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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 129 NO. 10 8 Pages Wednesday, March 10, 2010 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Health district awards flooring bid

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board, at their Monday night meeting in Boardman, awarded a bid to install new tile flooring in seven hospital rooms at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner to local flooring businessman Tim Hedman.

Hedman, Heppner, submitted the low bid at $9,545. Carpet One in LaGrande bid $11,524 and Carpet One in Richland bid $11,935.

MCHD CEO Michael Blauer said at the meeting that provider staffing at the Irrigon Clinic was going smoothly following the resignation of a nurse practitioner in January, with Dr. Ken Wenberg stepping in to cover office hours, in addition to Dr. Ed Berretta, Dr. Betsy Anderson and Dr. Russ Nichols. Blauer said that the district will continue to search for a permanent provider for the Irrigon Clinic and added that the position has generated a lot more interest than when advertised earlier. He said that he had spoken with a physician's assistant from Hermiston who may be interested in the position.

Blauer told the board that a strategic planning session, which will include board members, administration, providers and department heads at various times throughout the day, has been planned for Tuesday, March 9, beginning at 11:45 a.m. at the St. Patrick Catholic Parish Hall.

In other business, the board:

-heard a report from Blauer on a proposed community health outreach program. Blauer said that the big obstacle would be getting seed money for the project. "I'm confident that we will get this one way or another," he said, adding that the district has applied for a grant and he is researching additional funding avenues. He said he is hoping the project could be done as a team, perhaps with Columbia River Community Health Services in Boardman. Andrea Fletcher is the projected coordinator for the project.

-learned from Blauer that he has been in contact with Dr. Hanlon concerning offering cardiology services at Pioneer Memorial Hospital once again. Blauer said he also spoke with a cardiologist in The Dalles.

-learned from Blauer that a "surprise visit" at PMH from OSHA went very well and the OSHA representative was very complementary of the hospital.

-learned that work is underway on the bathrooms and they are expected to be up and running within the next couple weeks.

-learned that Blauer is still researching programs and other requirements for eventually employing electronic health records at the hospital and clinics. He said he plans to schedule on-site visits at other facilities to further research the issue.

-learned that the district had $545,869 in gross patient revenue for January; had $22,842 in total revenue deductions; received $95,521 in tax revenue and $1,941 in other operating revenue for $620,488 in total operating revenue; had $635,634 in total operating expenses with a $15,146 loss from operations and a $11,732 non-operating gain for a $3,413 loss for the month. The district had a $6,230 average monthly year-to-date gain.

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had four admissions in January, three swing-bed admissions, 16 admitted for observation, 425 total outpatients, 64 total emergency room encounters, 1424 lab tests, 117 x-ray procedures, 24 CT scans, 29 EKG tests, one treadmill procedure, six colonoscopy procedures, one endoscopy procedure, one colon/endoscopy procedure, 49 respiratory therapy procedures; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 424 patient visits with 31 new patients, 43 seen by a nurse and 10 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 169 patient visits with 16 new patients, 33 seen by a nurse and nine no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 21 page-outs with 20 transports for $16,025 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 27 page-outs with 12 transports for $10,619 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 24 page-outs with 11 transports for $8,158 in revenue; Home Health had126 patient visits; Hospice had two admissions; pharmacy had 989 drug doses for $53,776 in revenue.

28th Annual Wee Bit O'Ireland Schedule of Events

Thursday, March 11, 2010

*5:30 p.m.: Donkey Basketball Game between Heppner and Pilot Rock FFA - Heppner Elementary Gym. Presale tickets $8 (adult) $6 (6th-12th grade) $4 (K-5th grade); tickets available at the door $9, $7, $5. Half-time activities and Alumni Dessert Auction. Sponsored by Heppner FFA. 541-676-9138 x2542.
*7:30 p.m.: "Ireland in Story, Song and Humor" Variety Program - St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall, 560 NW Jones. Variety Program written by Father O'Condon, with original music by Joe Lindsay.

