

# City of Boardman assures residents that city water is safe to drink

Officials at the City of Boardman have taken special steps to assure city residents that their drinking water is safe, meeting and exceeding state and federal water quality standards. The city is using a number of different communication tools to address the concerns raised by a water emergency recently declared in Morrow County relating to contamination in rural drinking wells.



**Boardman City Manager Karen Pettigrew**

“Different than their rural neighbors, City of Boardman residents receive safe and dependable water supplied from local aquifers,” said city officials. Links to information and contacts to call are provided below.” “We want

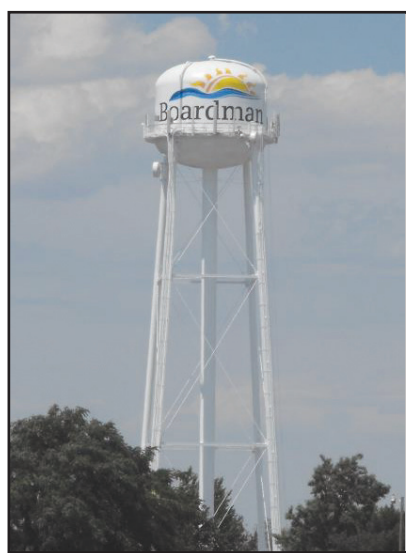
Boardman City residents to know that the safety of families in our community is our top priority, so we are taking an extra effort to share testing information and reports that provide confidence in the quality of the drinking water that we supply to city residents and local businesses,” said Karen Pettigrew, Boardman City Manager.

“The City of Boardman has taken the following steps to share information about the city’s safe drinking water: Posted water quality testing results on the city’s website show nitrate levels well within safety ranges established by Oregon Health Authority [www.cityofboardman.com].

-The city posted information about safety of drinking water and city hall contact info on the city’s reader board.

-The city posted public service information flyers in key locations around town about Boardman Safe Drinking Water.

-The city sent “Safe



Drinking Water” public service information to residential developers and city home-owners

“We continue to work closely with all local community health partners to make sure our neighbors get the assistance they need. We particularly applaud the efforts of the local businesses that have volunteered assistance in distributing clean water and paying for testing kits/filtration systems for our neighbors in rural Morrow County,” added Pettigrew.

For more information about safe drinking water (in Boardman), contact Boardman City Hall, 541-481-9252.

# Health District approves \$23 million budget

The Morrow County Health District Board adopted a \$23,536,653 budget for the 2022-23 year and imposed a tax rate of \$.6050 per thousand for operations and a rate of \$.39 per thousand for a local option tax for operations at their meeting in Heppner on Monday night.



**Marie Shimer named board chair**

In other action the board named Marie Shimer chair for the coming fiscal year. She will replace John Murray. Shimer is the principal of Riverside Junior and Senior High School. Diane Kilkenny was named vice chair.

In other business, the board:

-received the following clinic reports for May: Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner had 140 patient visits for the month with 13 no-shows and 10 cancellations; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 294 patient visits for the month with 43 no-shows and 25 cancellations; Ione Community Clinic had 85 patient visits for the month with three no-shows and five cancellations.

-received the following profit and loss statement for May: the district received \$1,032,311 in gross patient revenue, less

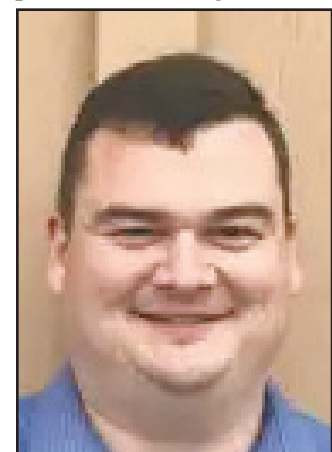
\$36,200 in provision for bad debts, less \$145,933 in contractual and other adjustments, plus \$218,296 in tax revenue and \$3,439 in other operating revenue for \$1,071,913 in total operating revenue; less \$1,539,449 in total operating expenses and a \$683,456 in a non-operating gain for a \$215,919 gain for the month.

-received the following reports: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had four acute (in-patient) admissions for the month, three swing bed admissions, three admissions for observation, one swing bed (non-skilled) admission, 500 total out-patients, 90 emergency room encounters, 1,345 lab tests, 124 x-ray/ultrasound tests, 33 CT scans, seven MRI scans, 28 EKG tests, 29 respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 193 visits; Hospice had one admission and three deaths; Pharmacy had 2,067 drug doses for \$88,345 in drug revenue.

-received the following ambulance report: Heppner Ambulance had 21 transports for \$38,089 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 22 transports for \$46,533 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 19 transports for \$32,658 in revenue; Ione Ambulance had no transports.

In other action after discussion the board voted to combine the wage scales of the nurse practitioner and physician assistants. District Administrator Emily Roberts in asking for the change said they should make the same because, “They are performing essentially the same function.” Nurse practitioners currently make more than physicians assistants and under the board action the

physicians assistants will be bumped up to the higher practitioners’ wages.



**Justin Cameron PA**

In other business the board voted unanimously to hire a new physician assistant Justin Cameron to be working mainly at the Irrigon Medical Clinic. He will also fill in at the Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner and the Ione Community Clinic. He will start with the district in August.

In addition to his regular salary Cameron will receive a one-time signing bonus of \$10,000 and a one-time relocation bonus also for \$10,000. He is currently employed by the Asher Community Health Center in Fossil which he joined in 2020. Cameron was born and raised near Eugene and he and his wife Krystal are life-long Oregon residents. He attended Physician Assistant school at Pacific University in Hillsboro.

In other business the board voted to approve a quote for remodeling work on the annex at the former physical therapy building. The \$15,595 quote was from Elk Creek Construction of Stanfield and is for framing, drywall, doors, insulation and tape, mud and texture in offices.

## How many drinks do you have in a week?

Excessive drinking has a way of sneaking up on us. A few drinks, a few nights a week — it adds up. And suddenly we’re at greater risk for long-term problems, like heart disease, cancer and depression. Is it time to rethink the drink?

**Rethink the drink**

[rethinkthedrink.com](http://rethinkthedrink.com)

## WEEKLY SHOPPER

Pick Up At Your Home  
Heppner, Lexington & Ione

**July 1<sup>st</sup>**

Walmart, Dollar Tree & Denny’s

*the loop*  
MORROW COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT

Call Us Today  
To Reserve Your Seat  
**(541) 676-5667**

**SYKES REAL ESTATE**  
541-980-6674

**Owner/Broker David Sykes**  
188 W. Willow  
P.O. Box 337  
Heppner, OR 97836  
[david@sykesrealestate.net](mailto:david@sykesrealestate.net)

Do you have property to sell?  
**Now is the time!**  
I have buyers looking for homes, land and building lots in the Heppner, Lexington and Ione area. This is a good time to sell!  
Call, text or email me.

**WHEATLAND INSURANCE CENTER, INC.** Serving Eastern Oregon since 1983.

<b>HEPPNER</b> 294 MAIN ST. P.O. BOX 755 HEPPNER, OR 97836 Office (541) 676-9113 • Fax (541) 676-9001 1-800-504-9113	<b>IONE</b> 245 NW MAIN ST., SUITE 100 P.O. BOX 26 IONE, OR 97843 Office (541) 422-7410 • Fax (541) 276-7688 1-800-585-7410
---	--

**ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**