

## VETS HONORED

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but, "Don't worry," they said."

Al Riney also was lower on the list, but due to cancellation and scheduling conflicts, both veterans found themselves in the final list of 25 Eastern Oregon vets for the September flight.

Krebs, Riney and Reid and their "guardians" began their journey on Sept. 17 when they arrived in Portland and were greeted with a welcome party at the Shiloh Inn that night. The group of 50 veterans plus guardians—25 veterans from Western Oregon and 25 from Eastern Oregon—left early the next morning on their flight to D.C.

The veterans knew they would be visiting the World War II memorial and other monuments in D.C. What they were not prepared for was the adulation that greeted them at every turn, from the party in Portland and down every concourse and runway during the trip. The veterans seemed stunned and were very emotional at the greeting they received in Denver, Chicago, Washington D.C., and upon their return to Portland. This very "private" generation was in awe when airport terminals, tourists and employees took the time to thank them for their service and shake their hands.

"On the concourse in the restaurants, in the hotels, in the monuments, people coming up and thanking them for their service," said Linda Riney. "People would be lining the concourse, clapping, salut-

ing them, thanking them for their service. You couldn't get off that plane without shedding tears."

For many of the veterans, it was the first time in 70 years they had heard "Thank you for helping to keep America free."

Their first full day in D.C., veterans were treated to a reception at the Capitol, where Oregon State senators and representatives greeted them and spoke of their military service with appreciation and gratitude. After their time at the Capitol, veterans were taken to the World War II memorial for a flag presentation ceremony. The trip also included visits to monuments like the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where veterans were able to watch the changing of the guard, and some even participated in the laying of wreaths.

"Every effort is made for their comfort, care, and accessibility to all the sights in Washington," said Robin Krebs. "Every effort is made to make travel possible no matter the physical limitations of the veteran."

"It's a wonderful thing for veterans. I so admire some of these guys; we had people in their 90s who were in wheelchairs," added Linda Riney, who said the group had two buses, each with an attending doctor and several volunteers. "(We had) 30 wheelchairs on the buses and they're all lined up waiting when the veterans get off. They did everything you could imagine to make things as easy as possible for these



Al and Linda Riney at the flag presentation at the World War II Memorial in D.C. -Contributed photo

people." "The fellow that led it...he's wonderful," Linda said. "He has the connections with the airlines, the hotels, he's on the phone all the time making sure things get done. He even makes sure that, if possible, they don't have to switch planes."

After two full days in D.C., the veterans returned home on Sunday to more fanfare. When the plane touched down in Portland, they said, fire trucks were lined up on the runway in honor; local and state police lined the way from the plane to the concourse, saluting the veterans. Veterans were then asked to return to their hotel before returning home, where they received more gifts, including individualized hand-made quilts.

"It was a fabulous trip for them. For all the veterans. There was nothing they didn't do for them," said Linda Riney. "It was just overwhelming, how they honored them. I don't know anything (else) where they would do so much to honor these people."

According to HFN,

time is of the essence for our World War II veterans. Most of the veterans on the tour were between 88 and 95 years old, with the average age of World War II veterans being in their late 80s; we have already lost 90 percent of World War II veterans, and close to a thousand die each day.

"Their stories and dedication to their country touch the heart. The Honor Flight has made it possible for them to feel the gratitude of our nation," said Robin Krebs.

"I cannot describe it. It was so emotional. I have never been honored like that," Henry Krebs said. "It was just unreal. Those Honor Flight people did a terrific job of doing the whole trip and seeing that we were honored and taken care of. It brings tears to my eyes even now to talk about it."

Visit <http://honorflighttoeasternoregon.org/> for more information on the program, or visit them on Facebook at "Bend Heroes Foundation, Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon & Portland."

## Outdoor club roughs it at Penland Lake



Len Havermeier, Daichi Walters, Bryan Fowler, Justus Schoenborn, Kai Arbogast, Tim Jaca and Cade Arbogast, all members of the Heppner High School Outdoor Club, participated in a camping trip to Penland Lake recently. Amidst the rain showers, students cooked over the campfire, climbed trees, made pine-pitch torches, fished and boated on the lake thanks to John and Ann Murray's loan of their canoe and boat. Planned trips include ice skating, skiing and snowboarding with an overnight ski trip to Anthony Lakes Ski Area. -Contributed photo

## Record number of students, schools gaining Academic Momentum

LA GRANDE, Ore.—Preparing younger students for higher education is becoming more of a focus for elementary schools in 20 area districts, including Morrow County, thanks to a program called Academic Momentum.

