

# HEALTH DIST.

-Continued from PAGE ONE

with Columbia River Community Health (CRCH) in Boardman concerning COVID-19 testing. Houser said that additional testing is now being done on both ends of the county since Incyte Labs is providing COVID-19 test kits and Quest lab is providing 600 free lab tests as well. He said that PMH is scheduled to begin antibody testing in June as the kits will be sent from the state for use by PMH. He said that CRCH, which currently has a contract with Interpath, is also considering signing on with Incyte Lab as well.

-learned from Houser that he, Dr. Russ Nichols, CNO Houck, and Lab Director Betty Hickerson will meet prior to reinstating elective scope procedures (such as colonoscopies). They will "discuss whether the procedures will be done on the scheduled patients based on risk and personal protective equipment levels." The committee decided that all patients undergoing the procedure will be tested for COVID-19 the morning before the procedure using the Abbott Rapid test unit.

-heard from Houser that COVID-19 meetings are now held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings instead of daily. OAHHS conference calls on COVID-19 have gone from two times to once a week. COVID-19 meetings may further reduce as the COVID-19 pandemic eases.

-MCHD and the clinics are following the governor's and Morrow County's plans for reopening businesses and the clinics are beginning to schedule people for in-clinic visits instead of telehealth visits. They will be screened prior to being brought into the clinic and are encouraged to wear a mask.

-"In honor of National Hospital Week and National Nurses week, an appreciation barbecue was held on May 13 to honor our frontline RNs, staff and providers during this difficult time," said Houser.

-Houck provided a COVID-19 update as follows: visitor restrictions remain in place; the district currently has a 60-day plus supply of all personal protective equipment. The state requires a minimum of a 15-day supply to perform elective procedures, as well as move Morrow County into phase 1 of reopening. "We will continue to monitor our supply closely," said Houck. "We continue to get weekly PPE distributions from the state. We currently have the capability to run 200 COVID-19 tests a week in Morrow County."

-Houck provided a staffing update as follows: current temporary part-time staff Diane Hardy, RN, and Ann Bennett, RN, will move into full-time positions (three shifts per

week); Janis Beardsley, RN, will move into a regular part-time position (two shifts per week); Laura Huizar, CAN, will take CMA Barb Coiner's full-time position. Coiner will continue to work one shift a week once she retires.

-the MCHD CEO hiring process was approved at the meeting, with the recruitment period opening July 1 and closing August 15. The start date for the new CEO is January 1, with CEO Houser working through December.

-received the following report for April (May data was not yet available): Pioneer Memorial Hospital had seven in-patient admissions, six swing bed admissions; four admissions for observation, one swing (non-skilled) admission, 470 outpatients, 67 emergency room encounters, 1,620 lab tests, 100 x-ray/ultrasound tests, 19 CT scans, three MRI scans, 31 EKG tests, 39 respiratory therapy procedures.

-Home Health had 154 patient visits.

-Hospice had one admission.

-Pharmacy had 2,663 drug doses for \$109,797 in drug revenue.

-Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 246 patient visits, with an additional 16 visits at an additional clinic, with five new patients, 13 seen by a nurse and four no-shows.

-Irrigon Clinic had 294 patient visits, with 38 new patients, 106 seen by a nurse and 29 no-shows.

-Ione Community Clinic had 50 patient visits, one new patient, seven seen by a nurse and zero no-shows.

-The monthly ambulance report is as follows: Heppner had 26 page-outs with 19 transports for \$32,257 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 39 page-outs with 19 transports for \$38,183; Irrigon Ambulance had 22 page-outs with 11 transports for \$18,221; Ione Ambulance had no transports; there were two life flights.

-held an executive session to review Houser's job performance.

-announced that the next meeting to be held June 29, has been changed from the Irrigon Medical Clinic to the City of Irrigon with a provider dinner at 6 p.m. and the board meeting to follow at 6:30 p.m.

## Summer events canceled

The 2020 Morrow County Fair and Ione 4th of July celebration have both been cancelled due to the restrictions in place for COVID-19.

According to a press release from the Morrow County Fair Board, they remain committed to bringing a safe and enjoyable county fair to everyone. Given the

# PUC reschedules public hearing on property condemnation request

## Umatilla Electric seeks approval to take property for new power line easement

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) will hold a public hearing Thursday, June 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. to take public comment on a proposed Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) plan to condemn certain property near Boardman for construction of a new 3.4-mile overhead power line. UEC has filed the required application with the Utility Commission to begin condemnation proceedings against several property owners along the route, which have not signed easement agreements with the co-op.

If the condemnation is successful it would clear the way for the co-op to apply to the Morrow County Planning Commission seeking approval to build the 230 Kilovolt transmission line from the planned Highway 730 switchyard near I-84 to a new Olson Road substation at Boardman.

## Heppner graduation to be held May 30

The Heppner Jr/Sr High School Graduation Celebration will take place on Saturday, May 30, at 2 p.m.

There will be a graduate parade procession beginning at 1:45 p.m. leaving from Heppner Jr/Sr High School, which will proceed through town ending at the Fairgrounds/Les Payne Field where the celebration will be held for graduates and designated immediate family members only.

The graduate parade procession will be an opportunity for the public to wave and cheer for the graduates as it winds its way through town. Heppner Jr/Sr High School respectfully asks that everyone avoid the football field and parking areas at the fairgrounds, with the exception of graduates and their designated immediate family members, in order to comply with the desired Covid-19 Atmosphere-Guidelines.

HJSHS is working on a plan where school staff members will help collect cards for graduates at the Heppner Elementary foyer

area from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 30.

During these unprecedented times, it is the intent of the school to provide the HJSHS Class of 2020 with a memorable commencement ceremony which will enable each graduate to not only be proud of Heppner Jr/Sr High School, but of their individual accomplishments as well.

As May 30 draws nearer, if the forecast calls for adverse weather, there is a more restrictive "Plan B" which will involve an indoor ceremony with very limited access for each graduate and their designated immediate family members at Heppner Jr/Sr High School.

take questions. Members of the UEC and the commission staff will be available to answer questions from the public during the public comment hearing.

Comments made during the public comment hearing will be recorded and transcribed. The transcript will become part of the public comment record in the proceeding. Interested persons not able to attend the public comment hearing may mail written comments to the Commission at: Attn: PCN

4, Administrative Hearings Division, Public Utility Commission of Oregon, PO Box 1088, Salem, OR 97308-1088; via e-mail to puc.publiccomments@state.or.us; or by telephone to: Consumer Services Division 503- 378-6600 or 1-800-522-2404. Customers may also contact the Administrative Hearings Division for more information at (503) 378-6678 or e-mail (puc.hearings@state.or.us).

While Wheatland Insurance offices are still closed to the public, we are open for business. Please contact the Heppner office at 541-676-9113 or Ione office at 541-422-7410 if you have any questions. Thank you and we look forward to servicing your insurance needs