

Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

Luke Swanson joins Heppner Wheatland

Luke Swanson has recently joined Wheatland Insurance Center as an insurance producer, according to agency president Kay Hunkapillar.

Based out of the Heppner branch office, Swanson, 31, joins Wheatland with 10 years marketing and sales experience with Federated Insurance

Company and Philadelphia Insurance Company.

He graduated in 1997 from Ione High School and earned his business degree from Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. Swanson has extensive knowledge of the insurance industry with an emphasis on business and non-profit organization coverage.

He is married and his wife's name is Tyan. They have two children, Carter, 23 months and Chase, two months. "I am happy to be back in the area with my family and I look forward to helping businesses and local people with their farm, commercial, personal and



Luke Swanson at his office in Heppner.

life insurance.

Wheatland Insurance Center is one of the largest locally owned insurance agencies in Eastern Oregon, with 10 locations throughout the region. A Trusted Choice independent insurance agency,

Wheatland represents many insurance companies offering products for businesses, non-profit organizations, public entities, and all lines of personal insurance products.

Health district shows healthy profit

The Morrow County Health District showed a healthy profit for the second month in a row, according to the February profit/loss statement released at the regular meeting held Monday night in Heppner.

The district had a \$47,162 gain for February, down from a \$216,680 gain in January.

In February MCHD showed \$568,975 in gross patient revenue and \$128,617 in total revenue deductions, \$94,733 in tax revenue and \$93,775 in other operating revenue for \$638,867 in total operating revenue. In January the district showed \$769,954 in total operating revenue.

February's profit/loss statement listed \$589,831 in operating expenses, a \$39,035 gain from operations, and an \$8,126 non-operating gain. The district listed a \$146,147 year-to-date gain for an average \$18,268 monthly year-to-date gain.

At the meeting, CEO Michael Blauer told the board that he is planning to meet with Oregon Health Sciences University, towards coordinating patient visits with a cardiologist through OHSU at Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner, and is also working with cardiologist Dr. Tim Hanlon, who provided cardiology care previously at Pioneer Memorial Clinic and is now affiliated with OHSU.

In other business, the board:

-heard updates from Blauer on numerous topics such as the Community Health Improvement Project, in which MCHD is participating; the prospect of managed care; working with other organizations to

coordinate health care; the national health care insurance plan and the possibility of its repeal; and on several seminars and workshops he had attended concerning health care on local, state and national levels.

-elected John Murray as the MCHD secretary/treasurer to conform to the district's by-laws.

-learned that the newly purchased CT scan is up and working;

-learned that the district is seeking an RN for Home Health and Hospice to replace a nurse who is leaving the area and also an EMT in Irrigon;

-learned that the long-term care census is at eight patients and the assisted living facility has one opening and may be providing respite care;

-heard that some patients from the Irrigon area are returning to the Irrigon Clinic for their medical care, possibly due to a physician shortage in Hermiston. The district is contemplating improvements on the Irrigon Clinic if business there remains steady. Blauer suggested that the district observe the trends at the Irrigon Clinic for three to four months before making plans. "I think we need to get this process started when we can," said board Chair Larry Mills.

-received an inquiry as to identity of the donor of the "old green" ambulance, previously used in parades and now held by the county which would like to sell it.

-heard a concern about water quality and nitrate contamination of groundwater from David Burns, MCHD board member from Irrigon. Board member LeAnn Rea told

the board that she had previously learned of a study that indicated that ground water contamination had been detected in north Morrow County, as a result of crop fertilization, effluent application and irrigation, but that it was not an issue in south Morrow County.

-heard from Blauer that a board training session has been planned for April 25, prior to the next regular meeting.

-held a joint medical staff/board meeting prior to the regular meeting.

-received the following report: the Irrigon Medical Clinic had 191 patient visits in February, with 30 new patients, 28 seen by a nurse and seven no-shows; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 455 patient visits with 39 new patients, 46 seen by a nurse and five no-shows; Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner had seven admissions, three swing bed admissions, 12 admitted for observation, 414 outpatient admissions, 66 total emergency room encounters, 1457 lab tests, 104 x-ray procedures, 15 CT scans, 38 EKG tests, two treadmill procedures, six colonoscopy procedures, one endoscopy procedure, 105 respiratory therapy procedures; Heppner Ambulance had 17 total page-outs with 16 transports for \$22,598 in revenue, Boardman Ambulance had 16 total page-outs with five transports for \$6,011 in revenue, Irrigon Ambulance had 19 total page-outs with 14 transports for \$14,165 in revenue, there were two flights; Home Health had 113 patient visits; Hospice had two admissions; and pharmacy had 1178 drug doses for \$53,281 in revenue.



