

IONE SCHOOL DISTRICT

-Continued from PAGE ONE
were from the Lexington area.

Also at the meeting, the board:

-learned from Archer that the extra-duty salary schedule has been revamped, so that high school varsity coaches are all being paid the same amount per sport-\$3,752. Mulvihill said that normally the extra-duty salary schedule is achieved through collective bargaining, but the teachers requested that administration complete it this year. Mulvihill also said that he did not believe that some extra-duty assignments should be funded at the same level, such as football and tennis, but added that there was agreement from the staff.

-learned that swimming pool attendance was "great" despite the pool heating system being on the fritz. The district did not charge pool admission because of the lack of a heating system. The solar company, Live-light, which was to install solar panels to heat the pool has gone bankrupt, leaving the district with no recourse for reimbursement, said Mulvihill. Mulvihill said that "IMESD should not have paid half the cost of the project up-front" and said that IMESD would pay any legal fees incurred up

to that point. He said that he did not recommend pursuing a lawsuit against the company any further because they have no assets to recover.

"This is one of the times you have to cut your losses and move forward," he said. "We did our due diligence."

The district is scheduled to pick up a propane heater, which they hope to have installed and working by May of next year. Pool management and staff were credited with the increase in pool attendance, along with consistent hours—noon to 7 p.m. seven days a week. The hot summer was another factor in the pool's success.

"We only have to heat the pool two, three degrees," said Archer. "The temperature worked out really well."

The board also learned that gate receipts are normally less than \$3,000 per season.

-learned that the new high school weight room has been painted and carpeted and the weights were scheduled to be moved in. Archer reported that Ashley McCabe has said that the Rietmann Building, which previously housed the weight room, is now

completely empty. Archer advised that the Rietmann Building has been purchased. Anne Morter expressed concern that another year has passed without a working weight room, especially for the benefit of the football players. So far the new weight room cannot accommodate members of the community because of oversight and liability issues.

-received the following financial update: the general fund collected \$250,582 for two months of basic school support, \$1,679 in property taxes and \$6,502 from the Common School fund; Oregon Department of Education updated the basic school support estimate, which is \$18,000 less than the estimate dated May 3 due to a reduction in the 2011-12 weighted average daily membership.

-scheduled a board retreat for Tuesday, September 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Ione Community Church, with a work session to be held from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the school; and the regular meeting to begin at 4:30. Some items to be discussed include: board goals, the charter, the Eastern Promise, pre-kindergarten and sustainability.

HEALTH DISTRICT

-Continued from PAGE ONE
would increase survival chances for heart attack victims by sending critical information to specialists via cell phones or other electronic devices even before the patient reaches a hospital. The foundation granted the district half of the \$50,000 request. The district had earlier pledged \$15,000 toward the purchase if Turner's grant funding was approved.

-learned from Blauer that GOBHI and ODS have received approval to become the Coordinated Care Organizations for Eastern Oregon. Medicaid patients' care, from doctor and hospital visits to psychological and dental care, would be managed through CCOs, as a way to save money by allotting the Medicaid patients a set amount, regardless of how much or how little care they receive. Blauer reported that Family Care (the Oregon Medicaid program) has dropped its application to become the CCO. Blauer said that larger hospitals have put up considerable amounts of money, in effect to have a seat on the CCO board which has yet to be formed.

"Smaller hospitals have been invited to put money in, but I don't think we're going to do that," he said.

It was estimated that the recommended five percent buy-in percentage that would enable MCHD to opt in would end up being in the neighborhood of \$350,000, which would be prohibitive for such a small district. He said that the smaller hospitals are hoping to eventually have one seat on the board (combined). Blauer estimates that the board would consist of at least 15 members. It has not yet been determined whether

a seat on the board, which appears to be financially unlikely for the district, or signing a contract with the CCO would be beneficial to the district.

"There are concerns as to whether it's going to fly," said Blauer. "There are some concerns that the rates (reimbursement amounts to health care facilities) are too low."

"We're in contact with ODS about what our contract would look like," said Blauer. "We don't have to sign the thing, but it may be to our advantage to do so."

