

STROKE WEB CAMS

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gists are not easy to come by," added MCHD CEO Michael Blauer.

When board member David Burns questioned whether it would increase MCHD's liability, board member Leann Rea replied, "No, David, it's decreasing our liability," because patients would get the experts' opinions without leaving Heppner.

Also at the meeting, Blauer presented the MCHD Board a blueprint of the proposed Irrigon Medical Clinic remodel.

The proposed clinic remodel would include funding for roof repair, add a family exam room, and provide more office space, additional storage, a staff lounge and a patio to the existing clinic, and would also provide more privacy for patients. The remodel is expected to cost the district around \$200,000, which, according to Mahoney, would probably be funded through grants and a flex-lease loan and would not require the district to apply to the USDA for a loan, which is a better fit for bigger projects. She said that the district paid off one flex lease loan in January and is expecting to have another loan paid off prior to the remodeling project.

In other business, the board:

-approved donating a 1989 Ford pickup to the Irrigon Fire District. Blauer said that the district has not been using the vehicle and does not need it, whereas the IFD has been maintaining it.

-learned from Blauer that he has received a very positive response to the Community Health Improvement Partnership, sponsored by the district, which is promoting healthy lifestyles.

-learned that the district has received quotes

for replacing the fire sprinklers at PMH in the neighborhood of around \$35,000. Mahoney said that the district should be okay without borrowing to fund the update, which was mandated by the Oregon Fire Marshal.

-learned that the federally-mandated switchover to electronic medical records was not without its glitches. Despite some computer problems, Blauer complimented the staff for their hard work in facilitating the change. "They really did a good job," he said.

-heard an update from Mahoney on the district's contribution to the employees' union and non-union retirement plans. If the district makes in excess of a certain amount, the contribution will go up to six percent. The contribution varies between four and six percent and is capped at six. Mahoney said that the amount was so close, an anticipated Medicare settlement would put the district over the amount. The board approved moving ahead with six percent on good faith.

-learned that Ray Michael, the owner of Boardman Pharmacy, has closed the pharmacy there, which will leave Boardman without a pharmacy. Michael sold the pharmacy to Safeway.

-heard an update from Blauer on the move toward coordinated care. In theory, coordinated care would manage patient care in hopes of reducing costs by providing a set dollar amount for each Medicaid patient. The health care dollar would then be divided between various agencies, such as clinics, hospitals, dental and mental health facilities. Issues of concern are the patients who use the emergency room as a doctor's office, which drives up costs, and those who go

to the ER or doctor's office for every little complaint because it doesn't cost them anything. One possible solution discussed was the hiring of a care coordinator.

-received the following December financial report: the district received \$575,827 in gross patient revenue, \$106,020 in revenue deductions, \$102,894 in taxes and \$7,252 in other operating revenue for \$579,953 in total operating revenue, \$707,922 in total operating expenses and \$23,937 for a non-operating gain for a \$104,031 loss for the month, a \$127,518 year-to-date gain and an average monthly year-to-date gain of \$21,253.

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 439 patient visits for the month with 34 new patients, 36 seen by a nurse and 17 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 162 patient visits for the month with 21 new patients, 46 seen by a nurse and 18 no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 17 page-outs with 15 transports for \$20,277 in revenue, Boardman Ambulance had 31 page-outs with 13 transports for \$16,852 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 27 page-outs with 20 transports for \$24,042 in revenue; there was one flight; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had two admissions, two swing bed admissions, six admitted for observation, 494 total outpatients, 66 emergency room encounters, 1,498 lab tests, 113 x-ray procedures, 22 CT scans, 22 EKG tests, five colonoscopy procedures, two endoscopy procedures, 75 respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 86 patient visits; Hospice had four admissions and pharmacy had 901 drug doses for \$60,061 in drug revenue.

