

# Health District to receive funds from wind entity

Morrow County Health District CEO Bob Houser told the board, at their Nov. 25 meeting in Heppner, the district expects to receive around \$168,000 per year for 15 years as a result of negotiated payments from Orchard Winds, a wind entity. Houser said payments to the district are expected to continue for the next 15 years. The board approved an intergovernmental agreement for distribution of the Orchard Winds Strategic Investment Program Community Service Fees.

The board had other good news, learning the district ended up \$84,763 in the black for October.

In other business, Houser told the board the boilers and hot water heaters were successfully installed at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. He said that the boilers were able to be installed one at a time, so the facility was not without heat.

The board appointed Houser and board Chair John Murray to negotiate a \$135,000 loan through the Bank of Eastern Oregon at an interest rate of 4.15 percent to pay for installation of the boilers. Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney said the district has not yet received approval from USDA but does not anticipate any difficulty.

The board also heard Molly Rhea, R.N., has been hired as the new Home Health and Hospice director. The district has also

hired Jackie Alleman as the new volunteer Home Health and Hospice coordinator.

In other business, the board:

-learned Vicki Kent, nurse practitioner, is leaving the health district to work at a sleep center in Hermiston. Houser said the district has interviewed several individuals for a mid-level provider position at the Irrigon Medical Clinic. He added Amanda Fabian, PA-C is scheduled to assist the district in January and February, working in the Ione, Heppner and Irrigon clinics while Nurse Practitioner Betty Hamill is out on medical leave, prior to finding a replacement for Fabian. Dr. Emily Thompson Jack, who is from Heppner, will be completing a rotation at Pioneer Memorial Clinic and Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

-learned the flooring for the clinic remodel was not adequately priced out and the estimate must be recalculated for flooring in all areas, with the possibility of asbestos abatement if asbestos is discovered.

-approved the 2020 board meeting calendar as follows: January 27-Ione Community Church, 7 p.m.; February 24-Pioneer Memorial Clinic Conference Room, Heppner, dinner at 6 p.m.; board meeting at 6:30 p.m.; March 30, Sand Hollow Room, Port of Morrow, Boardman, 7 p.m.; April 27, MCGG Conference Room,

Lexington, 7 p.m.; May 18, PMC Conference Room, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.; June 29, Irrigon Medical Clinic, Irrigon, 7 p.m.; July 27, Ione Community Church, 7 p.m.; August 31, dinner 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m., PMC Conference Room; September 28, Sand Hollow Room, Port of Morrow, Boardman, 7 p.m.; October 26, MCGG Conference Room, Lexington, 7 p.m.; November 30, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m., PMC Conference Room, Heppner; December 28-undetermined if a meeting will be held.

-learned an Automatic External Defibrillator unit, donated to the city by the health district, has been installed at Heppner City Hall in the community/meeting room.

-approved credentialing for Dr. John Gambino, a radiologist, in the event the district's current radiologist is unavailable.

-heard from Houser the district will meet with law enforcement on Dec. 4 to finish preparations on the upcoming disaster drill which will include plans for dealing with an active shooter at the hospital.

-heard that the district held a meet and greet for David Collins, physician's assistant at the Irrigon Medical Clinic.

-learned an RN is still needed for Home Health and Hospice, along with RNs for Pioneer Memorial Hospital, a part-time dieti-

cian, and a part time medical assistant for Pioneer Memorial Clinic.

-heard the next Governance Committee for Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living facility is December 12; the next Governing Board meeting is planned for Jan. 9, at noon. Two apartments are available at this time.

-learned a new vehicle has been purchased for Home Health.

-learned the district ended up \$84,763 in the black for October, receiving the following profit and loss statement for October: \$1,242,427 in gross patient revenue; with a \$23,720 provision for bad debts, \$99,697 in contractual and other adjustments, \$165,790 in tax revenue and \$31,774 in other operating revenue for \$1,316,574 in total operating revenue; \$1,294,163 in total operating expenses, plus a \$62,352 in a non-operating gain for an \$84,763 gain for the month and a \$75,677 average monthly year-to-date gain.

