

Hospital to receive new boilers

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board approved the purchase of two new boilers and hot water heaters for Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. CEO Bob Houser told the board that while the purchase of the boiler systems had already been budgeted, the price has increased since then.

The board said they hoped to coordinate the installation of the boilers to allow for the least possible disruption, but installation is expected to shut down the heating system for the hospital for at least one week. "We need a week of really nice weather," said Houser. "The question we need to ask is, can we do one boiler at a time." "It would be nice if they could install one and then install the other," he said. He planned to ask that question of Apollo Heating and Air Conditioning.

Cost for materials, labor and subcontractor for two boiler systems plus freight was \$131,859.50 from Apollo. Cost for replacement of hot water heaters to AO Smith Cyclone heaters was \$34,648.84.

In other business, the board:

-approved the purchase of a Subaru Forester for

Home Health from Harley Swain Subaru in Hermiston for \$26,223.

-received the following staffing information from Houser: Jamie Reed, CSW, was hired for the behavioral health position at the Irrigon Medical Clinic; Ronda Cox, LCSW, was offered a contract for the behavioral health position at Pioneer Memorial Clinic; David Collins, physician's assistant, started at Irrigon Medical Clinic October 21 and is currently being credentialed.

-learned that the Pioneer Memorial Hospital lab received no deficiencies at a lab inspection. Lab Director Betty Hickerson informed of the results.

-learned that all the apartments at Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living were full as of October 28. The Governing Board approved annual salary increases and room rate increases for 2020.

-heard from Houser of the possibility of meeting with representatives of Columbia River Community Health Clinic in Boardman to discuss the possibility of sharing a dietician.

-heard from Houser that MCHD is taking part in the InterMountain ESD student intern program. The

district currently has one student intern at Pioneer Memorial Clinic, Sydney Wilson, and plans to expand the program to include Irrigon Medical Clinic because a student from Irrigon has expressed interest in interning there.

-submitted a bid on land in Irrigon currently owned by CAPECO.

-received the following profit and loss statement through September. The district received \$1,101,150 in gross patient revenue, less \$6,383 for bad debts, plus \$12,820 in contractual and other adjustments, \$165,790 in tax revenue and \$32,497 in other operating revenue for \$1,305,874 in total operating revenue; less \$1,253,250 in total operating expenses and a \$25,482 non-operating gain for a \$78,106 profit for the month.

-received the following clinic reports for September: Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner had 384 patient visits, 16 new patients, 20 seen by a nurse and 17 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 306 patient visits, 15 new patients, 137 seen by a nurse and 40 no shows; Ione Community Clinic had 62 patient visits, with one new patient, 11 seen by a nurse and one no show.

-received the following ambulance report for September: Heppner Ambulance had 26 page-outs with 21 transports for \$35,800 in

revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 46 page-outs with 21 transports for \$39,075 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 37 page-outs with 16 transports for \$23,338 in revenue; Ione Ambulance had no transports.

-received the following Pioneer Memorial Hospital report: 10 in-patient admissions in September, four swing bed admissions, 10 admissions for observation, one swing bed non-skilled admission, 544 total out-patients with ER, 88 emergency room encounters, one death, 110 x-ray, ultrasound tests, 37 CT scans, five MRI scans, 27 EKG tests, five lower endoscopy procedures, two upper endoscopy procedures, 57 respiratory therapy procedures.

-received notice of 104 Home Health visits, with one death and one Hospice admission

-received the following pharmacy report: 2,470 drug doses for the month with \$68,455 in revenue.

-learned that the retirement party for Cyde Estes, retiring Hospice volunteer, is planned for November 14 from 1-3 p.m., with a presentation at 2 p.m. at the Home Health office, 162 N Main, Heppner.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 25, at 6 p.m. for the provider dinner and 6:30 p.m. for the board meeting at Pioneer Memorial Clinic conference room in Heppner.

Fall bazaar to be held

Holly Rebekah Lodge will be hosting their second annual Fall Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lodge Hall in Lexington. Participating vendors will showcase Posh, Norwex, Roden and Field, Young Living, LuLaRoe, SubRosa soap, Paparazzi, Lipsense, Scentsy, Arbonne, handmade arts and crafts, Thirty-one, Montana purses and

Amelia's handcrafts.

A variety of soups will be available to choose from for a lunch of a bowl of soup, roll, cookie and coffee for \$5. Also available for sale will be cookies and cinnamon rolls, bottled water, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

For additional information or to sign up as a vendor call Mary Kay Bellamy at 541-379-3567.

Mr. Bill's traveling trivia show returns to Heppner

The Heppner Daycare will again sponsor Mr. Bill's Trivia, on November 15, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Elks. The event is a fundraiser for the nonprofit organization.

Entry forms are available at Heppner Daycare. Also available this year is the option to register your team on the Daycare's Facebook page. Though teams may enter on the evening of the show, early entries are strongly encouraged. A table will be reserved with the team name for every early entry. Early entries will help with starting the show on time and help to prevent delays at the door.

The entry fee for each

team is \$150, which breaks down to just \$25 per person on a team of the allowed and suggested six members. Though individual team members often pay their own entry fees, sponsors may be recruited.