New data shows an estimated 3,550 students and 150 educators from 42 schools are participating this year from Gilliam to Wallowa counties.

"We're in practically every school district in eastern Oregon," said Dan Mielke, executive director of Eastern Promise, the parent organization for Academic Momentum.

Schools in Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla and Union counties are also participating.

Tailored for grades five through eight, the program begins by asking students, parents and their schools to sign a "compact" asserting students will work toward developing academic habits to prepare them for post-secondary education or training.

This is the first step in shaping a 10-year strategy known as the Academic Momentum Personal Development Plan that helps clarify students' projected educational and career future.

The Pendleton School District piloted the program during the 2012-13 school year. Last year, 17 additional districts signed on with 1,809 students and 63 educators at 32 different schools.

Additional outreach began in earnest last spring when Vickie Read, Academic Momentum program coordinator, visited or contacted all of the schools in the region to let them know about the various training opportunities available through Eastern Promise.

"We're growing more quickly than expected, as schools are communicating with each other and spreading the excitement," Read said.

The flexible syllabus is one reason schools are so enthusiastic about getting involved.

"We hand them a curriculum they can implement in a way that works best for them and their students," Mielke explained.

Michelle Jensen developed the unique curriculum being used now, but it was originally modeled after a program implemented in Minnesota schools. It includes eight to 12 weeks of post-secondary and career related study.

Fifth-graders also visit Eastern Oregon University or another four-year college in their area to get a sense of what it is like to be a student there. In the seventh-grade, they visit Blue Mountain and Treasure Valley community colleges. All three institutions—along with the InterMountain and Malheur education service districts—are partners in Eastern Promise.

As the curriculum progresses through sixth, seventh and eighth grades, students and parents become more acquainted with navigating the college application process, acquiring financial aid and other aspects of higher education.

Other programs available through Eastern Promise create a continuum for students once they enter high school, enabling them to begin earning college credits.

"It's about creating early awareness of the opportunities students will have later in life and helping them be better prepared to make decisions about their future," Mielke said.

Another way Academic Momentum sets up students for success is by breaking down potential barriers to education for under-represented populations, including those at risk due to poverty.

As program coordinator, Read sees many participating school districts with 50-percent or more of their students taking advantage of free or reduced lunch programs.

"A child from poverty has an even tougher path to college and post-secondary preparation for many reasons," Read said. "Our teachers need to be alert and prepared to help them overcome those additional obstacles."

For more information, including how schools can get involved with Academic Momentum, visit [www.eastern-promise.org/programs/academic-momentum](http://www.eastern-promise.org/programs/academic-momentum) or call 541-962-3941.

Check out the activities being coordinated by local merchants including Christmas tree decorations placed on the city tree by Heppner Day Care and HES Students; bring your camera and take a picture with Santa. More information soon. Put the day on your calendar and plan on joining us.

## HEALTH DISTRICT

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Grigg said that estimates are based on the projection that 30 percent of the lone population will use the clinic one and a half times a year.

MCHD's costs, in addition to taxes, insurance, equipment, medical supplies and normal start-up and operating costs, include an office assistant at \$18 per hour for 17 hours per week; a nurse practitioner at \$45 per hour for 12 hours per week; and a \$600 per month building lease.

Grigg said that the facility will be required to be open at least three days a week and a mid-level practitioner will be on site at least 10 hours a week.

Betty Hickerson, director of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital laboratory and imaging and radiology departments, presented an overview of those departments. She and Molly Rhea, MCHD's director of nursing, also provided an update on the facility's infection prevention plan, with an emphasis on their Ebola preparedness plan.

A table-top exercise was planned for Oct. 28 to consolidate the hospital's response in the event that such an infection presents itself at PMH. Grigg said that "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strengthened its guidelines regarding hospital workers treating Ebola patients."

He said, "The guidelines now include recommendations on appropriate 'Personal Protective Equipment,' as well as specific instructions on the 'donning

and doffing'—or putting on and taking off—of the garments used to shield staff working direction contact with Ebola or suspected Ebola patients." He said the exercise will "ensure that the plan is well understood and functional for our staff."

