

Health district shows \$139 thousand May profit, \$203,455 yearly profit

By April Sykes
The Morrow County Health District showed a \$139,120 profit for the month of May, "one of the highest revenue months in history," MCHD Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney told the board at the district regular meeting

Monday in Irrigon. The district had a \$203,455 profit for the year.

May's profit-loss statement showed \$669,103 in gross patient revenue and \$51,552 in total revenue deductions for \$617,550 in net patient revenue; \$95,521 in tax revenue and \$21,313 in other operating revenue for \$734,385 in total operating revenue, \$603,137 in total operating expenses, and a \$7,872 non-operating gain.

The board also approved a resolution adopting the 2010-11 budget. The budget is up over \$515 thousand over the previous year, from \$8,163,752 to \$8,678,918 for the coming year, however property taxes are up only a little over \$3 thousand, from \$1,330,473 last year to \$1,333,813 for the coming year. Also at the meeting, the board also imposed taxes at \$.6050 per thousand assessed valuation for the district's permanent levy and \$.39 per thousand for the local option levy.

In other business, the board:

-heard an update from CEO Michael Blauer on the Irrigon Clinic. The previous physician's assistant is no longer employed at the clinic and a PA is being sought to fill the position. Blauer said that he has spoken with some potential candidates for the job and commented that Dr. Ken Wenberg has been doing a good job providing coverage for the clinic in the interim.

-heard from Blauer concerning the proposed switch to electronic records. He said that a team from the district visited a hospital in Chelan to explore their system and help determine the best electronic records system fit for MCHD.

-voted to give Blauer the discretion to select the best option concerning purchase of a new CT scanner, with prices ranging from over \$300 thousand for a used scanner to over \$400 thousand for a new one. To date, the district has received the following estimates: a GE 16-slice scanner-\$424,155, new, \$300 thousand used; a Toshiba 16-slice scanner-\$409,122 new, \$290 thousand used; and a Philips 16 slice-\$461,918 new, \$331,585 used. The district will also take into consideration the service contract options when selecting a vendor. Blauer told the board that Warren Rosen, x-ray department, has been instrumental in negotiating prices and maintenance agreements with the various companies. Currently Pioneer Memorial Hospital has only a one-slice machine.

-approved a bid from Pioneer Woodworking, Bend for Pioneer Memorial Clinic cabinetry, which includes new sliding windows for \$13,322.

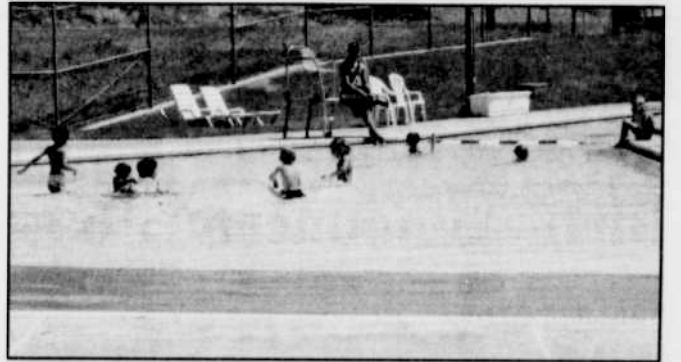
-approved allowing the Morrow County Treasurer to invest district funds.

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner had eight admissions, one swing bed admission, 22 admissions for observation, one admitted for hospital

respite, the swing nursing facility had one admission, 489 total outpatients, 75 total emergency room encounters, 1863 lab tests, 112 x-ray procedures, 68 CT scans, 41 EKG tests, one treadmill procedures, seven colonoscopy procedures, five respiratory therapy procedures; Heppner Ambulance had 28 total page-outs and 24 transports for \$29,504 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 29 page-outs with 14 transports for \$16,058 in revenue;

Irrigon Ambulance had 19 page-outs with 11 transports for \$10,310 in revenue; there were three flights; Home Health had 119 patient visits; Hospice had one admission; pharmacy had 1337 drug doses for \$60,953 in drug revenue; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 431 patient visits with 25 new patients, 51 seen by a nurse and eight no shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 170 patient visits with 13 new patients, 24 seen by a nurse and 11 no shows.

Come on in, the water's fine!



A lifeguard watches over swimmers at the Willow Creek Water Park on Tuesday, June 29. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

State Board gives thumbs up to UMESD-UBESD merger

After almost a year of planning, hurdles and hearings, a merger between the Umatilla-Morrow and Union-Baker education service districts is a reality, thanks to the thumbs up from the state Board of Education this morning. The two ESDs will become the new InterMountain ESD on May 31, 2011.

"This is truly an historic event for our region," said UMESD Superintendent Dr. Mark Mulvihill. "It was a long, but fair and thorough, process, and I believe it's an example of the kind of transformational change that we need in state government."