The members of the three top-scoring teams at Mr. Bill's will receive prizes, as well as bragging rights. However, every participant will have an equal opportunity to win a door prize at some point in the evening.

The Daycare will also be raffling baskets filled with all kinds of goodies. Teams are asked to pick up an entry form and return it to the daycare as soon as possible.

Ione resident earns degree from WGU

Kimberly Carter of Ione has earned a Bachelor of Arts, Educational Studies degree from Western Governors University (WGU). The online, nonprofit university held its commencement ceremonies in the spring and summer of this year to celebrate the recent graduation of more than 10,000 students from across the country.

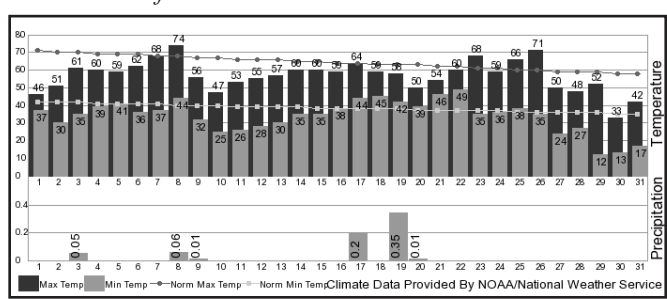
WGU has recognized 5,750 undergraduate and 4,488 graduate degree recipients, who have completed their degrees since June 24, 2019. Their areas of study include business, K-12 education, information technology and health professions, including nursing. The average time to graduation for those earning a bachelor's degree was two years, three months, while the average time to

degree for graduate programs was one year, seven months. The average age for those who graduated is 38 years old.

WGU pioneered competency-based education, which measures learning rather than time spent in class. Designed to meet the needs of working adults, students' study and learn on their own schedules with individualized, one-to-one faculty support. They complete courses as soon as they demonstrate that they have mastered the subject matter; allowing them to move quickly through material they already know so they can allocate time for what they still need to learn. As a result, many WGU students are able to accelerate their studies, saving both time and money.

COLDEST

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Precipitation this year has reached 12.39 inches, which is 1.31 inches above normal.

The outlook for November from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 57.0

degrees at the start of November to 45.0 degrees at the end of November. Normal lows fall from 35.0 degrees to 28.0 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.60 inches.

This was the coldest October on record. The previous coldest was 45.8 degrees in 1949.

Nominations open for awards event

Nominations for Heppner Chamber's Town and Country Community Awards Event will be accepted beginning Friday, November 15 through Friday, January 10, 2020. Nomination forms will be available for community members to submit nominations for Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Business of the Year, Citizen-Educator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and

Youth Award.

The nomination form must be completed and turned into the Heppner Chamber or Kuhn Law Offices no later than Friday, January 10, 2020 to be considered as a recipient for the 2019 Community Awards Event.

The awards event will be held Thursday, February 6, 2020 in the Gilliam Biscoe building.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office has released the following report of marriage licenses:

October 3, 2019: - Alice Faye Stanley, 67, Irrigon, and Scott Richard Sherer, 59, Irrigon.

October 15, 2019: - Tommy Joe Hines, 37, Heppner, and Lacey Colleen Jensen, 34, Heppner.

October 17, 2019: - Chase Michel Townsend, 18, Irrigon, and Kaitlynn Marie Wells, 18, Irrigon.

October 22, 2019: - Katelyn Michelle Siri, 27, Heppner, and Ian Andrew Murray, 27, Heppner.

October 24, 2019: - Mary L Smith, 48, Irrigon, and David L Volquardsen, 51, Irrigon.

Scholastic Book Fair coming to Ione

The Scholastic Book Fair, sponsored by the Ione Topic Club, will be held in the Ione elementary school gym Nov. 6 and 7 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. All purchases benefit the children in the Ione schools.

The book fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into the school. There is a selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level.

For those unable to attend the book fair, the online book fair is available at www.scholastic.com/bf/ione through Nov. 15.

Tips and information on buying your home

Tip #1

The process of buying a house can be complicated and sometimes frustrating, even if you've got the cash on hand to complete the sale immediately.

Finding a good Realtor who can help you through the process can alleviate some of the stress and make the home buying process much easier.

Following are some of the most common steps and tips to finding and buying your new home.

Getting Ready to Go

Unless you have cash in the bank (or a rich relative to help you out) the first place you will want to stop is at your local bank. Most banks have a mortgage department where you will find knowledgeable loan specialists waiting to help you. Their job is to find the right home loan for you. There are different kinds of loans such as FHA, Conventional, USDA and VA and your loan specialist will determine which is best for you.

Meeting with your loan specialists will also include getting "prequalified" or determining how big a loan, and consequently how much of a house you will be able to afford. Your lender will ask for information about your income, credit rating and other details to make that determination.

Going through this process can take some time and involve bank documents, wage records and other financial information, but don't get discouraged.

The fun part is soon to begin!
Next time the fun part: Shopping for your perfect home!



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FOOD DRIVE

Wheatland is hosting our annual food drive. We will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items throughout November and December. Please stop by your local Heppner and Ione offices and help us help our neighbors in need. All donations will be donated to the Neighborhood Center and distributed throughout South Morrow County.
Office hours 8 - 5 Monday - Friday

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