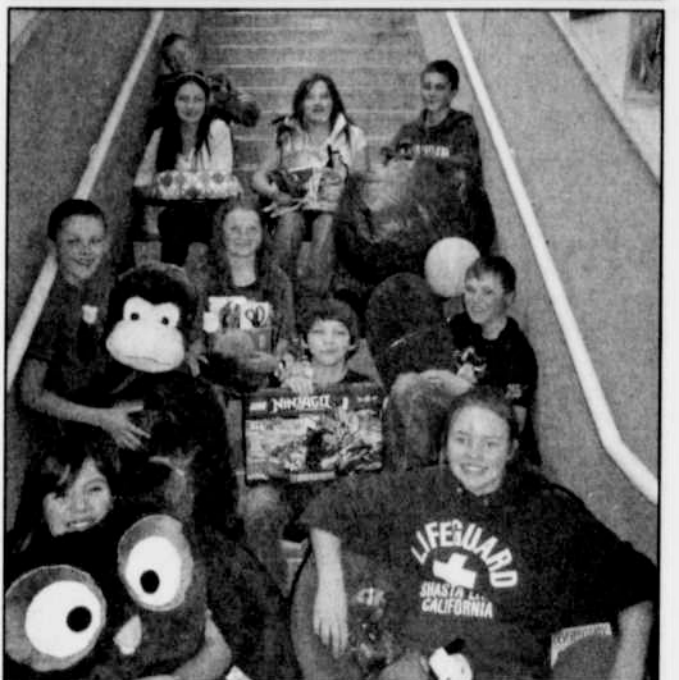
Time Out for Reading sets all-time record

Tick, tock, tick, tock...throughout the month of January, fifth and sixth graders at Heppner Elementary spent 130,013 minutes reading during the annual program called Time Out for Reading. Students received prizes and rewards for their individual reading times and also worked in teams to attain the highest average.

In addition to the reading contest, there was also a bookmark contest, a logo design competition and a trivia contest. Sophie Grant was winner of the bookmark contest and Tarin Troxell won the logo competition. Cason Mitchell and Cara Arbogast were co-winners of the trivia contest.

On Thursday, January 26, students were invited to attend an after-school reading party, with the fifth graders going home at 9 p.m. and the sixth graders staying overnight. Students from Heppner High who attended the party and stayed the night were: Cidney Coster, Tayllor Gould, Larissa Gray, Zech Hintz, Tate Gentry, Drew Brannon and Garrett Robinson.

Sophie Grant was the top reader with 7,157 minutes. Rounding out the top ten were: Kacie Gray, Mitchell VonGuten, Nichole Shaw, Jacee Cur-



Top: Top Reader Sophie Grant and teacher Jannie Allen. Bottom: Top Ten readers (top of stairs down): Zavier Glover, Nichole Shaw, Becca Waddell, Kevin Smith, Hunter Nichols, Jacee Currin, Mitchell VonGuten, Tarin Troxell, Sophie Grant and Kacie Gray. -Contributed photos

rin, Zavier Glover, Kevin Becca Waddell and Tarin Smith, Hunter Nichols, Troxell.

Changes underway in Boardman pharmacy

After 48 years as a practicing pharmacist, Ray Michael, registered pharmacist and owner of Boardman Pharmacy and Hardware, is beginning his retirement process.

Michael graduated from the OSU College of Pharmacy in 1964 and began his career in Gresham, OR. After a year in Gresham, Michael was employed in Portland for 13 years with Pay and Save Pharmacies. He opened his own business, Boardman Pharmacy, in 1978.

"It has been an honor and privilege to have served Columbia River communities for the past 33 years," Michael says.

After 48 years of pharmacy practice, though, he says, "it is time to cut back." He also says he is grateful for the faith, trust and loyalty his clients have placed in him. It is with regret on one hand and excitement on the other that he announces he will

merge his pharmacy clients' prescription files with the Hermiston Safeway Pharmacy at 990 Highway 395 South in Hermiston.

The transition took effect the morning of Feb. 2. Boardman Pharmacy phone line, 541-481-9474, will be transferred directly to Safeway Pharmacy for client convenience. Michael will be joining the professional staff at Safeway Pharmacy temporarily to oversee transition of client prescriptions.

