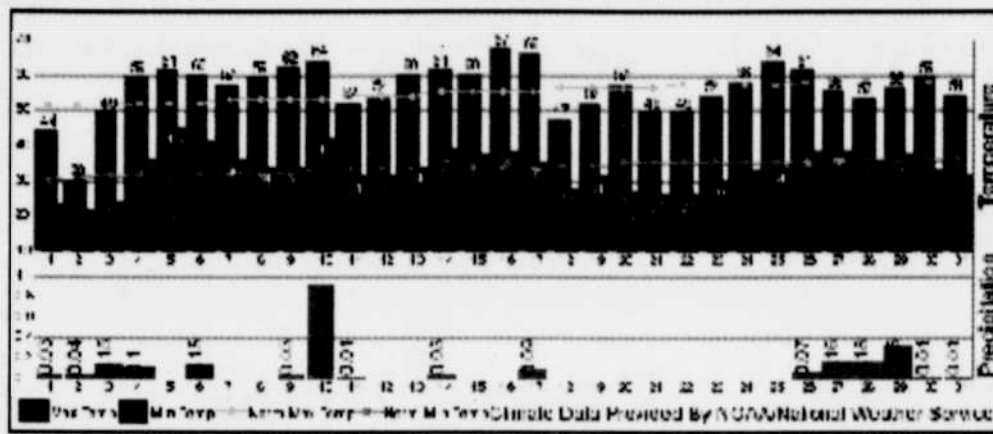


# HEPPNER 50¢ Gazette Times

VOL. 133 N.O. 14 8 Pages Wednesday, April 2, 2014 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## March winds blow in much-needed moisture



According to NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, the blustery weather in March blew in some much-needed rainfall in South Morrow County. Precipitation totaled 2.31 inches during March, which was 0.79 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on 16 days with the heaviest, 0.92 inches, reported on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The highest wind gust was 42 mph, which occurred on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The NWS preliminary data also reports that temperatures at Heppner averaged near normal

during the month of March. The average temperature was 44.6 degrees, which was 0.4 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 55.9 degrees, which was one degree above normal. The highest was 67 degrees on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Low temperatures averaged 33.2 degrees, which was 0.3 degrees below normal. The lowest was 22 degrees, on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were 12 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There was one day when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

The outlook for April from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner rise from 59 degrees at the start of April to 64 degrees at the end of April. Normal lows rise from 36 degrees to 40 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.51 inches. The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

## Public meeting planned to discuss new county admin building

Morrow County will be hosting a community information meeting to receive comments and suggestions for the new administration building to be built in Heppner. The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 2, at 5 p.m. at the Morrow

County Fairgrounds in Heppner. The project manager and the architects will be available to answer questions and hear comments. The Morrow County Commissioners will be attending also, and

encourage the community to attend. First-draft sketches of the building and floor plans will be available. Anyone with questions may contact Karen Wolff at the Morrow County Courthouse, 541-676-5620 or kwolff@co.morrow.or.us.

## Heppner to host tri-county band festival

The annual Tri-County Band Festival is coming to Heppner on Wednesday, April 9. More than 192 students from Heppner, Ione, Irrigon, Boardman, Grant Union, Arlington, Umatilla, Stanfield and Weston-McEwen high schools will participate in the day-long

event. After a day of practice, the students will present a concert at 6:30 p.m. at Heppner Elementary School under the directorship of guest conductor Andy Carey of Pendleton. Family, friends and community members can attend the concert for a nominal cost

of \$2. The event has been an area tradition for more than 40 years, and Heppner music teacher Rick Drake says he is pleased Heppner is able to host the festival this year. "It promises to be an exciting day and terrific concert," Drake says.

## Inland Northwest Chorale to perform at SAGE Center

Inland Northwest Musicians presents the Inland Northwest Chorale concert "Spring into Song" on Saturday, April 5, at 7 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Rd., Boardman. The concert will be under the direction of R. Lee Friese with Myrna Van Cleave, formerly of Heppner, as accompanist. Selections will include African Alleluia (with percussion), Beautiful Brown Eyes, Sing to the

Lord a Marvelous Song, Songs Mein Grossmama Sang, and Surely It Is God Who Saves Me (with Alice Massey on violin). Admission is free to all Inland Northwest concerts, but donations to this non-profit are always gratefully accepted. Tax deductible Season Sustaining Memberships with voting rights may be purchased for \$50 at the door. Following the concert, the public is invited to

join the performers for a reception with beverages and cookies. For additional information or questions about Inland Northwest Musicians, playing or singing in one of the ensembles, or the concerts, contact Judi Mason, judimasn@eoni.com or 541-314-5407, or R. Lee Friese, 541-377-1865, or the Inland Northwest office at 541-289-4696 or inwm@machmedia.net.

