

Health district discusses 'true north' plan at meeting

Heppner welcomes Hermiston doctors who will have clinic hours at PMC

By April Sykes
Morrow County Health District CEO Dan Grigg told the MCHD Board Monday

night that Advanced Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Institute, LLC, will begin seeing patients at Pioneer Memorial Clinic beginning Wednesday, Nov. 6.

Grigg said that Drs. Jeremy and Deryk Anderson of AOSMI in Hermiston will hold clinics the first and third Wednesdays of each month. He said that the scheduling procedure will be similar to that for the cardiologists who also hold clinics at PMC.

Grigg and the board also briefly touched on the fall board retreat held on Oct. 17, during which they formulated their "True North" mission, which consists of "Welcoming our patients and providing exceptional care."

Grigg said that the True North focus has been shared with the management team, along with their goal of having 84 percent of their patients state that they were "definitely willing" to recommend MCHD to their friends and family by the end of September 2014. He said that "over the coming weeks managers will receive training and guidance on setting department goals that will align and focus the entire health district on our True North direction."

Also at the meeting, Grigg and Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney told the board that the district has received one bid for replacing the heating and air conditioning system for patient rooms, the laboratory and the front office. However, Grigg

said that he felt the bid from Thew's Sheet Metal in Pendleton, at \$117,000, was too high, so the board decided to seek additional bids, perhaps from more urban areas.

In other business, the board:

-voted to appoint Barbara Huwe from Irrigon to the board to fill out the remainder of David Burns' term. Burns earlier resigned from the board, citing personal reasons. The board received two additional applications, one from Susan Wagner of Irrigon and another from a person in Heppner. Board Chair Larry Mills stressed the importance of having a person from the north end of the county on the board and commended Huwe for her extensive civic involvement.

-approved an extension of Dr. Ed Berretta's current contract, while Berretta and Grigg resolve some concerns Berretta had with his proposed new contract.

-received information from Grigg concerning five prospective petitions for state ballot measures filed with the Oregon Secretary of State by the SEIU (Service Employees International Union), which would dramatically affect health care. According to Grigg, the petitions concern quality transparency in hospitals, pricing transparency in hospitals, minimum charity care in hospitals, caps on executive compensation and reasonable rates in hospitals.

-received the following profit loss statement

for September: MCHD had \$690,432 in gross patient revenue, \$8,723 in bad debts, \$56,848 in contractual and other adjustments, \$106,839 in tax revenue and \$19,033 in other operating revenue for \$750,733 in total operating revenue, \$743,981 in total operating expenses and a \$9,690 non-operating gain for a \$16,441 profit for the month.

-received the following report for September: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had four admissions, four swing bed admissions, five admitted for observation, 812 total outpatients, 71 emergency room encounters, 1,721 lab tests, 104 x-ray procedures, 23 CT scans, 17 EKG tests, two colonoscopy procedures, three endoscopy procedures, 75 respiratory therapy procedures and \$44,490 in revenue of hospital encounters; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 362 patient visits with 10 new patients, 40 seen by a nurse and 12 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 193 patient visits, 26 new patients, 53 seen by a nurse and eight no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 18 page-outs with 15 transports for \$18,465 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 34 page-outs with 15 transports for \$21,309 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 17 page-outs with 13 transports for \$16,806 in revenue; Home Health had 90 patient visits; Hospice had one admission; Pharmacy had 2,153 drug doses for \$128,503 in drug revenue.



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Medal of Honor recipient to speak as part of HHS Veterans Day recognition

Heppner High School will hold its 2013 Veterans Day program at 10 a.m. on Nov. 7 at the HHS gym. The program is to honor all past and present military personnel; the public is invited to the program, and a complimentary lunch for veterans and their spouses will follow the program.

In conjunction with this program, the public is invited to hear Drew Dix, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, speak at Heppner High School on Monday, Nov. 4, at 9:30 a.m.

In 1968, Dix risked his life rescuing civilians from the North Vietnamese Tet offensive. In doing so he became the first enlisted man in Special Forces to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Dix, 68, was born in West point, NY. He joined the Army in 1962 and volunteered for Special Forces after more than four years with the 82nd Airborne Division. He was sent to Vietnam as a Senior Advisor to the Civil Operations & Rural Development Support (CORDS) unit, which assisted the local government's pacification programs.

Stationed in Chau Doc Province on the Cambodian border, Staff Sergeant Dix was out on a routine patrol when the Communists launched their surprise attacks. Reacting quickly and with the assistance

of two Navy SEALs, he successfully rescued a nurse who was trapped in a house in the center of Chau Phu city. Dix then organized and led another team, saving eight civilians from an office block that was under heavy mortar and small-arms fire.



Drew Dix

Rather than rest, he returned to the city center to search for more civilians. However, as he approached a building he was attacked by intense machinegun fire. Dix single-handedly assaulted the building, killing six Viet Cong (VC) and freeing two Filipinos.

The next day, with fierce fighting still raging -See VETERANS DAY SPEAKER/PAGE TWO

Get ballots in for November election

It's time for voters to make their voices heard regarding the BMCC bond issue. Election Day is next Tuesday, Nov. 5.

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. Locations are as follows: -See BALLOT DROP LOCATIONS/PAGE EIGHT

Game time correction

Last week's ad regarding the football playoffs incorrectly stated the Mustang game time

versus Weston-McEwen as 3 p.m. Friday. The Heppner Mustangs will

play the Weston-McEwen TigerScots in Athena at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1.

G-T Trophy Corner



Danielle Hoeft and Carmen Wilson with their opening-day big bulls taken from the Heppner Unit. The women were on horseback when they made their kills, about 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23. -Contributed photo

Heppner gets ready for a 'haunted' Halloween

Heppner downtown will be haunted this Halloween...haunted with costumed children throughout the town's businesses.

Most of the city's

businesses have committed to participate in a trick or treat social from 3:30-5 p.m. Halloween evening. These businesses will offer treats to costumed children who come by the stores,

banks and offices. The participating storefronts will display an orange sign that says "Welcome to trick or treat."

At least 17 businesses will display signs.

Time to 'chill'



The cold weather doesn't bother these fellows as they relax, or "chill," on their porches in Heppner, waiting for their big day on Halloween. -Photos by Mallorie Jones



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday

Daylight Savings Time will end Sunday, Nov. 3. Remember to "fall back" and turn your clocks back one hour.

POLARIS HURRY! SALE ENDS OCTOBER 31ST!
Up to \$1000 Factory Authorized rebates plus financing as low as 2.99%
Snowmobiles - Rangers - ATVs - 4 Wheelers
Call Jason Hanna for details
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net