Friday, March 12, 2010

*9 a.m.-5 p.m.: Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale to benefit the Heppner Library - at City Hall
*10 a.m.-5 p.m.: Oregon Trail Library District/Heppner Branch: 12-1 p.m.: Exchange Students Nuria Zellweger from Switzerland and Laurien Staal from The Netherlands; 2 p.m. - Movie "Jumanji" with Robin Williams will be shown.
*10 a.m.-6 p.m.: Morrow County Creative Arts & Crafts show at Les Schwab Tire Center.
*10 a.m.-6 p.m.:"Wee Bit O' Western Fine Art Photography" by Denise Smith & Celia Moyer at City Park.
*Vendor's Square: crafts, food and other treasures from local and visiting vendors all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Neighborhood Center on Main Street across from the Library/Museum/City Park. Contact: 541-676-5024.
*1-5 p.m.: Morrow County Heritage and Agricultural Museums
*4 p.m.: Alumni Softball Game at Bob Kilkenny Field, contact Petra Payne 676-9138.
*5 p.m.: Willow Creek Park District dedication of "Turner Day Park" at Willow Creek Reservoir
*5-7 p.m.: Mrs. O'Leary's Stew Feed – at St. Patrick's Senior Center, 190 N. Main Street, prepared by the Heppner United Methodist Church members
*6:30 p.m.: Shuttle bus to Irish Boxing Smoker event. Meet at sign in front of Heppner Family Foods
*8 p.m.: Irish Boxing Smoker Event will be held at Heppner High School Gymnasium; sponsored by Heppner Chamber of Commerce/UROCK Radio. Gates open at 7 p.m., Admission - $10 (Adult-12 years of age); $5 (11-8 years of age) 7-under free. For information call Chamber office at 541-676-5536. ☘ Drawing for $100 Pot O'Gold.
***Outside Food Vendors** (pick up map and hours for local food merchants):
9 a.m. Fri-Sun: Lind's Concession: Featuring corn dogs, elephant ears, funnel cakes, nachos, beer battered onion rings, cotton candy, caramel apples. Located in parking lot of Heppner Family Foods on Main Street
10 a.m. Fri-Sat: Rolling Thunder BBQ: Featuring barbecue sandwiches (tri-tip; cabbage and corned beef; pulled pork, pulled chicken; BBQ nachos). Set up next to Heppner Family Foods on Willow Street.
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat: Kessler's Catering O'BBQ: Chicken & Ribs at the City Park on Main Street

Saturday, March 13, 2010

*Daylight to dark: Sheep Dog Trials will be held at Thompson's Ranch, 3 miles northwest of Heppner on Bunker Hill Rd. off Hwy. 74, between mileposts 41 & 42
*7-10 a.m.: HES Parents for Parents O'Breakfast at St. Patrick's Senior Center; $6-adult $3-12 & under.
*All day: Vendor's Square at the Neighborhood Center across the street from Library/Museum/City Park
*All day: Cornerstone Gallery: Rock & Gem Collection Display (over 50 unique rocks and gems)
*8 a.m.-6 p.m.: "Wee Bit O' Western Fine Art Photography" by Denise Smith & Celia Moyer at City Park.
*8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.: Morrow County Creative Arts & Crafts show and sale at Les Schwab Tire Center.
*9 a.m.: St. Paddy's Arena Cross (Sign up from 7-8:30 a.m.). Sponsored by Morrow County Fair & ClearView Auto Glass. $5 admission. Ages 5 and under are free. Contact Jeff Botefuhr @541-314-2876.
*9 a.m.-3 p.m.: Kissing of Heppner's Blarney Stone: Job DeJong/Zech Hintz,"Leprechaun In Charge"
*9:30 a.m.: 5K Run/Walk in memory of Donna Schonbachler: Meet at United Methodist Church; coffee @8:30 a.m..
*10 a.m.: Iron Man Bike Ride: Meet at Shamrock on Main Street
*10 a.m.: KUMA Coffee Hour upstairs at the Elks Club. Come hear music, stories and blarney. Enter the Irish Brogue Contest and win cash prizes. ☘ Drawing for $100 Pot O'Gold.
*11 a.m.-3 p.m.: Oregon Trail Library District/Heppner Branch
*10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Live Mannequin Show by HHS Drama Club in window of Sweet Productions Ice Cream Parlour
*11 a.m. Columbia Basin Mounted Shooters Club at Morrow County Fairgrounds - Wilkinson Arena - 11-12 shooting demo; open from 8-4. Contact: 541-571-1153.
*9 a.m.-3 p.m.: Friends of the Library: Annual book sale to benefit the Heppner Library - City Hall.
*10 a.m.-5 p.m.: Morrow County Heritage and Agricultural Museums
*11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.: O'Senior Center Lunch: Have a taste of homemade Irish soup/rolls, cobbler, ice cream/coffee for $6 Adult ; 12 & under $3. Catered by Dino's Delectable Catering Services.
*11 a.m.: "Throw The Welly": Come test your skill at this new activity. Held on Willow Street (between Murray's & Artisan Village) Ages Kindergarten-Adult welcome to participate.
*11:30 a.m.: Leprechaun Run for grades K-6; meet at 11:15 a.m. at the steps of the library/museum
*12 p.m.: St. Paddy's Cruz-In Parade downtown Main Street. The Antique and Classic Cars will be on display immediately following the parade in the Forest Service Parking Lot (May and Main Streets).
*1 p.m.: The Great Green Parade downtown Main Street with Royal Condon Highland Guard Pipes and Drums
*Immediately Following Parade: O'Kiddie Tricycle Races for 2-5 year olds. Event to take place at BEO drive through. Tricycles will be provided. The event is sponsored by the Heppner Daycare & Preschool.
*2 p.m.: Stuart Dick will be at City Hall - Book signing and presentation on Morrow County and Mattieson School House
*2-4 p.m.: Ceili upstairs at the Elks. Irish entertainment featuring John Doherty & the Irish Singers and more.
*2 p.m.: Ewe-Do-Bingo - Live sheep activity – between BEO/AmeriTitle. Sponsored by the cheerleaders.
*3 p.m.: O'Ducky Race - starts at the bridge in front of the Morrow County Courthouse. Adopt a duck to win a prize of $10 to $100. Sponsored by Colt Football Program
*3 & 5 p.m.: Stable of Youth/Shamrock Lanes will have Irish Sweepstakes/Mixed Doubles No-Tap Bowling Tourney
*4-7 p.m.: St. Pat's Ham Dinner & Homemade Pies at St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall, 560 NW Jones Street. Live musical entertainment on stage, Irish of course. $9 Adult; $5 4-12 years of age; 3 and under free
*6-9 p.m.: Elks Irish Buffet Dinner– Corn Beef & Cabbage with live music.
*8-11 p.m.: Teen Disco Club Night for ages 14-19 years. Music, dancing, snack & specialty drink menu - $2 charge Location: Sweet Productions Ice Cream Parlour & Diner.
*6:30 p.m.: Entertainment with "Old Time Fiddlers Show–at the Fairgrounds Dance Hall. No admission charge, funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District. Stomp your feet and clap your hands to some good old fiddle music.
*7-9:30 p.m.: Entertainment "Tiller's Folly with intermission by "Brenda Sue" at Heppner Elementary Gymnasium. No admission charge, funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District. ☘ Drawing for $100 Pot O'Gold.
*9 p.m.-2 a.m.: Wee Hours O' The Mornin' Breakfast at the Firehall; sponsored by HHS Boys Baseball Team