VOL. 130 NO. 13 10 Pages Wednesday, March 30, 2011 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

School District, Port positions challenged

There will be many positions up for election on the May 17 ballot. Some of the positions include two from the Ione School District, four from the Morrow County School District, and two from the Port of Morrow. One of the Morrow County School District positions and both Port of Morrow positions are being challenged.

For the Ione School District: Joseph P. McEligott has filed for Director Position 1 and Bink Ramos has filed for Director Position 2.

For the Morrow County School District: Brian Kollman has filed for Position 1; William J. Kuhn has filed for Position 3; Becky Kindle is opposing

incumbent Patrick Anthony McNamee for Position 4; and Tony Navarro for Position 5.

For the Port of Morrow: Incumbent Marvin Padberg is being challenged by Gerald (Jerry) Breazeale for Commissioner Position 4 and incumbent Larry Lindsay is being challenged by Kelly Kraft.

DA to speak to Tea Party group

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson will be speaking to the April meeting of the Willow Creek Valley Tea Party Patriots.

Nelson will speak about issues in Morrow County and also take questions from the audience.

The meeting will be held Monday, April 11, at 7 p.m. at Columbia Basin Electric Conference Room. The public is invited to attend and participate.

Area football players selected for annual East West Shriners football game



The 59th annual Shriners East West Football Game will be held July 30 at 12:30 p.m. at the Baker High School football stadium. Ian Murray (left) of Heppner High School was chosen as a player for the East team. Jordan Wright (center), of Heppner High School, and Tanner Rietmann (right), of Ione High School, were selected as alternates for the East team.

Public invited to Port of Morrow & I-84 / U.S. 730 Interchange Area Management Plan meeting

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and their planning consultants will host a second Public Open House Meeting regarding the Port of Morrow and Interstate 84 / U.S. Highway 730 Interchange Area Management Plan. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7, starting at 6 p.m. at the Port of Morrow (P.O.M.) conference room. The open house session will begin at 6 p.m., with presentations beginning at 6:20 p.m. The P.O.M. is located at 2 Marine Drive in Boardman.

The meeting is being held to provide local residents, community members, business owners and others an opportunity to review preliminary interchange and roadway concepts, review the concept evaluation and screening

process, ask questions and provide feedback regarding the area plan.

The Port of Morrow (POM) and I-84/U.S. 730 Interchange Area Management Plans (IAMPs) are long-term transportation and land use plans that are being developed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Port of Morrow, the City of Boardman, and Morrow County. The focus of the plans is on the existing I-84 / Laurel Lane (POM) Exit 165 and I-84 / U.S. 730 interchanges. The goal is to identify near and long-term improvement projects that will allow the interchanges to continue to function in a safe and efficient manner as the surrounding area developments and new roadway connections are built. As part of the planning process,

land use, roadways, and property access within the vicinity of the interchange will be evaluated. Building new interchanges or modifying existing interchanges is very costly; therefore, it is in the interest of ODOT, the Port of Morrow, the City of Boardman, Morrow County, business owners, and citizens to ensure that these important interchanges function well for as many years as possible.

For additional information regarding this meeting or the Interchange Area Management Plans being developed, contact Matt Hughart at Kittelson & Associates, 503-228-5230; Karen Pettigrew at the City of Boardman, 541-481-9252; or Carla McLane at Morrow County, 541-922-4624.

Dilley sentenced to 70 months for Irrigon robbery

Dillon Joseph Dilley, 22, was sentenced to 70 months in prison under Measure 11 for robbing Bakes Restaurant and Lounge in Irrigon on December 2, 2010. The defendant pleaded guilty to one count of Robbery in the Second Degree, one count of Unlawful Use of a Weapon, one count of Menacing, and one count of Theft in the Second Degree. No stipulated sentence was agreed to between the defendant and the state. The defendant

requested open sentencing before the court.

At sentencing, Morrow/Umatilla Circuit Judge Eva Temple heard testimony from the defendant and victims in the case. Judge Temple then heard argument from Defense Attorney Dan Stephens and Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson. Defense counsel argued for an opt-out of Measure 11 time, while District Attorney Nelson requested the

mandatory Measure 11 sentence of 70 months in the Oregon Department of Corrections. Judge Temple ruled that the defendant did not qualify under an opt-out of Measure 11 and sentenced the defendant to 70 months to the Oregon Department of Correction.

Under the Measure 11 sentence, the defendant will not be eligible for any reductions in his sentence.

The case was investigated by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

Deadline to register to vote set for April 26

April 26 is the last day for residents that are new to the state to register to vote for the May 17 election.

REAL DEALS

NAPA KNOW HOW

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Selected Napa Hand Tools up to 40% off

THRU MARCH 31

Morrow County Grain Growers

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