

# Women veterans invited to holiday party

The first annual four-county Women Veterans holiday party will be held at the Irrigon Library, 490 E Main St, on Dec. 8 from noon to 2 p.m. All women residing in Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman or Wheeler County who served in the United States armed forces are invited to attend.

The Oregon women's veterans coordinator and Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs staff will be in attendance at this event hosted by Morrow County VSO and Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs.

Attendees are asked to bring a sweater for the white elephant sweater swap.

# Honor Society holds coat drive

The Heppner High School National Honor Society chapter is holding a local coat drive. They will be accepting donations of gently used or new coats between Nov. 28 and Dec. 13.

Donation locations are available at Murray's Drug, Heppner Market Fresh or Heppner High School. The coat drive is to ensure that local children and adults who don't have access to coats can stay warm during the winter.

# New physician to join PMH

By April Sykes

Bob Houser, Morrow County Health District CEO told the board, at their regular meeting Monday night in Heppner, that the district has hired a family practice physician, Dr. James Hejmanowski, to join the medical staff at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and clinic.

Hauser said that Dr. Hejmanowski is currently working on obtaining his Oregon licensure.

He also reported that an interview with a physician from Montana is planned for December 13 and 14. "Depending on the outcome of the interview, I may be discussing adding another

physician for the district at the next meeting," said Houser.

Houser also said that a physician's assistant, Jon Watson, PA-C, has been hired for a position at the Irrigon clinic. He has received his Oregon PA-C license and is being credentialed. Watson will be working with PA Dan Doherty until Doherty leaves in mid-December, said Houser.

The board approved both the contracts with Hejmanowski and Watson.

Still needed are a hospital RN, a part-time certified nurse's assistant or a certified medical assistant and a compliance/HIPAA se-

curity officer/risk management, since Tim Timmons, compliance/security officer has announced his intent to resign as soon as the district finds a suitable candidate.

Timmons said that all compliance plans have been developed and are being implemented. He noted that four different audits had been conducted concerning the hospital and clinic coding practices, Home Health, Hospice and the district's confidentiality. He said that the process went "really smoothly" and the district is now to the point of ongoing training. "We haven't found any risk exposure," he said. "There is nothing to worry about." "This organization does an outstanding job," he said, adding that he has worked with almost every rural hospital in the state. "I'm delighted to have had the opportunity to work with you."

With Timmons phasing out his job with MCHD to concentrate on his involvement in GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health), the board approved establishing a new full-time position and funding it outside the budget at a little over \$35,600 plus benefits for six months through June 2018. At that time a new budget will have been established. The new compliance position will be managerial, but not supervisory and include a combination of compliance/HIPAA security officer/risk management, in addition to other duties. Houser said

# Chamber announcements and upcoming events

Now through Thursday, Dec. 13 rewards cards will be distributed for local purchases from participating merchants. Reward card denominations of \$10, \$20 and \$50 will be given out in the amount of purchase (except for items not eligible, depending on merchant). The Heppner Celebrate Christmas event will be held Thursday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. A spaghetti dinner will be available for purchase as well as pictures with Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves for \$5 per picture. There will be a penny board and raffle items and opportunities to win prizes and support the chamber. Additional information coming soon.

Thursday, Nov. 29. Local Merchants Open House from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and

Parade of Lights at 5:30 p.m. The local merchants will be planning special activities and refreshments throughout the day and the City of Heppner will be coordinating the Parade of Lights. Please contact the City of Heppner at 541-676-9618 for an entry form for the parade. Lineup will be at the city park at 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Artifactory Holiday Bazaar sponsored by Heppner Day Care at St. Patrick's Catholic Church Parish Hall. Those interested in being a vendor at this annual bazaar should contact Andrea Nelson at 541-720-4399 or check the Heppner Day Care Facebook page. The cost for vendors is \$20 for a table and two chairs.

Nominations are open for Heppner Chamber's

Annual Town and Country Community Awards Event. Nominations are being accepted for the Business of the Year, Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Citizen-Educator of the Year, Youth Award and Lifetime Achievement Award. Forms can be picked up at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, City Hall, Community Bank, Heppner Chamber and Kuhn Law Office or by calling the Chamber at 541-676-5536 or emailing [heppnerchamber@centurytel.net](mailto:heppnerchamber@centurytel.net). Completed nomination forms can be dropped off at the Heppner Chamber or Kuhn Law offices by Jan. 11. The event will be held Thursday, Feb. 7, starting at 6 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Tickets will be available for sale beginning Friday, Jan. 4, 2019.

that the amount of work entailed would justify a full-time position, however the funds were not in the 2017-18 budget. Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney, replied to questions concerning funding the new position outside the budget, "If I didn't think we could do it, I wouldn't be suggesting it."