Sunday, March 14, 2010

*All Day: Vendor's Square at the Neighborhood Center across from Library/Museum/City Park
*All Day: Sheep Dog Trials at Thompson's Ranch. See Saturday for location
*Visit Local Churches: Attend the church of your choice – All Visitor's Welcome
*1:30 p.m.: Road Bowling at Balm Fork Road. Get your team of up to four people ready to play. Meet at 1 p.m.

For More Information visit www.heppnerchamber.com or call 541-676-5536.

City of Heppner prepares for St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Robert Whalen of the City of Heppner works on refreshing the paint on the shamrock in the center of town. *-Photo by David Sykes*

Farewell party to be held for Ballard

A going away party for Morrow County District Attorney Elizabeth Ballard will be held on Thursday, March 11, from 3-5 p.m. at the courthouse. Ballard's last day will be Friday, March 12.

Area pastors invited to submit Easter messages

Easter will be celebrated April 4 this year. Area pastors are invited to submit their Easter messages to be published in the March 31 edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times.

The deadline to submit articles is Friday, March 26. Messages can be emailed to editor@rapidserve.net, faxed to 541-676-9211, or dropped off at the office.

Daylight Saving Time to begin Sunday

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 14. Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour.

NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner

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

The average temperature was 41.3 degrees which was 3.1 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 50.3 degrees, which was 3.2 degrees above normal. The highest was 58 degrees on the 28th. Low temperatures averaged 32.4 degrees, which was 3.0 degrees above normal. The lowest was 22 degrees, on the 21st.

There were 13 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.39 inches during February, which was 0.84 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 10 days with the heaviest, 0.11 inches reported on the 5th.

Precipitation this year has reached 2.42 inches, which is 0.27 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 5.56 inches, which is 0.92 inches below normal.

The outlook for March from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and near to below normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during March are 54.3 degrees and normal lows are 33.6 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.60 inches.

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

GREEN FEED & SEED IN HEPPNER:

WINTER CLEARANCE SALE 30% OFF
• Electric Heaters
•Insulated Coveralls
•Coats
•Pack Boots
•Stock Tank Deicers

Spring is coming! Nursery Stock Now Arriving
• Pansies
•Primroses
•Soil Amenities
•Rototiller & Thatcher rentals

Wrangler Sale
13mwz
Original Cowboy Cut jeans on sale
$ 19.99
All other wrangler apparel 15% off

Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)