The state Board of Education voted during its regular meeting earlier today to approve the feasibility of a merger between the two eastern Oregon ESDs. On June 30, the two boards of directors for the UMESD and UBESD will meet to begin discussion about the new board zoning configuration. The new InterMountain ESD board will consist of seven board members - three from Umatilla County, one each from Morrow, Union and Baker counties, and one at-large position. Those new board members will be selected during the Nov. 2 General Election. Following the election, the current UMESD and UBESD boards will continue to meet monthly as scheduled through the remainder of the 2010-11 school year, while the new InterMountain ESD board will begin meeting to map out poli-

cies, procedures and other details to prepare for the completion of the merger.

Mulvihill said that it's clear that the current funding streams for education are not adequate for the demand of our schools, and that the only way to care for kids is to "fundamentally change the way we do business."

"This means outside the box thinking and difficult decisions," Mulvihill said. "I applaud our two boards (UMESD and UBESD) for making a courageous decision that will benefit the students of eastern Oregon. A lot of times, people don't change things because they're difficult or challenging, but our boards overcame the difficulties and rose to the challenge and succeeded."

The InterMountain ESD will represent approximately 24,000 students between the four counties, 19,000 of which are from Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Planning for the merger began last August between the UMESD, UBESD and Malheur ESD. In the original configuration, Union County would have merged with the UMESD, while Baker County would have merged with Malheur ESD, effectively dissolving the UBESD. However, due to a taxing issue, Malheur ESD pulled out of the merger in early April. The UMESD and UBESD boards then decided unanimously to move forward with a merger between themselves.

Morrow SWCD to conduct spray project to control Poison Hemlock

Citizen concern over the health and safety issue of Poison Hemlock growing along Willow Creek has prompted the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District to request discretionary funds from Morrow County Court to pay for chemicals and equipment to spray the stream banks in Heppner, Lexington, and Ione.

This project will be at no cost to landowners. Morrow SWCD staff will be conducting the spray project the week of July 12.

Any landowner who wants to opt out of the project and control hemlock on their own is asked to contact Morrow SWCD at 541-676-5452 no later than noon on Friday, July 9.

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Red, White & Blues Cruisin' to the Blues Schedule 4th of July Ione, OR 2010

Friday, July 2

Bank of EO Customer Appreciation BBQ	Main Street	11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Pulled pork meal & Taylors Bar	Ione Legion Hall	5 p.m.
Texas Hold 'Em & Cribbage Tournament	Ione Legion Hall	6 p.m.

Saturday, July 3

1 st annual art show	Ione legion hall	9 a.m.
Golf tournament	Willow Creek Country Club	9 a.m.
Talent show	Ione City Park	6 p.m.
Rowdy Six featuring Adrienne Swanson	Ione City Park	after talent show
Bad Influence	Ione City Park	after talent show
Burgers & hotdogs in the park by Taylor's		

Sunday, July 4

Fireman's breakfast	Ione Fire Hall	7 a.m.
Preschool 5k walk/run (sign-up 7 a.m.)	Main Street	7:30 a.m.
Topic Club book sale	Main Street	9 a.m.
1 st annual art show	Ione Legion Hall	9 a.m.
Ione Legion Auxiliary	Home for the Troops rug raffle	TBA

Interdenominational church service	Ione City Park	9:30 a.m.
Fish pond, frog jump, bike raffle	Ione Fire Hall/Park	11 a.m.
Altar Society pie sale	Ione Fire Hall	11 a.m.
Red, White & Blues parade & Blues Cruise		1 p.m.
Blues Cruise Car Show	Ione City Park	1 p.m.
Park activities begin & food vendors open		1 p.m.

Music in the park by Eric Jepsen & John Wambeke	city park gazebo	
Blues bands on stage	Ione Amphitheater	3 p.m.
Tommy Hogan Band Too Slim & the Taildraggers	Bugs Henderson	
(Morrow County Unified Recreation District)		
Boat trip auction on stage	Ione Amphitheater	7 p.m.
Firework display		Dusk

City taking action against owners of abandoned and discarded vehicles

The City of Heppner has announced that, according to the Heppner City Code, abandoned or discarded vehicles cannot be stored on private property without a permit granted by the Heppner City Council.

The permit, which is good for one year, costs \$25 and requires a hearing before the council.

All property owners within 200 feet are to be notified at least 10 days before the hearing with the council is held. There is a limit of one permit per vehicle (Section 6-4-3). Vehicles with an expired license and vehicles that are inoperative are considered "discarded" vehicles.

Heppner City Manager Dave DeMayo stated that the requirement would be enforced. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office

deputies will warn offenders and work with them for two months. After August 31, 2010, the deputies will fully enforce the provision in the city code.

Pioneer Memorial Physical Therapy holds open house



Physical therapist Shelly McCabe (left) works through a balancing exercise using a weighted ball with Molly Rhea (right), director of nursing services with the Morrow County Health District, during the open house held at Pioneer Memorial Physical Therapy on Friday, June 25. -Photo by David Sykes

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:



MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.



Happy 4th of July!

4TH OF JULY WEEKEND HOURS:

Open Saturday until 12:00 pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net