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had 12 acute (in-patient) admissions for October, 13 admissions for observation, five swing bed (skilled) admissions, two swing (non-skilled) admissions, 650 total out-patients, 96 emergency room encounters, 2,145 lab tests, 123 x-ray/ultrasound tests, 33 CT scans, seven MRI scans, 21 EKG tests, two

lower endoscopy procedures, 44 respiratory therapy procedures.

-received the following clinic reports for October: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 432 patient visits, 10 new patients, 71 seen by a nurse and eight no-shows; Irrigon medical Clinic had 364 patient visits, 26 new patients, 206 seen by a nurse and 50 no-shows; Ione Community Clinic had 82 patient visits, 27 seen by a nurse and three no-shows.

-received the following ambulance report for October: Heppner had 47 page-outs with 34 transports for \$52,581 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 42 page-outs with 16

transports for \$29,862 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 44 page outs with 14 transports for \$23,400 in revenue; Ione Ambulance had three page-outs with one transport for \$1,582 in revenue; there were five flights.

-Home Health had 135 patient visits, Hospice had two admissions with four deaths.

-Pharmacy had 3,637 drug doses for \$90,771 in revenue.

-agreed to dismiss with the December meeting unless pressing business develops. The next meeting will be held on January 27 at the Ione Community Church.

## Tips and information on buying your home

### Tip #3

#### What to look for, and questions to ask when visiting a home

The process of buying a house can be complicated and sometimes frustrating. Finding a good Realtor who can help you through the process will make the home buying process much easier.

Following are some common steps and tips on finding and buying your new home.

#### What to ask when looking

Tip #2 talked about finding homes and scheduling appointments. You can read all the real estate tips on my facebook page. *David Sykes Real Estate* Now we will talk about what to do once you arrive at a home.

Telling someone what features to look for in a home is like telling them what kind of car to buy, or furniture to purchase. Not going to happen! Everyone has different tastes and likes. That's why homes are all different - right? So what features you like is up to you. But here are a few basic questions to consider when shopping for almost any home.

Very important, especially in our community: Is it in the flood plain?

It's relevant because a large portion of our three communities are in the flood plain. Being in the flood plain isn't necessarily a non-starter or deal killer, it just means you'll be required to buy flood insurance if you are financing. Insurance prices vary and can even depend on the individual, but you will have extra costs as part of your monthly mortgage payment. Ask your real estate agent if the property is in the flood plain, or you can go to City Hall and look at the flood plain maps. (If a house is located up on the hill it's

definitely not in the flood plain)

What about the septic system? In Heppner that's not a issue. But in Ione, Lexington and the county at large, all homes have septic systems and the condition is very important. First ask if the system is working okay and if it's pumped recently. Are there records? As far as the condition of the system, you won't really know that until an inspection is done. Many lenders will require a pump and inspection prior to making the loan, but we will cover that later on **Making Your Offer**.

What about the well? Same thing. Ask for well reports. These will show the depth, production and other facts about the well. Once again tests can be done prior to purchase.

What kind of heating and cooling systems and - "What's it going to cost me?" Your realtor will have what systems, and he can usually get past electric and fuel bills to document what your yearly costs will be.

These are just a few of the basic questions you can ask when visiting a home. There are lots more and don't be afraid to ask. We will cover more inspections and property questions when we talk later about **'Making Your Offer'**.

That's up next on our **Tips and information on buying your home** column.