## Health district considers school-based Ione clinic

Location, staffing and community response all deciding factors

By April Sykes  
The Morrow County Health District is contemplating opening a school-based rural health clinic in Ione, depending on the Ione community's response and other factors. MCHD CEO Dan Grigg told the board at their regular meeting Monday night in Irrigon. He said that he has had several discussions to explore the concept and has met with Ione School Principal Sarah Crane-Simpson. Grigg said that he attended a session on school-based health clinics at a Rural Health Conference in Portland last October, where he learned of the concept. He said that organizations that set up and run a clinic on school property and follow state certification standards are eligible for a \$60,000 annual operating grant. He said that establishing a clinic in Ione would go toward solving the problem that Ione residents have in traveling the farthest of all the Morrow County communities to obtain health care. Factors in the decision would include where to locate the clinic and staffing. He said that MCHD providers could staff the clinic for 10 hours of the required 15 hours a week the clinic would be open. Grigg said that Kimberly Lindsay, director of Community Counseling Solutions, and Sheree Smith, director of the Morrow County Health Department, both indicated that they would be supportive of the clinic. Grigg said that he, Crane-Simpson and MCHD Board Chair Larry Mills visited a school-based health clinic in Mitchell. He planned a presentation concerning the school-based clinic at the Ione Community Agri-Business Organization annual meeting April 2 at the Ione Legion Hall. Grigg told the board that new physician Dr. Dan Hambleton began working for the district on March 12 and has been well received. Grigg said that Dr. Hambleton and his wife were "thrilled to be here." A retirement open house for Dr. Ed Berretta will be held Thursday, April 24, at St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner beginning at 6:30 p.m. In other business, the board: -heard that a PAC (political action committee) meeting with the goal of promoting the district's



Currently, 65 certified SBHCs operate in 21 Oregon counties, with 12 sites currently in the planning and development phase. -Map courtesy of Oregon School-Based Health Alliance

upcoming local option tax levy is set for Thursday, April 3, at 3 p.m. at Lexington City Hall. Mills said that the goal of that meeting is to decide what to do to promote the levy in each community. Grigg presented a fact sheet to be disbursed, which explains the levy and informs the public on the district. The .39-cent levy, which would be a continuation and the same amount as the previous levy, will come before the voters before the mail-in election day of May 22. The fact sheet illustrates that the Morrow County Health District base tax rate of .6050 cents per thousand, plus the local option tax of .39 cents per thousand is much lower than the health district base tax rates for John Day at \$2.1329 per \$1,000, for Burns at \$1.9314 per thousand, and Enterprise for \$1.6373 per thousand. -approved joining a trial membership in a risk management program for Pioneer Memorial Clinic and Pioneer Memorial Hospital. The reimbursement to the clinic and hospital depends on a complicated formula that includes the utilization of the district's services and number of claims filed. The higher the claims, the less PMC or MCHD would get in reimbursement. -learned that Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner will submit its application for Tier 2 Patient Centered Primary Care Home certification soon, with the application for Irrigon Medical Clinic taking a while longer as the district works out agreements with Good Shepherd Medical Center and Kadlec Medical center for "transitional care requirements."

this week with meetings planned to decide which data will be converted from patient paper charts. He said that the clinic system will start the week of May 5, with "go live" planned for June 17. -learned that Warren Rosen from the Imaging Department has decided to retire early. With his departure, current lab manager Betty Hickerson will now head both imaging and lab departments. Grigg said that a radiology tech from Pendleton is willing to provide coverage while a full-time radiology tech is located. -learned that the district's search for a primary care director of the clinics is ongoing. Carmelo Di Salvo of Heppner will be the project manager for the implementation of the electronic health records in the primary care clinics. Di Salvo has a Doctorate of Strategic Leadership in organization leadership and a master's degree in business administration. -learned that the district's union contract with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees is to expire on June 30, and the union and the district have reached a tentative agreement on a union contract. The next step will be ratification by union members. -heard that a task force had been created to increase the availability of Automated External Defibrillators in the Boardman community and do more CPR/AED training. -received the following financial report for February: MCHD received \$680,137 in gross patient revenue; \$65,575 in total revenue deductions, \$127,629 in tax revenue, \$26,108 in other operating revenue for \$768,299 in total operating revenue; \$757,359 in total operating expenses and \$14,160 for a non-operating gain for a

See HEALTH DISTRICT/PAGE EIGHT

## Area pastors invited to submit Easter messages

Easter is April 20. The Heppner Gazette-Times invites area pastors to submit Easter messages to be published in the April 16 edition. The deadline is

Friday, April 11, at 5 p.m. Messages can be dropped off at the Gazette office, emailed to editor@rapidservice.net, or faxed to 541-676-9211.



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