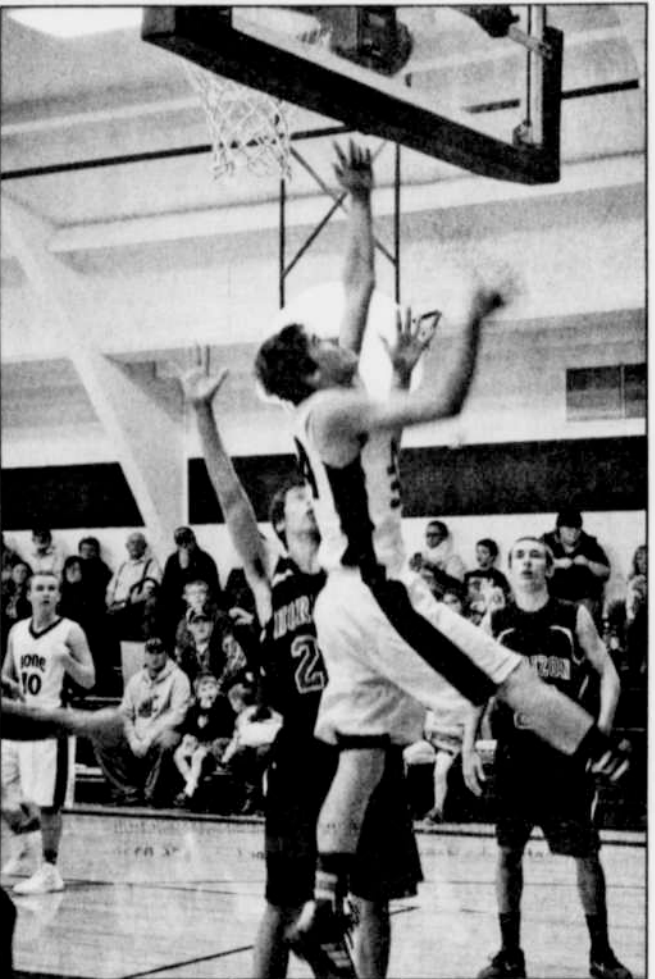


Lady Cards ground Hawks MCHD CEO RESIGNS



Cardinal basketball went head-to-head against Horizon Christian in league play on Jan. 25. The Lady Cards won their contest 58-27, but the boys suffered a crushing 54-92 loss to the Hawks. Top: Ione Senior Stacie Halvorsen lays one in for the Lady Cards. Bottom: Cardinal Senior Even Rietmann battles hard against the Hawks in an ultimate 54-92 loss to the visiting team. -Photos by Paula Emmel/See more photos on the Gazette-Times Facebook page

Pee-Wee Cardinals strut stuff on court



Top: Mason Orem controls the ball during the Cardinals Pee-Wee game last Friday. Bottom: The Cardinal Cheer Squad cheers on their Ione teams during Friday's match-up with Horizon Christian. -Photos by Paula Emmel

Pep band shows spirit



The Cardinal Pep Band was out in force on Friday, boosting team spirits regardless of game outcomes. -Photo by Paula Emmel

-Continued from PAGE ONE familiar with the area and especially unfamiliar with a small rural Eastern Oregon location and hospital. Mills and the board also stressed the importance of the candidate's spouse's willingness to relocate to the area.

The board decided against hiring a recruiter because of the costs involved. Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney estimated that a recruiter would charge 33 percent of the administrator's salary, plus expenses, which would probably be in the \$40,000 range.

"I would not be in favor of that because the (MCHD) staff does a lot of their work for them and they (the recruiter) end up getting paid for it," said Mahoney.

The board set an application deadline of March 1. A search committee will be appointed at the February board meeting. The board initially intends to interview several candidates by phone or Skype, narrow the field and then bring selected candidates in for a personal interview.

Also at the meeting, Blauer outlined the district's next electronic medical records phase, which will cost around \$309,979. Of that amount, changing the district's financial system from paper to electronic records (financial migration) would cost \$100,899, and changing the clinic system would cost \$154,080. Additional costs would include estimated travel and training costs for Healthland staff, which is capped at \$40,000; estimated costs for new hardware would be around \$15,000.

Healthland, which provided the electronic system the district currently employs, offered the following payment terms: 30 percent (\$76,494) due at the execution of the purchase agreement; 20 percent (\$50,996) due at the kick-off of the migration project;

20 percent (\$50,996) due at the kick-off of new system modules; 15 percent (\$38,247) due at go live of "Centriq Financials" or 18 months from execution of the purchase agreement; 15 percent (\$38,247) due at go live of Centriq Clinic or 18 months from execution of the purchase agreement; and travel expenses to be paid as invoiced.

