility. Pinnacle Architecture team includes Principal Peter Baer, Architect Mark Rossi, Interiors Briana Hagerty and Intern Doug Alley. Construction is expected to begin summer 2010.

Columbia River Community Health Services (CRCHS) provides a wide range of health services to the greater Boardman community including migrant/

seasonal farm works and other low income populations, regardless of ability to pay. The new 13,480 square foot building will be located one block south of the existing facility. It will include services include exams, emergency, and x-ray among other programs. This project is planned to be the first LEED certified Health Clinic in Eastern Oregon.

Pinnacle has extensive experience with public projects, especially for small communities. Peter Baer, principal of

Pinnacle Architecture said, "We've spent a lot of years working on public projects across Oregon. Our firm has strong Oregon roots, and this project really resonates for us. Most of our staff is from small towns in Oregon. We really enjoy working for communities like Boardman."

Pinnacle architecture is located in Bend and has been in business for since 1990. They provide architectural services to communities across Oregon, California and Washington.

OHSU, Elks sponsor free vision screening for kids in Boardman

A free vision screening for children ages 3-5 will be held on Thursday, July 30 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Boardman. A screening was also held in Irrigon on Tuesday, July 28.

The screening will be held at Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start, 240 N.E. Boardman Ave., Boardman.

Approximately one in every 10 children ages 3-5 has a vision problem. Most require treatment before the age of seven to avoid long-term damage.

If left untreated, these conditions may lead to a lifetime of unnecessary vision impairment and possibly blindness.

While some school districts offer vision screening programs, formal screening should begin by age three. Good vision is essential for proper physical development and educational progress. Early detection provides the best opportunity for effective, inexpensive treatment.

The vision screening is sponsored by the

Elks Children's Eye Clinic at the Oregon Health & Science University Casey Eye Institute, in partnership with the Oregon State Elks Association. For more than 50 years, the Oregon State Elks Association has contributed millions of dollars in research and equipment and thousands of volunteer hours toward the prevention and treatment of pediatric eye disease.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 541 564-6878.

Methamphetamine arrests made in Heppner

On July 19 the Morrow County Sheriff's Office received information about a possible methamphetamine laboratory located in the Heppner area. Investigation led to a search of a residence located at 54467 Upper Rhea Creek Road in Heppner.

Members of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police

and Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team searched the residence and discovered a significant amount of methamphetamine, methamphetamine laboratory equipment and supplies. Over \$10,000 in methamphetamine was seized along with evidence of methamphetamine manufacturing from the residence.

Angela Marie Currin, 36, and her husband Michael Wayne Helfer, 52, were arrested in their home and lodged in the Umatilla County Jail on charges of possession of a controlled substance, manufacturing a controlled substance and unlawful possession of fireworks. Bail was set at \$23,000 for each suspect.

New Morrow County Chronicles issues to go on sale

The 2009 issue of the Morrow County Chronicles will go on sale on Wednesday afternoon, August 5, at the Morrow County Fair. The cost remains \$5 this year.

This issue of the periodical represents the 26th year of the local historical society's effort to preserve the history of Morrow County. It offers information about people, places, and events, and is especially representative of the entire county.

Included are bi-

ographical and autobiographical sketches, family histories, an article about the displacement of Bombing Range families, retrospectives of the Willow Creek Dam and the county school district, an article about the intriguing "pruterry," one veteran's look at his introduction to WWII, a look at a long-existing family business, and a history of one fraternal organization. Articles come from rural areas and from the communities of Boardman,

Irrigon, Lone, Lexington, and Heppner.

The Morrow County Chronicles continues because of individuals who are interested in preserving historical information and individuals who are willing to contribute articles for publication. The Morrow County Historical Society gratefully accepts suggestions of stories and welcomes contributing writers. Contact information will be available at the society's booth at the fair.

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