-approved the credentialing file for Dr. Russ Nichols.

-learned from Mahoney that the district has received permission from USDA to purchase another ambulance.

-heard from Blauer and Director of Nursing Services Molly Rhea that a state survey for a Level 4 Trauma Center designation, an important designation, was conducted at Pioneer Memorial Hospital on August 27. Blauer reported that the survey went well overall; however, the state outlined several areas that they deemed needed improvement.

-received a request from board member Leann Rea to hold future MCHD meetings scheduled in Lexington at the new Lexington Fire Station.

-heard from Rhea that the hospital and emergency room have been busy.

-learned from Mahoney that the district is expecting a sizeable reimbursement, in the neighborhood of \$200,000, from Medicare.

-received the following profit/loss statement for July: the district received \$643,181 in gross patient revenue, less \$9,256

for bad debts and \$45,777 for contractual (Medicare/Medicaid) and other adjustments for \$55,034 in total revenue deductions and a net patient revenue of \$588,146; \$99,405 in tax revenue and \$9,595 in other operating revenue for \$697,147 in total operating revenue, \$697,027 in total operating expenses for an \$18,119 gain from operations, plus \$35,412 in a non-operating gain for a total \$53,532 profit for the month. She said the finances were "definitely on target," with revenue around \$55,000 over the previous year.

-received the following report for July: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 423 patient visits, with 28 new patients, 36 seen by a nurse and 12 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 174 patient visits, with 21 new patients, 40 seen by a nurse and six no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 37 total page-outs with 28 transports for \$36,240 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 43 page-outs with 28 transports for \$38,210 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 36 page-outs with 19 transports for \$23,329 in revenue; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had three admissions, two swing bed admissions, five admitted for observation, 514 total outpatients, 81 emergency room encounters, 1,528 lab tests, 109 x-ray procedures, 23 CT scans, 23 EKG tests, two colonoscopy procedures, six endoscopy procedures, 16 respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 96 patient visits; Hospice had two admissions; Pharmacy had 1,052 drug doses for \$80,198 in drug revenue; PMH had \$37,947 in revenue for hospital encounters.

FSA provides assistance to livestock producers

Morrow County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Kyle Carmine announced Monday that special provisions will be made to the FSA emergency loan program and to the Risk Management Agency (RMA) federal crop insurance program in order to provide greater flexibility for livestock producers facing forage and feed shortages as a result of drought.

On August 22, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced that modifications will be made to the emergency loan program, allowing them to be made earlier in the season. In the past, emergency loan eligibility was determined after the production cycle.

Producers will no longer have to wait until the end of the production cycle to obtain a loan. This change will support producers who currently need assistance to help offset high production costs.

Vilsack also announced that a special provision will be made to the federal crop insurance program through RMA that will allow producers to hay or graze cover crops without forfeiting crop insurance eligibility on planted 2013 spring crops. This change is beneficial to livestock producers, making forage and feed available this fall and winter. However, before making any plans to plant crop cover, producers

should consult with their insurance agent, according to RMA.

"Adding more flexibility to current program requirements will make much-needed assistance more readily available to producers affected by disaster," said Carmine. "These changes, in particular, should benefit livestock producers who are facing higher feed costs or are at risk of liquidating their herd due to the drought," she said.

For more information regarding special provisions to the emergency loan program, contact the Morrow County FSA office at 541-676-9011 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Closing date for noninsurable crops approaches

Morrow County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Kyle Carmine, reminds producers that they have until Tuesday, Sept. 4, to purchase coverage through the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The sales closing date is actually Sept. 1, but producers have until Tuesday, Sept. 4, to purchase coverage this year because Sept. 1 falls on a weekend and the following Monday is a holiday.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to normal disasters. "Purchasing a crop insurance policy is an easy way for producers to mitigate risk," said Carmine.

"The past few years have shown that natural disasters can severely impact an otherwise successful operation," she said.

