

HEPPNER

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Group of Heppner locals experience adventure of a lifetime in Peru

By Andrea Di Salvo

For most people, words like Cuzco and Machu Picchu are simply the names of far-off places, or maybe locations to have on their bucket lists. For several Heppner people, though, those names recently became a reality when a group gathered to visit Peru.

Janelle Healy Ellis of Heppner said the idea to visit Peru began to germinate when her father Jerry Healy began talking about retiring from Columbia Basin Electric.

"Prior to his retirement, he had always wanted to go," said Ellis. "When they started talking about his retirement, we started talking about a family trip. When we knew the retirement date was set, that's when Aunt Jean (Marie Healy) started researching."

Since the company they chose, Overseas Adventure Travel, took groups of 15 and only seven members and friends of the Healy family wanted to go, they extended an invitation to other Heppner residents. In the end, the group was made up of Jerry Healy, sons Joseph and Jonas



At a school visit in the countryside, the group got the chance to interact with local teachers and students. Pictured here are: (L-R) Janelle Ellis, Jon Ellis, Jerry Healy, Ryan Mooney, Dell Peterson, Chad Upham, Marilyn Peterson, the teacher, Bill Fatland, Dr. Lyn Conrad, Pat Lauritsen, Jonas Healy, Carl Lauritsen, Joseph Healy, and Jean Healy. In the front rows are fifth- and sixth-grade students dressed in their traditional attire after their poetry, song and dance performance. —Contributed photo

Healy, daughter Janelle and husband Jon Ellis, Jean Marie Healy and family friend Bill Fatland of Condon, as well as Carl and Pat Lauritsen of Heppner and Pat's son, Ryan Mooney. The group of adventurers arrived in Lima, Peru on Oct. 26, where they met the rest of their party—strangers

to them at the time—a couple from Minnesota, a doctor from Memphis and a young man from San Francisco. While having strangers as part of their group hadn't been in the original plan, Ellis said it worked out well.

"None of us had ever been in a tour group, and

it wasn't something we would normally do, but we were trying to do the most we could in 10 days," she said, adding that interaction with other group members was an added bonus. "You get to meet different people who have the same interests as you."

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Health district sets goals to keep up with growing needs in district

MCHD also seeks to develop better marketing, online presence

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Monday night approved several important goals in order to improve health care delivery for their patients.

MCHD administration will begin recruiting a new physician for their Irrigon Medical Clinic to keep up with their growing needs. Along with that, the board approved hiring paramedics for the north end of the county and approved purchase of a portable ultrasound machine to be used in Irrigon and Boardman. Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner already has an ultrasound machine, but it

is stationary.

In order to keep up with technology and become more social media savvy, the district plans to widen their presence by improving their website and developing other social media outlets such as Facebook. Along with that they plan to enhance their advertising, marketing and signage and develop a brand.

The district is also planning to assess the condition of their physical plant, which is Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner, toward the goal of keeping the facilities up-to-date.

The goal is to capture more primary-care patients.

Prior to the meeting the board held a joint dinner meeting with providers invited to present their ideas and concerns.

Also at the meeting the board approved purchase of three gurneys, one each to be placed in Boardman, Irrigon and Heppner, which will make transport of patients, especially heavier patients, easier and safer. The district has received a grant from Wildhorse to purchase one of the gurneys and will be seeking grants and donations, if possible, toward the purchase of the other two. The board approved a bid from the company Stryker for the

gurneys at \$12,532 each, for a total of \$37,597.

The district saw a \$139,622 loss for the month of October, mostly due to an increase in contractuals, according to Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney. For this month, the district has to pay the government back \$193,503 in Medicaid payments. Last month's contractuals were \$86,810.

For the month of October, the district showed \$628,530 in gross patient revenue, less \$12,139 in bad debts and the \$193,503 in contractuals. They received \$122,740 in tax revenue and \$83,536 in other operating revenue for total operating revenue of \$629,164. On the debit side, the district had \$774,852 in operating expenses and a non-operating gain of \$6,067 for the loss. MCHD has a \$42,946 average monthly year-to-date loss.

In other business, the board:

—See HEALTH DISTRICT/PAGE FIVE

This Thursday, shop 'til you drop at customer appreciation event

This Thursday, Dec. 4, local merchants will have special customer appreciation activities and will offer extended hours to kick off the Christmas holiday season and to thank customers for shopping local.

