

HEALTH DISTRICT

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statement for July, which although it did not meet expectations, still ended with a \$77,121 gain for the month. Gross patient revenue for the month was \$733,885, with \$854 for bad debts and \$42,474 in contractual and other adjustments, \$118,146 in tax revenue and \$13,027 in other operating revenue for a total operating revenue of \$823,439. Total operating expenses amounted to \$755,836, plus a month operating gain of \$9,518 for the \$77,121 gain for the month.

In other business, the board:

learned that Pioneer Memorial Clinic and Irrigon Medical Clinic will now offer sports physicals as part of an annual wellness exam for no extra charge. Mahoney said that most children are now covered by insurance that pays for an annual wellness visit, the insurance companies are encouraging annual wellness exams for children, so consequently the district would try to encourage both to be scheduled for the same visit.

learned that Artmil, the graphic design/printing/web design firm hired by the district, has been working on new website development, patient folders and Facebook postings.

received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 415 patient visits with five new patients, 19 seen by a nurse and 13 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 243 patient visits, 19 new patients, 54 seen by a nurse and 18 no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 22 page-outs with 18 transports for \$32,996 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 31 page-outs with 17 transports for \$25,889 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 31 page-outs with 13 transports for \$18,538 in revenue; three people were flown out; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had six admissions, six swing bed admissions, four admitted for observation, two admitted for respite care, 484 outpatients, 86 emergency room encounters, 1,610 lab tests, 112 x-ray procedures, 15 CT scans, 18 EKG tests, one treadmill procedure, three colonoscopy procedures, three endoscopy procedures, one colon/endoscopy procedure; Home Health had 177 visits; Hospice had one admission; Pharmacy had 2,106 drug doses for \$75,044 in drug revenue.

held an executive session concerning the CEO contract and a risk management report.

Ready for a disaster?

Do one thing every month to prepare

Submitted by the Morrow County Health Department.

September is National Preparedness Month. How prepared are you or your family to deal with emergencies we hear about daily and that can happen anywhere—earthquake, flood, wildfire, disease? Disasters that happen in western Oregon can also disrupt power, fuel and other supply deliveries to eastern Oregon. No community is completely safe.

It can be overwhelming to begin preparing for a disaster, especially if you don't know where to start or what to do. The "Do 1 Thing" personal preparedness campaign can help you focus on one important need per month so slowly

you become better prepared. Some examples of the monthly topics include the need for water, food, being informed, and planning for your family's unique needs (e.g., baby products, pet supplies, medications).

The September personal preparedness topic is, "Be Informed." Take the time this month to go online and read more about how to stay informed in an emergency at <http://do1thing.com/topics/informed>.

Morrow County Health Department will also be highlighting the "Do 1 Thing" monthly preparedness messages on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Morrow-County-Health-Department/458759104230177>.

Op/Ed

U.S. House Passes Wildfire Prevention Bill

By Rep. Greg Walden. Reprinted from the Oregon Wheat Newsletter.

Dear Friend,
Around Oregon and throughout the West, another fire season is well underway. Overstocked, diseased, and bug-infested forests are at risk of the massive and catastrophic wildfire that clog our air with smoke and threaten our streams. All this while our mills are starving for a reliable supply of timber and people need jobs. It's clear the status quo isn't working for our forests, our communities, or our environment. We can do better.

The U.S. House has passed a bipartisan bill—the Resilient Federal Forests Act—that would help reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires and bring active management back to our federal forests. Through active management, we can clean up our forests, prevent these unnaturally large fires, protect our air, and put people back to work in our forested communities.

Our bill puts into place much needed reforms to federal forest policy. For example, the bill repeals the arbitrary and outdated prohibition on harvesting trees over 21 inches in diameter on national forests in eastern Oregon. "Temporarily" put in place in 1997, this rule still hasn't been removed 20 years later. This flawed, one-size-fits-all rule illustrates just how broken federal forest management has become. The restriction greatly limits forest managers' ability to address site specific needs of the forest on the ground and has only served to further tie up projects in endless appeals and litigation.

Our plan also gives the Forest Service greater flexibility to move quickly on projects to reduce the threat of fire around our rural communities, streamlining projects developed through local counties' community wildfire protection plans.

Right now, after a fire, the Forest Service is able to reforest less than three percent of areas burned. This plan would accelerate the removal of timber after a fire (to help pay for replanting), and requires a large percent of the area impacted be reforested within five years. Just like we do after other natural disasters, we ought to clean up and rebuild after wildfires. As we saw earlier this summer on the Buckskin Fire in southern Oregon, failing to clean up only leads to future fires in old burn scars full of fallen trees and snag that prove difficult and too dangerous for firefighters.