While the presentation of an Ebola patient at PMH is unlikely, Rhea said that the exercise will hone the hospital's response to fighting infectious disease.

The board also approved a contract extension for Physician's Assistant Sheridan Tarnasky, effective Aug. 1 of this year for a period ending Oct. 31 and an additional extension until Jan. 15, 2015. Grigg said that Tarnasky has indicated that she would like to move to a part-time position.

Also at the meeting, the board:

-approved reappointment to the staff for Dr. Jacob Cambier, M.D. a radiologist who has worked with the district for many years.

-voted to move the Nov. 24 meeting in Heppner to Dec. 1 and the Dec. 29 meeting in Irrigon to Jan. 5 to better accommodate the holidays.

-received notice of the board strategic planning follow up meeting set for this Saturday, Nov. 1 from 8-10 a.m. at Heppner City Hall.

-held an executive session concerning the risk management/quality report and the county annex building adjacent to Pioneer Memorial Clinic, which will be vacated by the county

following the completion of the new county building.

-learned that the district lost \$53,923 in September, with \$653,285 in gross patient revenue, less \$12,765 in bad debts and \$86,810 in contractual and other adjustments for \$553,710 in net patient revenue, plus \$122,740 in tax revenue and \$16,996 in other operating revenue for \$693,446 in total operating revenue. Operating expenses came to \$753,293, plus \$5,924 in a non-operating gain for the \$53,923 loss.

-heard from Grigg that the cardiac monitoring system approved by the board in September is in the process of being implemented. He said training was scheduled for Tuesday of this week with go live on Wednesday.

-learned from a True North and patient satisfaction survey that 83.5 percent of people for the first quarter of the year would recommend the health district; 77.9 percent would recommend the district in the second quarter; and 83.3 would recommend the district in the third quarter. The district's goal is for 84 percent.

-learned from Grigg that the district has been involved in a partnership that makes information on patients' emergency department visits available to care providers from anywhere in the state.

-learned that PMH recently received a trophy and \$2,500 from a national collaborative to reduce patient harm.

-heard from Grigg that

the district anticipates receiving \$24,000 from Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization as an incentive for meeting improvement goals for Medicaid members.

-learned that the district will implement an online policy management system over the next several months with 1,000 policies, currently stored in each manager's department, soon available to allow staff instant access.

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 382 patient visits with 18 new patients, 43 seen by a nurse and 12 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 265 patient visits with 38 new patients, 51 seen by a nurse and 16 no-shows; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had five admissions in September, three swing bed admissions, nine admitted for observation, one admitted for hospital respite, 437 total outpatient encounters, 1,436 lab tests, 89 x-ray procedures, 28 CT scans, 19 EKG tests, two colonoscopy procedures, one endoscopy procedure, two colon/endoscopy procedures, 12 respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 138 patient visits; Hospice had one admission; Heppner Ambulance had 24 page-outs with 19 transports for \$23,179 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 44 page-outs with 22 transports for \$33,258 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 30 page-outs with 16 transports for \$22,090 in revenue; there were five flights out.

## Chamber Chatter

Friday, Oct. 31 - Heppner Haunt - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - at downtown businesses: Get your costume and trick-or-treat at the local businesses. Some businesses will have judging of the best costume. Businesses, contact Heppner City Hall if you would like to par-

ticipate and get a poster for your business.

Sunday, Nov. 2 - Daylight Savings Time Ends - Change clocks back an hour: Remember to turn back your clock an hour before going to bed and take advantage of an extra hour of sleep. Don't forget

to "fall back."

Saturday, Nov. 22 & Nov. 23 - Lexington Grange Craft Sale - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Lexington Grange will be sponsoring this craft sale; the entry fee will be \$2 or canned food items.

If you are interested in being a vendor, please email [lex.grange726@gmail.com](mailto:lex.grange726@gmail.com) to be sent an application

form (deadline is Nov. 1).

Monday, Nov. 24 - Thursday, Dec. 18 - Collection of "Rewards Cards" for shopping local: Start collecting your "rewards cards" as part of our Celebrate Christmas event on December 18.

Make sure you put your name on them and bring them to the event for a

chance to win some great prizes that have been donated.

Thursday, Dec. 4 - Local Merchants Customer Appreciation Day with extended evening hours for early Christmas Shopping and participate in our community activities to kick off the upcoming Christmas Season: