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Blauer resigns as health district CEO

Former CEO Vander Does to accept interim position

By April Sykes
Morrow County Health District administrator Michael Blauer submitted his resignation to the board

Monday night, saying he was leaving the district the end of March to accept a position with Providence as CEO at Providence Seaside Hospital.

"A good opportunity came up and it was hard to pass up," said Blauer, who added that his departure is "bittersweet."

Blauer has been CEO for MCHD since June 30, 2009.

Board Chair Larry Mills told Blauer that the district is sorry to see him go, but wishes him well.

MCHD staff has been in contact with former MCHD administrator Victor Vander Does, who has agreed to serve as an interim administrator until a new one is hired. Mills said that Vander Does had planned an extended trip to Europe, but agreed to cancel his trip to help out the district. Vander Does was credited with turning around the MCHD's bottom line at a

time when the future of the district was in peril.

The board expects to employ Vander Does beginning the first of April for two to four months at \$10,000 per month until a permanent administrator can be hired. Blauer started at \$105,000 and is currently receiving a salary of \$115,000.

The board agreed on a salary range for the new administrator of between \$110,000-\$120,000, depending on qualifications. Additionally, the board is offering a relocation allowance of \$3,500.

The district's house in Heppner, which is currently occupied by Blauer and his family, will be available for a new administrator upon Blauer's departure; however, it is not completely furnished and would have to be in order to make it available to Vander Does, since he and his wife opted

for a fifth-wheel upon their retirement.

The district also owns a furnished apartment building; however, one apartment in the building is currently used by a physician who works for the district several times a month but lives elsewhere, and the other has been used to provide housing for visiting med students.

Blauer advised the board to advertise the position for free online rather than with the larger newspapers in the Northwest, as suggested by board chair Larry Mills. He said that people of his generation would be more likely to go online for a job search. Mills said the reason he would suggest going with the newspapers is because he would prefer hiring someone from the Northwest. He said that, previously, the district received numerous inquiries from people in the Midwest and South, who were not



Michael Blauer

HEPPNER

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Bank of EO announces tournament attendees

16 teams to compete in fifth annual BEO Wrestling Invitational Tournament this weekend

Bank of Eastern Oregon has announced the invitees to Bank of Eastern Oregon's 2013 Invitational Wrestling Tournament, to be held at Heppner High School this Saturday, Feb. 2.

High schools scheduled to compete are Adrian, Crane, Culver, Enterprise, Grant Union, Heppner, Imbler, Irrigon, Joseph, La Grande, Mac-Hi, North Lake, Pine Eagle, Riverside, Union and Wallowa.

The competition begins at 10 a.m., and Bank of Eastern Oregon invites the public to come watch these athletes compete. Tickets are available at the door and concessions will be available.

Mark Lemmon, BEO's Chief Financial Officer and Heppner High School wrestling coach, has been instrumental in organizing the bank's sponsorship of the event.

"The bank's manage-



The Mustang wrestling team will be competing in the BEO Invitational Wrestling Tournament this Saturday. Back (L-R): Coach Mark Lemmon, Kellie Nelson, Earl Propheter, Tim Nelson, Alex Smith, Coach Brian Lemmon and Ryan Smith. Front (L-R): Jared Lemmon, Jesse Boyd, John Propheter, Will Lutzer and Treston Maben. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

ment has been very involved in establishing this annual tournament and looks forward to the 2013 competition. The first four years of the event were outstanding and we intend the BEO Invitational to be a 'can't miss' tournament

on every school's future schedule," said Lemmon. "We appreciate bank staff and local citizens who volunteer to help at the event or sponsor amenities; their help makes the tournament run smoothly!"

Anyone who would like to volunteer or who has any inquiries concerning the upcoming event, contact Heppner High School Athletic Director Greg Grant at 541-676-9138 or Lemmon at 541-676-0224.

Three arrested after dispute

Last Saturday, Jan. 26, Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report of a dispute on Division Street near Irrigon. It was further reported that a female had been struck in the head with a baseball bat. It was reported to Morrow County Dispatch that two male subjects and one female subject had fled the residence on foot heading north on Division.

