

HEPPNER

50¢



VOL. 131 N O. 43 10 Pages Wednesday, October 31, 2012 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Health district receives good reports of new equipment, software

By April Sykes

Molly Rhea, director of nursing services for the Morrow County Health District told the board Monday night that she believes the district made the right decision in purchasing electronic medical records hardware and software from the Healthland company. The district has switched over to electronic records from paper records, as mandated by the federal government.

Rhea had just returned from a Healthland conference in Orlando, which she said was excellent. She said that one exciting aspect in the future is the possibility of creating a portal that could allow people to access their own medical records online, which could eventually allow them to add information to their medical records and pay their medical bills online.

MCHD Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney said that the district has received the Medicaid reimbursement for a portion of the costs for the Healthland purchase and expects that the district will receive the Medicare portion within the

next 30 days.

The clinic and financial portions of the electronic medical records system have not yet been purchased. Mahoney said that the district will need to go into negotiations on contract terms for those purchases.

Also at the meeting, the board voted to retain the Wipfli company for the district's auditing services. Wipfli did not submit the low bid, but board members said they felt very confident with the company, especially since Mike Bell, their previous auditor for many years, is now with Wipfli. Wipfli bid \$17,250 for each year for the next three years, for a total of \$51,750.

Switching to a new company would also have entailed many hours of work on the part of the district's CFO and accounting personnel.

CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, Seattle, had submitted a bid of \$16,000 per year.

The board also agreed that they would like to continue to have a Wipfli representative present the

audit in person.

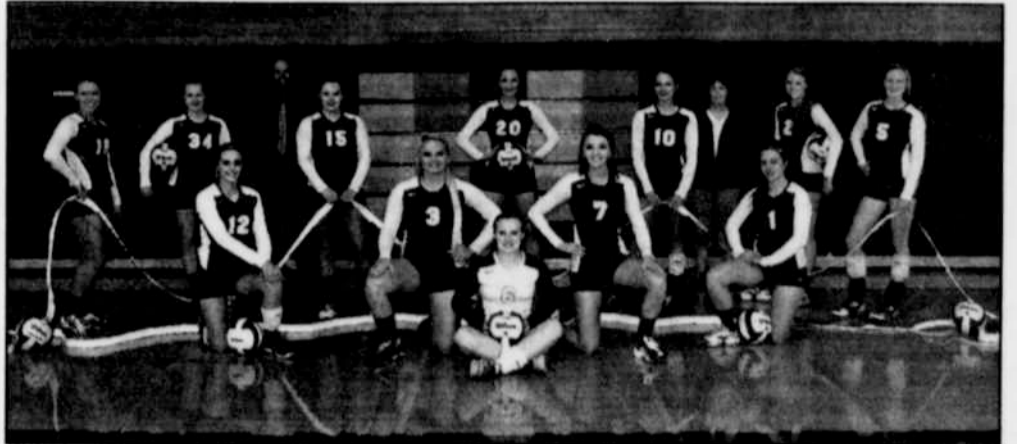
In other business, the board:

learned that the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization is "going live" this week. Under the CCO plan, each Medicaid patient will receive a set amount of money for his care. The pot of money will be distributed to cover a wide range of care, from medical and dental to psychological care. It has not yet been determined how this will eventually affect MCHD, but the district has assurance that it will receive cost-based reimbursement for its services provided to Medicaid patients at least through 2014. That means the district will be reimbursed for its actual costs in providing care to those patients. Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization is currently headed up by ODS (Oregon Dental Service), GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc.) and the bigger hospitals, with ODS taking more initiative in the process.

-heard from Rhea that
-See HEALTH DISTRICT/
PAGE SIX

Mustang volleyball district champs

Heppner team first seed going into 2A state finals



The 2012 Blue Mountain Conference District Champions, the Heppner Mustang volleyball team. Back (L-R) Micha Hintz, Kayla Kindle, Nicole Kempken, Maddie Lindsay, Kelly Wilson, Ryan Dougherty and Emma Osmin. Front (L-R): Hanna Lovgren, Baily Bennett, Paige Grieb, Alana Wilson and Makezie Correa. -Photo by Sandy Matthews.

-See full story "Mustang volleyball takes first in districts" /PAGE FOUR

Sheriff's Dept. receives new boat

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office3 recently took delivery of a brand-new 2012 River Wild patrol and rescue boat.

The craft cost the county only \$1,500, with the rest of the \$55,000 cost paid for through the Oregon Marine Board. The 22-foot craft replaces a 20-year-old, nine-foot boat used by the department for patrol and rescue on the Columbia River.

The department also has a 24-foot, 20-year-old Thunder Jet boat in service.

"Deputy Randy Rayburn gets the credit for the



New 22-foot aluminum River Wild jet boat for the Sheriff's Department.

work behind the department getting this boat," said Undersheriff Steven Myren. "He did all the work to get this."

'Mill zone' now 55 mph

Alert area residents may have noticed that the 45 mph signs in the area around the old Kinzua mill, or "mill zone," have van-

ished. According to sources at the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, that's no accident. The 45 mph speed zone has been rescinded, making the entire stretch 55 mph to the Heppner city limits.

Ballots due Tuesday

Drop boxes available for voter convenience

According to Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers, 27.5 percent of ballots for Morrow County were in as of Tuesday morning, Oct. 30.

As a reminder, voters only have one week left to submit remaining ballots; Election Day is next Tuesday, Nov. 6. All ballots are due by 8 p.m. that day. Ballots must be received, not simply postmarked, on that day. For voter convenience, 24-hour drop boxes are located throughout the county. Ballots may be deposited in the drop boxes until 8 p.m. Election Day to be counted; after that, the boxes will be locked.

Ballot drop locations are as follows:

Heppner: Courthouse parking lot (24 hours) or the Morrow County Clerk's Office, Room 102 inside the



Dropboxes like this one are available throughout the county for voter convenience.

Corvallis: Courthouse. Open 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m., M-F and Election Day (Nov. 6) from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Lexington: 365 West Hwy 74 (Public Works Parking lot). Turn off Hwy. 74 onto Tom Street and left into the public works park-

ing lot. Open 24 hours.

Lone: Spring St. (in front of the turn to 3rd Street). Open 24 hours.

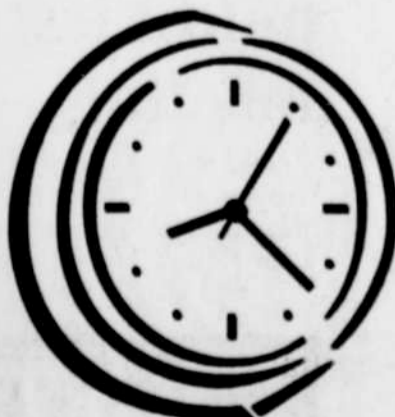
Boardman: NW Boardman Ave. (24 hours).

Irrigon: 205 NE 3rd St. (Irrigon Annex). Open 24 hours.

G-T Trophy Corner



Justin Smith, 18, of Heppner shot his first elk, this 6x5 beauty, up in the Sugarbowl area on opening day of elk rifle season, Wednesday, Oct. 24. -Contributed photo



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday

Daylight Savings Time will end Sunday, Nov. 4.

Remember to "fall back" and turn your clocks back one hour.

PORTER-CABLE 12V MAX COMPACT LITHIUM 2-TOOL KIT

- Drill/Driver
- Hex Impact Driver
- (2) 12V Lithium Ion batteries
- (1) 12V 30 min. charger
- (2) belt hooks
- (1) PH-2 screwdriving bit
- (1) double-ended screwdriving bit
- (1) storage bag.



ON SALE
\$159

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