**You can find all my Real Estate Tips on my facebook page David Sykes Real Estate. Don't forget to "Like" my page when you are there.**

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## Chamber Chatter

November through December, annual food drive organized by Wheatland Insurance. Wheatland Insurance will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items at the Wheatland offices in Heppner and Ione. All donations will be donated to the Neighborhood Center and distributed throughout south Morrow County. Wheatland offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Morrow County Foster Children Gift Drive Giving Tree set up at Les Schwab. Stop by and take a tag from the giving tree, return unwrapped gift by December 9 with the tag attached. You don't have to purchase everything on the list, give what you can. If you take a tag, please buy the gift. If you change your mind, bring the tag back and put it on the tree for someone else to take.

Friday, November 15 through Friday, January 10, 2020, Nominations for Heppner Chamber's Town and Country Community Awards Event will be accepted. 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. Nomination forms will be available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Chamber Office, Community Bank, Heppner City Hall and Kuhn Law Office. You can also obtain a form by contacting the Chamber office at 541-676-5536 or by email at heppnerchamber@centurytel.net. The completed nominations must be turned into the Heppner Chamber or Kuhn Law Offices no later than Friday, January 10, 2020 to be considered for the 2019 Community Awards Event.

Monday, November 18 through Thursday, December 12, Rewards Cards in denominations of \$10, \$20 and \$50 will be given out for the amount of purchase when shopping at participating merchants in preparation of Heppner Chamber's Celebrate Christmas Event. Collect and bring them to the event Thursday, December 12 for a chance to win prizes.

Monday, November 25 through Friday, December 13, Neighborhood Center Giving Tree at Heppner Market Fresh. Stop by and pick a name from the tree and purchase a gift for a local family member in Heppner. Contact the Neighborhood Center if you have any

questions at 541-676-5024.

Thursday, November 28 at 1 p.m., Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Gateway Café for those who do not have plans for Thanksgiving. To contribute to the meal contact MelbaJo at 541-945-9471.

December 6, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., First Friday Friends of Jesus at All Saints Parish Hall. This program is for children from the ages of 4-12 and includes Bible stories, crafts and a free lunch. Contact the church office at 541-676-9970 for more information.

Thursday, December 12 at 6 p.m., Heppner Chamber's Community Christmas Event. The Rewards card program will be in effect from November 18 to December 12. Rewards cards for the amount of purchase will be earned at participating merchants. The event will be held in the Gilliam and Bisbee Building and will include pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, complimentary cookies and beverage, penny board and raffle items, along with drawings for the winners of the Rewards cards prizes.

Friday, December 13 from 4-8 p.m., Holiday

Night Market at Gilliam Bisbee Building, organized by Heppner Day Care. It will include vendors, children's activities and live entertainment.

Friday, December 13 from 6-8:30 p.m., Heppner's Winter Fest in downtown Heppner, organized by the Heppner Outreach Committee. Schedule: 6 p.m. light parade and display; 6:45-7:30 p.m., photos with Holiday Friends at Sage Clothing Gathering Area; 7:30 p.m., Storytime with Mrs. Claus at the City Hall Conference Room and 8 p.m., snowball drop at the shamrock on Main Street

Sunday, December 15 at 4 p.m., Christmas Music Fest at Hope Lutheran Church. All community members are invited and if you would like to share your musical talents, contact the Hopeful Saints office at 541-676-9970.

Sunday, December 22 from 4-6 p.m., Christmas Caroling event. Hopeful Saints will be meeting at the All Saints Episcopal Church and will be caroling at the hospital, the Senior Center and Willow Creek Terrace. Anyone is welcome to join then. Arrive by 4 p.m. to participate.

IONE FFA CHAPTER



*Tree & Wreath Sale*

TREES AT THE IONE GREENHOUSE  
SELLING MONDAY-THURSDAY 8-5  
AND AT HOME BASKETBALL GAMES

SALES START ON DECEMBER  
2ND AND WILL GO TILL  
DECEMBER 20TH

Trees \$25-\$50  
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Check Facebook for more details

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WEDDING TABLE



KATIE SIRI  
&  
IAN MURRAY  
DECEMBER 7TH




**217 North Main St.,  
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