As Morrow County Deputy Scott Carter arrived in the area, he observed a female subject, later identified as Amanda Shrout Starr, 32, walking north on Division. Carter also observed one male subject run into some brush and hide. Carter detained Shrout Starr and, with the help of

Undersheriff Steve Myren and Sgt. Randy Rayburn, searched the area where the other subject had last been seen. Two subjects were subsequently located hiding in the sagebrush. Mark Kyle Shea, 23, and Robert William Shea, 24, were both taken into custody. Mark Shea reported he had been assaulted with a baseball bat, as well, and was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital to be examined.

The original victim, Rachel Henry of Irrigon, was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital by ambulance to have her injuries

checked.

Shrout Starr of Irrigon was arrested by MCSO for interfering with a police officer. Pendleton Police Department also served a warrant on Shrout Starr after she was lodged in Umatilla County Jail.

MCSO arrested Robert Shea of Irrigon on Umatilla County warrants. Mark Shea of Stanfield, OR was arrested by MCSO on six Umatilla County Circuit Court warrants, three City of Pendleton warrants and one Irrigon Justice Court warrant.

Carter is actively investigating this case at this time and says he expects to add charges from the assault that allegedly occurred.



Mark Kyle Shea



Robert William Shea

Remembrance walk/5k run planned

On March 16, Friends Helping Friends will commemorate the fifth annual Remembrance Walk/5K Run while enjoying the 31st St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Committee members are gearing up for the event, a yearly fundraiser in memory of home health nurse Donna Schonbachler. Friends Helping Friends strives each year to select a cause that would be near and dear to Donna's heart; this year, the St. Patrick's Senior Center came to mind. Donna served as a senior center board member, as well as health-care nurse for many of the residents living at the St. Patrick's facility. Operating only on volunteer help for the most part, the senior center is looking at a sizeable expense to replace the building heating unit.

"What better way to start the project than with

Remembrance Walk/Run donations?" asks one Remembrance Walk/Run committee member.

The morning of the event will start off at 8:30 a.m. with a hosted social hour and registration at Heppner United Methodist Church. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the Remembrance Walk/Run will proceed following a route of green shamrocks and pink hearts. This year, runners may be happy to know that the high school hill has been removed from their route in favor of a gentler venue.

The committee once again will make Remembrance Shamrock for loved ones...with a \$5 donation to St. Patrick's Senior Center, an optional Remembrance Shamrock will be added to the walk route. Last year, more than 200 names were remembered. Each walk/

-See REMEMBRANCE WALK/PAGE TWO

Ione students, teachers to receive iPads

By April Sykes

Ione Community School Principal Jerry Archer told the board at a Jan. 22 meeting that iPads for many students and all teachers have been ordered and should be on their way.

Archer said that enough iPads for all high school students and staff and two or three for each elementary classroom were purchased through a grant from the Ione Education Association and the Ione Community Business Organization.

The grant amount received for the iPads was \$71,613, with the school district kicking in monies out of the general fund

for the remainder of the purchase.

"We will use what we need to get all of the iPads ordered," said Archer.

He said the district's goal is to have the iPads by Feb. 8 and in the hands of students and staff after spring break.

Ione schools superintendent Mark Mulvihill, who is also superintendent of the Intermountain ESD, said at an Ione Schools work session Dec. 4 that he recommended giving each high school student his own iPad to take home and keep if he graduates from high school, to help close the "achievement" gap. He said

that the "...engagement of kids in the learning process has increased dramatically where iPads are in use in the classroom (i.e., at Athena-Weston) and digital textbooks will be used in the future with updates made to history books as they happen." He said that getting staff trained properly is key.

Archer said at the work session that Ione schools hope to buy a new iPad for every new freshman, either through ICABO or the committing of general-fund dollars.

Mulvihill said at the -See ISD TO BUY IPADS/ PAGE FIVE

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