Here are some of the specials being planned:

Artisan Village will be open from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., so customers can stop by and have some refreshments, and enter a drawing to win a prize.

Bank of Eastern Oregon will be serving refreshments from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Community Bank will

also be serving some refreshments.

Heppner Family Foods will offer free Home Town coffee for their customers all day and will have Santa set up in the store for pictures from 6-7 p.m., with hot chocolate and candy canes. Everyone is reminded to bring a camera to take pictures.

Murray's will be having hourly door prizes, cookies and punch; the wish-list treasure hunt will start (with the winner being announced during the Dec. 18 Christmas event), and

from 5-7 p.m. there will be a mini wine tasting.

Sweet Productions will offer a dinner special.

Willow Creek Realty will have Petra Payne and her Scentsy products set up for easy shopping from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Shoppers will want to make sure they are at the tree outside the post office at 5:30 p.m. so they can watch the Heppner Day Care and Heppner Elementary School children hang their homemade Christmas ornaments, as well as participate in some caroling.

Prediction of warm Nov. didn't come to pass

NWS predicts 'normal' temps during December

National Weather Service predictions of a warmer-than-usual November in Heppner were only partly true, as temperatures plummeted partway through the month, resulting in colder-than-normal average weather for the month, according to the NWS office in Pendleton.

The average temperature was 39.2 degrees, which was 2.1 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 48.3

degrees, which was 2.5 degrees below normal. The highest was 73 degrees on the Nov. 7. Low temperatures averaged 30 degrees, which was 1.7 degrees below normal. The lowest was six degrees, on the 16th.

There were 13 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were eight days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.16 inches during November, which was 0.44 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on nine

days with the heaviest, 0.39 inches, reported on the 22nd.

Precipitation this year has reached 10.53 inches, which is 2.15 inches below normal. Since October, the water-year precipitation at Heppner has been 1.92 inches, which is 0.82 inches below normal.

Snowfall totaled six inches with at least one inch of snow reported on two days. The heaviest snowfall in Heppner was five inches, reported on the 14th. The greatest depth of snow on

—See WEATHER REPORT/PAGE FIVE

Girl injured after fall from third-story window

Last Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 11:33 a.m. the Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report of a female juvenile who fell from a third-story window in the 500 block of South Main St., Heppner. MCSO Undersheriff Steve Myren reported that Heppner Ambulance transported the female to Pioneer Memorial Hospital with minor injuries.

Morrow County Sheriff's deputies are investigating the cause of the accident.

'Lights of Hope' to shine in Heppner Thursday

Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice will present its second annual Lights of Hope ceremony this Thursday, Dec. 4, to give those whose loved ones have passed away in the past year a special way to remember them this Christmas season.

Thursday at 6 p.m., shortly after Heppner's tree-lighting ceremony on Main Street, the hospice will conduct a tree-lighting ceremony of its own at St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner.

In addition to the lights and ornaments already on the tree in the senior center

lobby, this year families can personalize ornaments with the name of a loved one or a message for those who have passed away. After a ceremony in which those names have been read in their memory, a special string of lights will be lit to keep their memories burning this holiday season.

Anyone who has a loved one they would like remembered during the Lights of Hope ceremony Thursday can call Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice at 541-676-2946 and speak with chaplain Carmelo Di Salvo.

Automatic recount announced for Measure 92

'No' is ahead of 'Yes' by 812 votes out of 1,506,144 cast

SALEM—Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown last week announced that the certified results of Measure 92, the GMO labeling measure, require an automatic hand recount.

Brown issued a directive to Oregon's county clerks to conduct a hand recount of the votes for and against Measure 92 sometime between Tuesday, Dec. 2, and Friday, Dec. 12.

A full recount of ballots cast on any measure is required if the difference between votes cast for and against the measure is not more than one-fifth of one percent of the total votes cast concerning the measure.

According to the certified results of Measure 92, "No" votes outnumbered "Yes" votes by 812 out of 1,506,144 votes cast, and falls within the margin.

In order to conduct the recount, county clerks will appoint counting boards of four people who are electors qualified to vote in the county. The clerk shall appoint as many counting boards as necessary to complete the recount by the Dec. 12 deadline. No member of the counting boards shall have been a candidate for any office voted upon at the election. The members of a counting board shall not be members of the same political party.

One elector advocating and one elector opposing Measure 92 shall be permitted to observe each counting board during the recount in each county.

Counting is already underway in Morrow County.

The State Elections Division will pay for the cost of the recount.

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