The following crops have a NAP application closing date of Sept. 1, 2012: all small grains (rye and triticale), beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, garlic, sod grass, greens, herbs, lettuce, radishes, strawberries and turnips.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be non-insurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. If the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage for a crop in the county, then NAP coverage is not avail-

able for that crop. In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. Producers must file the application and service fee by the Sept. 1 deadline. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

For more information on sales closing dates and NAP, contact the Morrow County FSA office at 541-676-9011.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

June 13 (cont.): -BPD received a call from a man who reported there was something under his house. Deputy responded; it was a cat.

-BPD issued a citation to a 21-year-old male for driving uninsured and illegal window tint.

June 18: -MCSO received a call from a reporting person in Irrigon who said he was threatened by a subject with a weapon. Female subject was threatened; suspect was gone at that time. Hotel manager made the call. Robert Verdusco, 23, was arrested on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for failure to pay fine on angling license, with other charges.

-A woman in Irrigon reported to MCSO that she had a mother and baby skunk living under her house. Deputy will be looking into contacts for getting rid of the skunks.

-Stefani Marie Workman, 29, was cited for violating the basic rule 76/55.

-MCSO cited Andrew Dale Baker, 25, for defective equipment.

-Vasily M. Doroshchuk, 82, was issued a citation by

MCSO for no ops.

-BPD received a call from a reporting person who said he was hit by a car and the subjects took off running. Deputies, officer, UPD and ambulance responded. Saul Salas, 23, was arrested for assault II and menacing. A warrant was placed on Robert Verdusco, 23, for assault II, menacing, and hit and run with property damage.

June 19: -MCSO was advised that Nolan Brice Brock, 52, was arrested by Hermiston PD on LSA warrant for probation violation and an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for failure to appear on driving while suspended. Subject was lodged at Umatilla County Jail on multiple warrants from other agencies.

-MCSO arrested Joseph Lee Newby on a Umatilla Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on DUII.

-MCSO arrested Jaime L Booker, 20, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for failure to appear on possession of a controlled substance - marijuana.

-MCSO issued a citation to Giles Larsen Ellett, 20, for unlawful use of a cell phone in a vehicle.

-MCSO was advised that SPB arrested Ernest Erickson, 19, for probation violation.

June 20: -MCSO received a call from a woman in Heppner who reported she

had multiple items missing from her residence; thefts occurred some time in the past two weeks on separate occasions. Items included prescription medications, a large change jar with \$200-300 and a 30-case of beer.

-MCSO arrested Robert Edward Flannagan, 37, on a U.S. Marshall service warrant for theft of U.S. government property.

-MCSO arrested Toby Dale Rodriguez, 41, on a Umatilla County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on aggravated theft I.

-MCSO was advised that Hermiston PD arrested a 26-year-old male subject on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on strangulation.

-A woman in Lexington reported to MCSO that prescription drugs had been stolen from her residence. Theft happened in the last four or five days; pills were the only thing taken.

-MCSO received a call from a man in Irrigon who said a female was driving driving down Hwy. 730 and had to slam on her brakes due to a baby in the road. Female took the baby to a residence and to an adult and then left.

-MCSO was advised Umatilla County Sheriff's Office arrested a 29-year-old male on a Morrow County Local Supervisory

Archery season now open

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced that archery season for deer and elk opened last Saturday, Aug. 25, in the Heppner and Fossil units.

Hunters are reminded that the elk bag limit is one bull in the Heppner unit. Elk are well distributed across the forest. While our

forest lands are dry, there has been enough rain with the thunder storms to keep some grass green.

For best chance of success, seek elk on north-facing slopes that have green grass and good shelter cover with water sources nearby.

The Heppner unit is becoming increasingly

crowded, especially in the Four Corners area.

For deer, Heppner and Fossil unit hunters are reminded that the bag limit is buck only. Deer are well distributed across the forest. For best chance of success, look for bucks in areas that have good shrubs and grasses with dense cover nearby.

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES
WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3 FOR LABOR DAY.
Deadline for the September 5th paper will be
Friday August 31 at 5:00 p.m.
HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY
LABOR DAY WEEKEND!