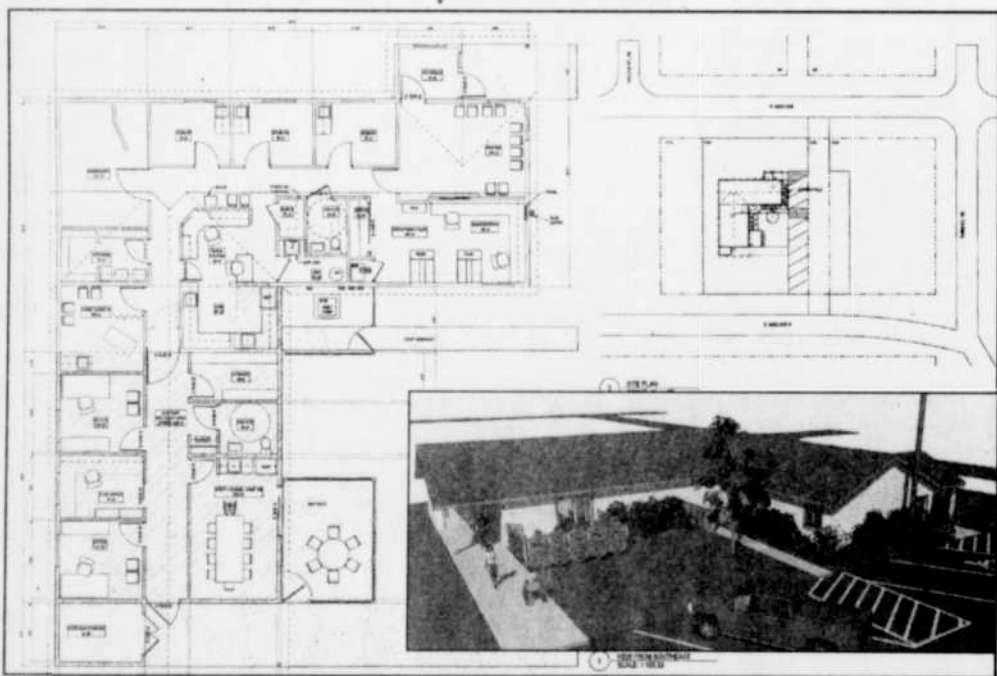
Boardman Hardware and related departments will remain open. As a reminder, services include UPS and Fed Ex services, fax and copier services, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife hunting and fishing licenses, and Oregon Liquor Agency. The full-line hardware offers small appliances, sporting goods, plumbing, electrical and paint supplies. Regional gifts, toys, cosmetics, beauty products, baby items



Ray Michael - Photo by Jane Pope

and over-the-counter vitamins, pain relievers, cough and cold remedies will still be available.

Business hours for Boardman Hardware are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. They are closed Sundays. Boardman Hardware is easy to locate, north of Interstate 84, just one block west of North Main Street, next to the Boardman Post Office on NW 1st. Street. The new phone number is 541-481-7351.



An architect's drawing of the proposed Irrigon Clinic remodeling project.

ECONOMIST

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rural counties and passed by the urban counties in Oregon. He said in the end equalization of taxes has turned out to be beneficial to rural counties, with five of the most urban counties in Oregon, including Multnomah and Clackamas, paying more income taxes into the state government than they receive back in benefits. He said the rest of the 31, mostly rural coun-

ties in Oregon, take more money out from the state than they pay in.

In other advice concerning future economic development possibilities for this area, Sorte recommended that Heppner "distinguish itself" in some way, possibly by investing more in education.

"Distinguish yourself by getting a reputation for good education in your

area. Your only advantage is creativity," Sorte said. He said the town had the basic services such as churches, restaurants, bars, schools and a gas station, and that it only needed to build on that to achieve more economic development. He said America does not do much manufacturing anymore but is good at marking, distribution and development.

Willow Creek Economic

Group to hold annual meeting

The Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) will hold their annual luncheon Thursday, February 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the regular Heppner Chamber of Commerce lunch meeting.

Guest speak-

ers Patricia Pilz, Andrew O'Connell and others will speak about the education needs and opportunities for wind farm job opportunities.

This will be a lunch hosted by WCVEDG. Alvin Liu of Cornerstone Gallery

will be catering the meal and will be serving roast stuffed pork tenderloin with mango demi-glace; wild rice pilaf; dinner rolls; green salad with pear and candied walnuts and a dessert. RSVP to the Heppner Chamber or Marcia Kemp.

Auxiliary to hold potluck

The American Legion Auxiliary will hold a Valentine's potluck on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of the Heppner United Methodist Church. A meeting of the auxiliary will follow the potluck.

Also, the auxiliary would like to remind interested parties that Girls State applications are due to the auxiliary by Feb. 10.

Tea Party group plans bus trip

Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots are organizing a bus trip to Salem during the legislative session this month. The bus will leave Heppner at 7 a.m. on Feb. 21 and return on Feb. 22.

The agenda items during the bus trip will include Columbia River water resources and the wolf impact in Oregon.

In Salem, the group will meet with Rep. Greg Smith and Rep. Dennis Richardson, Sen. David Nelson and Sen. Doug Whitsett, and the Americans for Prosperity group. The Tea Party Patriots will also attend the legislative session during most important budgetary issues.

If interested, call Dick Sargent at 541-676-9621.

HHS announces students of the month



Heppner High School announces the students of the month for January. (L-R): Janice Munkers, CJ Kindle, Paige Grieb, Lilly Sandford, Joslynn Troxell and Zech Hintz. The character trait for January was responsibility. -Contributed photo

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