

Health District doing well

Morrow County Health District Board member Aaron Palmquist told the Gazette-Times Tuesday morning that he was pleased with the progress the health district has made. "We're doing really well," he said. "We're seeing improvement."

He noted that Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner now has a new physician, Dr. Rio Lion, and another physician, Dr. Michael Rossi, is scheduled to visit with the possibility of employment with the district.

MCHD earlier had staffing problems, when two physicians, Dr. Dan Hambleton and Dr. Russ Nichols, resigned.

Concerning COVID-19, Interim CEO Emily Roberts reported at the Monday night meeting

in Irrigon, that the district "is in compliance with the Governor's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health-care workers," adding that "There was no reduction in workforce as a result of compliance with the mandate."

Roberts said that Dr. Michael Rossi had been invited to return to the district to get acquainted with the Irrigon area. She said he "anticipates making a decision toward the end of November."

Chief Nursing Officer Kathleen Greenup, RN, noted the district has an opening for a full-time RN; a full-time medical assistant at Pioneer Memorial Clinic and a full-time float medical assistant for the district. She added that MCHD personal protective equipment and testing supplies remain

adequate.

Human Resources director Patti Allstott reported new hires since the September meeting, besides Dr. Lion, include a medical assistant at Irrigon Medical Clinic, a full-time RN at Pioneer Memorial Hospital; two Boardman Ambulance EMTs; and a discharge coordinator at IMC.

Allstott said the district is recruiting for the following positions: Emergency Services Director, chief operating officer, Pioneer Memorial Clinic director, community relations and communications director, a full-time RN at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, a full or parttime RN for Home Health and Hospice, an information technology technician, an intermediate EMT or paramedic for the Boardman Ambulance

Station, a medical assistant for Pioneer Memorial Clinic, and a full-time EMT-1 or paramedic/emergency department technician for Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

In other business at the meeting, the board:

-received the following profit and loss statement for September: the district had \$1,138,995 in gross patient revenue; less \$5,352 in a provision for bad debts, less \$241,552 in contractual and other adjustments, plus \$197,710 in tax revenue and \$9,750 in other operating revenue for \$1,110,256 in total operating revenue, less \$1,460,485 in total operating expenses, plus a \$25,041 non-operating gain for a \$325,188 loss for the month and \$527,146 loss for the year.

-received the following report for Pioneer Memorial Hospital for September: one inpatient admission, four swing bed admissions, one death, four admissions for observation, 651 total outpatient admissions (including emergency), 89 emergency room encounters, 1,510 lab tests, 89 x-Ray/ultrasound tests, 25 CT scans, one MRI scan, 30 EKG tests, six respiratory therapy procedures; Pharmacy had 2,368 drug doses for \$143,635 in revenue.

-received the following for Home Health & Hospice: Home Health had 125 patient visits, Hospice had four admissions and four deaths.

-received the following ambulance report: Heppner Ambulance had 15 transports for \$32,368 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 15 transports for \$29,319 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 31 transports for \$54,689 in revenue; Ione Ambulance had no transports. There were two life flights.

-received the following clinic reports: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 226 patient visits, 14 new patients, 66 seen by a nurse and 21 no shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 427 patient visits, 26 new patients, 193 seen by a nurse and 47 no shows; Ione Medical Clinic had 75 patient visits, 25 seen by a nurse and zero no-shows.

-approved the purchase of a \$30,755 Stryker (gurney) from ProCare Services, with annual payments of \$10,251.67.

-learned that the next board meeting will be a dinner meeting on November 29, starting at 6 p.m., followed by a board meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Memorial Conference Room in Heppner. A December meeting will be scheduled only as needed.

Volleyball holds senior night at districts



Above: (Left) Senior ZaBrena Masterson and her parents. (Right) Senior Serena Humphreys and her parents. Below: Morgan Cutsforth loading up a mean spike against Stanfield, covered by Serena Humphreys and Daralynn Teeman (#3). -Photos by Susan Hisler.



By Hannah Finch

Last Tuesday, Mustang volleyball hosted their last home game of the season and their senior night. This year's two seniors, ZaBrena Masterson (#10) and Serena Humphreys (#25) were acknowledged before their game against Stanfield.

Although the Mustangs lost 0-3, it was easy to see their improvement since the beginning of the season. Many of the plays ran smoothly and there were a

lot of excellent hits.

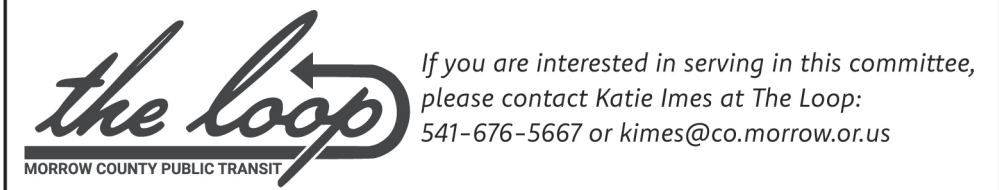
The girls qualified for districts and traveled to Athena to play Weston-McEwen, where they fought hard but in the end lost 1-3. This marks the end of their season. For being a young team, the girls have played impressively throughout the past couple months. This year's volleyball team was one of the first teams to get a regular season since lockdown, and they definitely did it justice.

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SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND (STF) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Loop is looking for Committee Members; we have four positions available. If you are interested in the transportation needs of your community riders, apply today.

This Advisory Committee is established in the interest of transit system users (seniors, disabled, veterans, Hispanic and any other pertinent person groups) in Morrow County. Its purpose is to advise the Morrow County Commissioners/The Loop on matters that pertain to the Special Transportation Fund and all matters regarding the transportation needs of those utilizing the transit system. The Advisory Committee will make recommendations that encourage and promote the accomplishments of those needs that directly affect the welfare of those who desire and/or require such services.



If you are interested in serving in this committee, please contact Katie Imes at The Loop: 541-676-5667 or kimes@co.morrow.or.us

[HealthyMC.org](https://www.healthyMC.org)

COVID-19 Treatments
Reduce your risk of hospitalization.

Monoclonal Antibodies for COVID-19:

- Early treatment with monoclonal antibodies may prevent progression to more severe disease and hospitalization
- Monoclonal antibodies are proteins produced in a lab to target and attack specific antigens, such as the Covid-19 virus
- Once inside your body, the monoclonal antibodies attach themselves to the Covid-19 antigen, and engage your immune system to target and attack the virus
- Patient data from clinical trials showed that high risk Covid-19 patients treated with monoclonal antibodies had a 70% reduction in relative risk of progression to severe disease or hospitalization compared to patients who did not receive monoclonal antibodies
- Outpatient one-time dose
- Treatments are generally available at little or no cost to eligible patients

Patients may be eligible for treatment who:

- Have mild to moderate symptoms of Covid-19, and
- Have tested positive for Covid-19, and
- Have had symptoms for 10 days or less (the treatment is most effective when given shortly after symptoms appear, so it is important to get tested and treated as soon as possible), and
- Are at high risk of getting more serious symptoms

Source: [CombatCOVID.hhs.gov](https://www.combatCOVID.hhs.gov)

Contact your MCHD provider for more information regarding Monoclonal Antibody Therapy for COVID-19.



NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Monday, November 1, 2021

Please have your canned food donations on your porch with your porch light on by 5:30. Heppner High School students will pick up your donations in Heppner and Lexington and deliver them to the Neighborhood Center.

441 N Main Street
Heppner, OR 97836
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Mon - Fri 9:30 am - 5:30 pm
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