Timmons said he would mentor the new employee as long as necessary.

In other business the board:

-heard an update from Houser concerning the progress of the newly constructed Irrigon Clinic. Houser said the facility was to be insulated and sheet rock installed over Thanksgiving week. He said that additional time would be required for occupancy certification.

-approved funding for automated external defibrillators with cabinets and signage and mounted to the wall for Irrigon Elementary School and Morrow Education Center. The units are estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$1,800 to \$2,000.

-learned from Houser they are still trouble-shooting on the HVAC system to find out why they are having heat and hot water issues. He said a mechanical engineer was on site November 15 and provided input on a couple of potential problem areas that will be corrected as soon as possible.

-heard from Houser he has submitted a request for \$100,407 from the CREZ II Board for replacement of three manual monitors and defibrillators for ambulances in Boardman, Irrigon and Heppner. He said the

current units are over 14 years old.

-received the following profit/loss statement through October from Mahoney: the district had a good month in October, with \$1,102,172 in revenue for the month, less \$13,038 in provision for bad debts and \$73,945 in contractual and other adjustments, plus \$160,914 in tax revenue and \$67,469 in other operating revenue for \$1,243,571 in total operating revenue; less \$1,135,483 in operating expenses, plus \$23,349 in a non-operating gain for a \$131,437 gain for the month, a \$20,730 average monthly year-to-date gain. "This puts us into the black for the year," commented Mahoney.

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had three inpatient admissions for October, one swing bed admission, eight admissions for observation, three swing, non-skilled admissions, 669 total out-patients, 94 emergency room encounters, 2,110 lab tests, 134 x-ray/ultrasound tests, 27 CT scans, three MRI scans, 25 EKG tests, five lower endoscopy procedures, two upper endoscopy procedures and 25 respiratory therapy procedures.

-received the following clinic reports: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 373 patient visits in October, with three new patients, 141 seen by a nurse and 24 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 340 patient visits, 25 new patients, 151 seen by a nurse and 26 no-shows; Ione Community Clinic had 29 patient visits with four new patients and 15 seen by a nurse.

-received the following ambulance reports: Hep-

per Ambulance had 31 page-outs with 27 transports for \$45,318 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 38 page-outs with 22 transports for \$40,164 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 19 page outs with 11 transports for \$16,365 in revenue; Ione Ambulance had one page-out with no transports; there were six life flights.

-learned that Home Health had 91 nursing visits; Hospice had two admissions; and Pharmacy had 2,396 drug doses for \$129,385 in revenue.

-held an executive session to review and evaluate the performance/qualifications of an employee who did not want an open hearing.

-accepted the following board meeting calendar for 2019 with meetings Mondays at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted: January 28, Ione Community Church; February 25, Pioneer Memorial Clinic conference room, Heppner, 6:30 p.m.; March 25, Sand Hollow Room, Port of Morrow, Boardman; April 29, MCGG Conference Room, Lexington; May 20, PMC conference room, Heppner, 6:30 p.m.; June 24, Irrigon Medical Clinic; July 29, Ione Community Church; August 26, PMC conference room, 6:30 p.m.; September 30, Sand Hollow Room; October 28, MCGG conference room; November 25, PMC conference room, 6:30 p.m.; December 30-31, yet to be determined.

The board voted to dispense with the December meeting because of the holidays. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 28 at the Ione Community Church.

Ione FFA Chapter

## Christmas Tree SALE

Ione Community School Shop  
445 Spring Street  
Ione, OR 97843

November 30<sup>th</sup> - December 1st: 2:00-8:30 pm  
Every day After School until 5:30 pm  
Trees will also be sold at Wreath Making Workshops  
Mondays and Wednesdays after school until 8:00 pm

Prices:

- 5-6' Douglas Firs/\$25.00
- 7-8' Douglas Firs/\$35.00
- 4-5' Nordman Nobles/\$30.00
- 7-8' Nordman Nobles/\$40.00



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# HELP A CHILD IN OUR COMMUNITY

Once again The Giving Tree will be available at Heppner Les Schwab for community members who wish to purchase gifts for foster children in Morrow County.

**GIFTS NEED TO BE RETURNED TO LES SCHWAB BY DECEMBER 7TH**



**124 N. MAIN STREET HEPPNER OR 541-676-9481**