

Morrow County Health District approves \$15.9 million budget

The Morrow County Health District Board Monday night approved a proposed \$15.9 million budget for fiscal year 2018-2019, up \$863,819 over last year. The \$15,914,174 budget includes \$1,897,549 in property taxes and \$14,016,625 in resources excluding taxes.

Proposed resources include: Hospital-\$8,088,468; Home Health and Hospice-\$564,436; Boardman Ambulance-\$430,757; Irrigon Ambulance-\$316,514; Lone Ambulance-\$10,366; Pioneer Memorial Clinic, Heppner-\$1,434,702; Irrigon Clinic-\$1,702,345; Lone Clinic-\$127,802; Other Revenue-\$303,035; Dona-

tions and Grants-\$298,000; Interest Income-\$40,000; Community Service Fees-\$148,200; Electronic Health Record Reimbursements-\$17,000; 340 B Retail Pharmacy Net Revenue-\$250,000; Operating Capital, Long & Short Term Loans-\$285,000.

Proposed expenditures include: Hospital-\$8,889,165; Home Health & Hospice-\$778,958; Boardman Ambulance-\$394,115; Irrigon Ambulance-\$326,118; Lone Ambulance and Lexington Emergency Medical Services-\$20,364; Heppner Clinic-\$1,582,416; Irrigon Clinic-\$1,396,860; Lone Community Clin-

ic-\$132,365; Community Benefit Grants-\$50,000; Revenue Deductions and Bad Debt-\$562,959; Capital Purchases-\$1,196,625; Capital Lease Principal Reduction-\$0; Long and Short Term Debt Principal Reduction-\$283,848; Total Expenditures-\$15,613,794.

Capital purchases for 2018-19 include: Irrigon Medical Clinic Remodel (remainder of project)-\$400,000, paid with a loan, grants and cash; Irrigon Medical Clinic Parking lot (remainder of project)-\$75,000, paid with cash on hand; Heppner Clinic/Hospital Modernization-architect fees-\$150,000, paid with cash on hand and donations; Omnicell RX dispensary-\$100,000 paid with a grant; Ortho Workstation/Blood Bank-\$5,100, Double Oven-\$5,250, Centriq Server Replacement-\$79,500, HVAC Software Upgrade-\$6,539, Single Sign On Software-\$15,416, Cardiac Monitor Interface with Centriq-\$9,000 and Bladder Scanner-\$12,400-all cash on hand; Ultrasound Echo Machine-\$125,000, loan; Auto Load for EMS Gurneys (six) one third of total cost-\$53,420, grants, and Ambulance-\$160,000-loan.

In terms of long and short-term debt, the district has \$283,848 in principal payments, with another \$97,651 in interest payments.

~ 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.

Vote for Collins

To the editor:
I am writing this in support of Rob Collins for Circuit Court Judge. Rob Collins brings a myriad of experience to the citizens. He has been practicing law since 1981, practicing both civil/family and criminal law. He has a deep understanding of courtroom proceedings, having served as protem judge for many years. He understands the importance of community. He serves on many com-

munity boards, including The Round-Up Board of Directors and the Oregon East Symphony.

Rob Collins was raised in the community of North East Oregon. He understands our values and what makes us great. Rob Collins will work to protect that. I ask you to vote for Rob Collins for Circuit Court Judge.

Sincerely,
Kim Cutsforth
Heppner, OR

Resident needs assistance

To the editor:
One more of Heppner's long-time residents needs our assistance. There has been an account set up at BEO for Judy Handbury. Due to complications with knee replacement surgery, Judy has had to spend numerous days in the hospital causing additional medical and travel expenses. Please help her.

Laurie Hire
Heppner

Neahring to improve Affordable Care Act

To the editor:
I know there is support for Democratic candidates who can connect with rural voters, because I ran two strong races for state representative in north central Oregon as a "fair frugal farmer" in 2002/6. I am happy to see a Palliative Care physician, Dr. Jenni Neahring from Bend running in this year's Democratic congressional primary.

Dr. Neahring stopped by my farm near Culver recently and we had a good visit. She is passionate about expanding health care access, quality and affordability. The Affordable Health Care Act might not be perfect, but it has helped families in eastern Oregon as much as any part of our state.

The number of Americans without health care was almost cut in half from 2010 to 2016; 48 million to 28 million. States like Oregon that chose to expand Medicaid saw the percent of uninsured cut in half from 18 percent in 2013 to 9 percent in 2016.

Despite this, Greg Walden played a leading role gutting ACA and replacing it with "Trumpcare" which will take away insurance from millions of Americans.

Dr. Jenni Neahring, on the other hand, wants to help improve the Affordable Care Act that has improved the finances and health of so many rural Oregonians. She has my vote in the Democratic primary.

Jim Gilbertson
Culver, OR

ELECT MICHAEL BREILING CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE UMATILLA AND MORROW COUNTIES



My wife and I have built our law practice and are raising our children in Umatilla County while practicing law in both Umatilla and Morrow Counties.

No other candidate has my recent experience handling serious crimes and trying criminal cases. According to the Court's computer system, in the year prior to the authoring of this statement (February 20, 2017 to February 20, 2018) I had 483 scheduled court appearances in Umatilla and Morrow County circuit courts. In that same time, my opponent has had 39 scheduled court appearances in Umatilla County and none in Morrow County.

In the more than twenty-two years I have been a lawyer, nineteen of which I have served Umatilla and Morrow Counties, I have appeared in nearly every kind of case that the Circuit Courts handle. I have worked on nearly every type of criminal case from Barking Dogs to Murder. I have handled most types of civil cases including: adoption, custody, divorce, contracts, securities law, real property, probate, complex civil cases, personal injury, employment law, and most other things.

I have been blessed in how many of you have trusted me to guide you in your most difficult legal problems over the past nineteen years. Now I ask that you grant me the privilege of becoming a Judge of the Circuit Court. I solemnly promise that if granted this opportunity that I will do my best to insure the Constitution is respected, the law is followed, and Justice is served. I will also remember that to each person appearing in Court that their case is the most important case in the world and they need a fair, diligent, and hard working judge who will remember that fact.

FAIR, EXPERIENCED, AND HARD WORKING

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Michael Breiling

Catholic men to hold first Friday meeting

The men of St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Heppner and St. William's Catholic Church of Ione will hold their first Friday of the month meeting on Friday, May 4 at the parish office in Heppner. The meeting will start at 6:45 a.m. and will be followed by First Friday Mass at 7:30 a.m.

Holly Rebekah to host last card party until fall

The Holly Rebekah lodge will be hosting their last monthly card party until October on Saturday, May 5 at the Lodge in Lexington. Play will begin at 7 p.m. The cost for the evening, including snacks is only \$5 per person and is open to the public.

Public Meeting
Spouses & family welcome

VETERANS
Benefits Discussion
Tuesday
May 15th 9:30am
Bartholomew Building
Conference room

VA Health Care
Veterans Choice Program
Compensation
Pension
Burial Benefits
Spousal Benefits
Emergency Financial Grant

Questions? Contact Veterans Services
541-922-6420