The financial migration initial phase will start in November/December of this year with the new financial system to go live by Feb. 14 of next year. Initial implementation and training is to start the end of the first quarter 2014, with the clinic system to go live July 2014.

Phase 1 of the switch to electronic records, which has been completed, cost \$551,389, of which \$448,874 was reimbursed by Medicare and \$125,036 reimbursed by Medicaid. The hospital Medicaid reimbursement of \$125,000 is still pending. Blauer said that the district got a big discount on the hospital's system by being one of the front-runners in changing over to electronic medical records; however, the discount came with a lot of headaches and glitches. The district opted to implement the second phase of the switch after the system has been tested and many of problems already worked out.

Phase 2 of the process, involving the clinics, will cost \$309,979, of which \$191,250 is expected to be reimbursed by Medicaid.

The combined reimbursements leave the district \$28,792 in the black, which will most likely be used for additional expenses incurred in the changeover.

"I don't think we're going to get a better deal," commented Blauer.

Mills concurred, saying, "I think we should move forward."

The board unanimously accepted Healthland's proposal without obtaining additional bids because they had chosen Healthland for the initial phase, the systems would be compatible and the costs would be much less.

Prior to the meeting, Blauer led the board in a tour of the remodel to the Irrigon Medical Clinic. He said that the contractor expects completion of the work around April 7, later than the district had hoped. Mills said that he would like to get remodel change orders and other details worked out prior to Blauer's departure.

In other business, the board:

-heard from Mills concerning the district's possible bid for a new local option tax for the district, which would be on the ballot this fall, if the board approves. Mills asked the board to consider whether they would like to put another levy before the voters, as the current one is set to expire, and if so, for how much. The past two local option levies passed by Morrow County voters have been vital to the survival of the district.

-learned that three board positions are up for election, positions currently held by Joe Perry, John Murray and Leann Rea. The numbered positions are elected at large.

-learned that the district lost \$8,193 in December with \$634,199 in gross patient revenue, \$11,169 in bad debts, \$103,383 for contractual and other adjustments for a total of \$114,553 in revenue deductions for \$519,646 in net patient revenue, \$116,118 in tax revenue and \$52,132 in other operating revenue for \$687,896 in total operating revenue, compared to \$711,752 in operating expenses and a \$15,661 non-operating gain.

The year-to-date gain

is \$234,900, for a \$39,150 average monthly year-to-date gain.

-received a reminder from Mills that the Irrigon ambulance is up for replacement in the district's scheduled rotation. Blauer noted that the district has several large financial obligations, one of those being to Healthland, but Mills voiced concern that the district would fall too far out of rotation. Mills said that the rotation for the Irrigon ambulance is around 12 years out, with the goal of replacement around 10 years and cautioned that if the purchases were not made in a timely fashion, the district may be forced to purchase two ambulances at the same time.

-received the following report for December: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had 11 admissions, two swing bed admissions, nine admitted for observation, one admitted for hospital respite, 425 total outpatients, 75 total emergency room encounters, 1,401 lab tests, 141 x-ray procedures, 35 CT scans, 29 EKG tests, one treadmill procedure, five colonoscopy procedures, one endoscopy procedure, one colon/endoscopy procedure, 86 respiratory therapy procedures; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 394 patient visits with 31 new patients, 35 seen by a nurse and 12 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 141 patient visits, 17 new patients, 39 seen by a nurse and nine no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 22 total page-outs with 20 transports for \$22,669 in ambulance revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 46 page-outs with 21 transports for \$26,830 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 22 page-outs with 17 transports for \$19,555 in revenue; Home Health had 74 patient visits; Hospice had two admissions; pharmacy had 1,095 drug doses for \$58,821 in drug revenue.

FSA announces program updates

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extended the authorization of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) for many Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) commodity, disaster, and conservation programs through 2013. FSA administers these programs.

The extended programs include, among others: the Direct and Counter-Cy-

clical Payment Program (DCP), the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC).

FSA is preparing the following actions:

-FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on Feb. 19. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2; the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3.

-The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provi-

sions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013 (and vice versa).

-All dairy producers' MILC contracts are automatically extended to Sept. 30, 2013. Eligible producers therefore do not need to

re-enroll in MILC. Specific details regarding certain modifications to MILC will be released soon.

FSA will provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and signups as the information becomes available. Any additional details will be posted on FSA's website.

For more information about the programs and loans administered by FSA, visit any FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Ione junior varsity



Above Left: Jordan Synder during the JV game against the Horizon Christian Hawks. Above Right: Junior Zane King during the JV game last Friday. -Photos by Paula Emmel