This bill also cuts costs and streamlines rules for timber production on legislation pertaining to Oregon's unique O&C Lands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently unveiled new management plans for these lands that would fall short of the needs of local communities for a reliable supply of timber to fund essential local services like schools, roads, and law enforcement. The bill tells the BLM to go back to the drawing board, and propose new plans to actually provide sustainable timber production for Oregon's rural communities as required by law.

Finally, the endless cycle of "fire borrowing"—forcing the federal government to use wildfire prevention funds to pay for fighting fire—Is ended under this bill. It fixes how we pay to fight fire by allowing the Forest Service to apply for FEMA disaster funds to pay for fire-fighting. This treats wildfire as the natural disasters they are, similar to hurricanes or tornados.

The Resilient Federal Forests Act will improve the health of our forests and our rural economies. During the last session of Congress, the House twice passed bipartisan legislation I worked on to reform federal forest policy. The Senate has failed to take up forestry legislation. However, with new leadership in that body I'm hopeful that the Senate will take meaningful action on forestry legislation. We cannot let this opportunity pass us by again. Our forested communities have already waited too long. Now is the time to act.

Best Regards,
Rep. Greg Walden

Community health surveys in the mail

From September through November of this year, the Umatilla-Morrow County Community Health Partnership will begin its survey of Morrow and Umatilla County residents as part of a community health assessment process.

Your community health partners, including Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center, are working closely with the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio and researchers at the University of Toledo to conduct the survey.

Over the next two months, more than 2,400 Umatilla-Morrow residents ages 18 years and older will be randomly selected to participate in this survey.

Residents who are randomly selected are urged to complete and return the survey.

The anonymous survey asks participants to answer questions about general health, risk and protective health factors, and access to health care.

These answers will create a snapshot of the overall health of Umatilla and Morrow County residents.

The results will guide many public and private agencies in their program planning over the next several years by identifying key health problems.

The final community health assessment report will be published in the spring of 2016, at which

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Government reporting on Canyon Creek fire misleading

I'd like to comment on the deflection of truth that we see in the reporting of fire from the NWCC at their site, http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/information/fire_info.aspx. And, more specifically, on the Canyon Creek Complex fire in Oregon.

1. It is stated by most of the locals there that the fire was small and could have been put out rather than "managed" two days prior days to it blowing up on or about the 14th of August. No mention of that or the resultant fact that this was the cause of two fires coming together, resulting in the catastrophe we see today.

2. The statement from the website under 'fuel/terrain' is, in my opinion, misleading and politically motivated: Canyon Creek Complex/Fuel "Timber, medium logging slash, and short grass."

There has been little or no logging in that area or any areas on the Malheur National Forest for years now. This statement would make the uninformed think that a fire of 120,000 acres was mostly in logged terrain when in fact it is nearly all unlogged terrain, which is the major cause of the fuel load. In addition their claim that it is in "short grasses" is also misleading and politically motivated. Every rancher I know of who runs livestock on the Forest says, and my visits to the woods in the Blue Mountains have shown, the grass to be taller and thicker than it has been for years. This grass which should be valuable livestock feed is now forest fire flash fuel. Do the agencies, BLM and Forest Service, extend the grazing season to utilize this excess feed/fuel, not a chance. They ran the grazers off early under the guise of fire precaution, while letting bow hunters infest the forest and rangelands unimpeded. I have little against bow hunters, but most are novice recreators in the woods and they have nothing vested in preventing fires in the woods or grasslands while the ranchers and would-be loggers have everything vested in keeping those lands safe.

3. Isn't it time we had agencies who actually responded to the wants and needs of the vast majority of the public they are supposed to serve, instead of being totally driven by a tiny minority of eco-terrorist groups using extorted public dollars to prevent proper management of and utilization of our public natural resources? And isn't it time we had the government, in all forms, present the situations of ongoing management impediments and catastrophic events in a truthful and agenda-free fashion so that the people could really see the condition of public lands management?

4. I truly hope that the U.S. Government is held accountable for the mismanagement of our public lands and specifically the devastation caused to the affected communities and families by alleged agency negligence in the Canyon Creek fire.

5. I want the federal government off our public lands so that they can be managed in a productive, safe and truly environmentally sound fashion. I want the environmental groups who were forces behind this mismanagement to dip into their coffers of publicly extorted dollars and turn-to to rebuild what these communities and families have lost.

6. Imagine how the natural resource industry could be rebuilt and our public lands improved in the Pacific Northwest if only half of the money used to reactively fight fires was put back into the timber and resource industries? This could again make our resources internationally competitive, proactively reduce catastrophe and efficiently manage our forests and rangelands. It can be done, but not by putting reoccurring, nickel-dime thinning projects together with wasted tax dollars. It's time for a true cost-benefit analysis to run our public land management.

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