

## HEALTH DISTRICT LEVY

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business loan agreement for \$200,000 from the Bank of Eastern Oregon for equipment. The loan is to mature on Nov. 25, 2018, and has a 3.75 percent interest rate.

-received the district's financial report for October showing a \$42,380 loss for the month.

MCHD had \$624,384 in gross patient revenue for the month, less \$27,153 for bad debts and \$15,054 in contractual and other adjustments, plus \$106,839 in tax revenue and \$32,912 in other operating revenue for \$721,928 in total operating revenue; \$775,279 in total operating expenses, plus \$10,970 for a non-operating gain for the loss.

-discussed a revised CEO evaluation form and, in executive session, conducted a brief six-month review of Grigg's performance. Grigg received very positive comments from board members on his job performance.

-approved an agreement with Impact Communications for a "community engagement and team transformation series." Impact Communications will provide consulting services to basically improve the district's performance. The process involves strategic planning, leadership retreats, workshops and other planning sessions at a cost of \$35,250, plus additional costs for extras and travel. The process is to begin with the initial sessions on January 28-29 and March 11-13, with an additional session in April to be determined.

-learned from Grigg that all district employees were presented a 12-question voluntary survey administered by Gallup to measure employee engagement. Eighty percent of employees completed the survey, he said.

-learned from Grigg that each district manager has been asked to read the book, "The 4 Disciplines of Execution-Achieving your Wildly Important Goals," and then have a dialogue with their staff to set goals and "metrics (measurements) that will impact our goals."

-learned that Dr. Betsy Anderson has agreed to be the clinician leader for "Patient Centered Primary Care Home" for the district. Grigg said that the goal is to apply for PCPCH certification by March 1.

-learned that a position for clinic manager has been posted. Grigg said that the executive director-primary care position has already received seven resumes, all from applicants with master's degrees.

-set a tentative date of Feb. 28 for an employee awards banquet to recognize employees who reach milestones of service. Previously the awards have been presented at a Christmas potluck for south county employees and handed out individually for north county employees.

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had one admission for the month, four swing bed admissions, eight admitted for observation, 473 total outpatients, 69 emergency room encounters, 1,629 lab tests, 100 x-ray procedures, 21 CT scans, 48 EKG tests, two

treadmill procedures, six colonoscopy procedures, two endoscopy procedures, 42 respiratory therapy procedures; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 450 patient visits with 13 new patients, 114 seen by a nurse and four no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 197 patient visits with 35 new patients, 85 seen by a nurse and seven no-shows; Home Health had 85 patient visits; Hospice had two admissions; Pharmacy had 1,183 drug doses for \$99,871 in revenue; Heppner Ambulance had 23 total page-outs with 18 transports for \$26,181 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 28 page-outs with 15 transports for \$21,221 in revenue; Irrigon ambulance had 29 page-outs with 15 transports for \$19,258 in revenue; there was one flight.

-agreed to cancel the December board meeting because of conflicts with the holidays, since it would fall between Christmas and New Year's.

-received the following board meeting calendar for 2014: January 27-Irrigon Medical Clinic, February 24-Ione Community Church, March 31-Hospice meeting room, Heppner, April 28-Lexington Town Hall, May 19-Hospice meeting room; June 30-Irrigon Medical Clinic, July 28-Ione Community Church, August 25-Hospice meeting room, September 29-Sand Hollow Room, Port of Morrow, Boardman, October 27-Lexington Town Hall, November 24-Hospice meeting room, December 29-Irrigon Medical Clinic.

All meetings start at 7 p.m.

## A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

Willow Creek Terrace's celebration of Halloween with the Heppner Pre-School children had to be postponed because several students were suffering from flu bugs. That disappointment was offset on Tuesday this week by a visit from the little ones who sang for and visited with the residents, resulting in a pre-Thanksgiving celebration. That event was to be followed with another pre-Thanksgiving gift, for interested residents to be treated to free manicures.

"Celebration" remains a key word in life on the Hill, so the community has celebrated several of November's nationally recognized days in small, medium, and large ways. Since November contains so many special days, only highlights of some will fit into this column:

A quiet conversation in the commons area on Nov. 1's Authors Day focused on individuals' favorite authors, new authors, and genres of literature. Westerns and mysteries seem to be most popular with this generation of readers, though their tastes do tend to be eclectic. Volunteer Ed Struthers works weekly to bring to the Terrace books from the local library that will appeal to the resident readers. Ed also makes sure that the variety he selects contains some large-print books, especially appreciated by several residents.

Two days later, the Terrace Staff became especially busy because that was when Daylight Savings Time ended. It was the day to make sure that everyone's clock was reset to the new time and—because this is an easy way to remember—to change all the batteries in everyone's battery-operated devices.

On Nov. 4, residents were alerted to the 134th anniversary of the First Mechanical Cash Register. This was an opportunity for a walk down Memory Lane, as they recalled their experiences as employees or business owners who had to work with cash registers.

The residents who attended the Nov. 7 Heppner High School program in honor of U.S. Military Veterans again appreciated the sincerity of the school students and staff and were particularly impressed by the student speakers. To

witness the patriotism of the younger generation and to hear their appreciation of the freedoms afforded American citizens was rewarding. On Veterans Day, the Terrace showed its red, white and blue colors and residents offered special thanks to their neighbors who served in the military. One remnant of the aftermath of a hard-fought war remained until 1989, and on Nov. 9, residents remembered the opening up of the Berlin Wall.

On Nov. 13, some residents and staff could be heard and seen carrying out their day's assignment, for the morning conversation centered on World Kindness Day, and everyone was challenged to carry out a random act of kindness. There were several.

Participants enjoyed that as much as they enjoyed their conversation on the 18th, which was the birthday of the push-button phone. The history of the telephone during these past 80 and 90 years brought back many memories: the crank-style phones, the operators who connected the caller to the callee (new word?), the party lines and those neighbors who would "rubberneck" (listen to another person's calls) or interrupt another person's call, and the advancement from that to the rotary dial and then to the push-button-style phone.

Another opportunity to reminisce was on Nov. 21, the Great American Smokeout. Some residents shared their stories about their smoking days, some comical experiences as smokers, even the fact that some were "closet smokers" who didn't think anyone knew they smoked, and the more serious reasons they quit smoking.

Thanksgiving on the Hill has been eagerly anticipated. Several guests were expected to swell the number at lunch to over thirty. Some residents were also planning to attend family gatherings elsewhere.

December will be another activity-filled month, and a month of opportunities for visitors and volunteers, beginning with Dec. 1, when the Terrace residents and staff invite visitors to help deck the halls. A great time will be had by all who help put out the holiday decorations and put the many resident-

made ornaments on the Christmas tree in the commons area. The 4-to-6 p.m. event will include caroling and end with a soup supper for residents and volunteers.

On Dec. 9, volunteers will have an opportunity to assist residents with the addressing of their Christmas cards. On Dec. 12, the plan might include the making of at least two gingerbread houses, so interested housebuilders will want to call the Terrace before the 12th, 541-676-0004. Visitors will be welcomed on Dec. 16 and 20 to the piano recitals by students of Alaina Lemmon, occasions always looked forward to by residents and staff. And interested fans of It's a Wonderful Life might want to check to find out when the Terrace residents will be viewing the movie that celebrates on Dec. 19 its 67th birthday...and bring the popcorn.

Christmas Eve will be a peaceful, more private time for the Community on the Hill. After their evening filled with holiday music, residents must scurry off to beds early enough to allow Santa to complete his rounds as he places his small gifts in each and every stocking hung with care down the halls and tucks another gift under the tree for every resident. The staff makes sure that Santa doesn't miss anyone, whether naughty or nice.

Christmas morning will begin around the tree, with oohs and aahs and many words of thanks, and the day's festive breakfast and lunch will make for a perfect holiday with neighbors.

Whether residents become rowdy and see the Old Year out and the New Year in is yet to be seen, but they will surely not be any happier than they will have been while celebrating a couple of December birthdays. On Dec. 3, Royce Fulleton will be 96 years old but still younger than Bud Batty, who will celebrate his 97th birthday on Dec. 9...two celebrations the residents and staff view as important enough to be included in the month's Days of Special Events.

Two apartments are available at Willow Creek Terrace, so anyone curious for more information about this place of camaraderie and celebrations should call 541-676-0004.

## Heppner merchants offer chance to 'shop 'til you drop'

On Thursday, Dec. 5, local merchants will have special customer appreciation activities and will offer extended hours to kick off the Christmas holiday season.

The merchants are planning activities to thank customers for shopping local. Some of the specials being planned are:

A&M's Kitchen will have sugar cookies for the children to frost and decorate, starting at 4 p.m., children must be accompanied by an adult.

Bank of Eastern Oregon will be having a drawing for a small decorated Christmas tree and serving refreshments from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community Bank will also put out some great refreshments.

Heppner Family Foods will offer free Home Town

coffee for their customers all day and will have Santa set up in the store from 6-7 p.m., so bring a camera and take pictures.

Murray's Drug will be having hourly door prizes, the wish-list treasure hunt will start (with the winner being announced during the 12/19 Christmas event) and from 5-7 p.m. there will be a mini wine tasting, as well as cookies and punch available throughout the day.

Make sure you stop by and check out Sew On Et Cetera and check out her new location in the previous Heritage Land Co. space at 178 N. Main Street, and see what Christmas items she will have available for sale.

Sweet Productions will hold a Gingerbread House Workshop from 4-7 p.m., all ages welcome, reservations required (adult

kit is \$15 and kids kit is \$5), and stop by and check out the annual gingerbread structure on display.

Check out all of the Nativities on loan by people in the community that will be put on display in the windows of the former Quilter's Round-Up. They will be on display Dec. 4-10.

Make sure to be at the tree outside the post office at 5:30 p.m. so you can watch the Heppner Day Care and Heppner Elementary School children hang their homemade Christmas ornaments on the tree.

Plan on staying downtown to eat; shop at all of our local merchants and enjoy the sounds and sights of Christmas... and remember to ask for a rewards card with every purchase.

## Boardman adopts truancy ordinance

At their Nov. 18 meeting, the Boardman City Council adopted an ordinance creating a truancy curfew for anyone between the ages of seven and 18 who is required to attend school. Councilors unanimously voted to

adopt the ordinance after concerns about school-aged children around the community during school hours were brought to the attention of Boardman Police Chief Rick Stokoe. The city consulted with the school district about the

truancy ordinance prior to its adoption.

The ordinance gives law enforcement a tool to support the school in truancy policies.

The next meeting of the council will be Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m.



**Have a safe & happy Thanksgiving**

**Tires LES SCHWAB**

From all of us at Heppner Les Schwab

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