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Pioneer Memorial Hospice Celebrates 20 years of Service with Luncheon for the community

In a world where compassion, comfort, and care seldom take center stage, a group of unsung heroes deserve our heartfelt thanks – hospice professionals, volunteers, and family caregivers. These dedicated individuals work tirelessly to provide end-of-life care and support to patients and families during one of life's most challenging journeys.

Pioneer Memorial Hospice is part of Morrow County Health District and gained Medicare certification in 2003 through the guidance and diligence of our original chaplain and volunteer coordinator, Carolyn Willey, and our original hospice director, Robanai Disque.

November is National Hospice Month, and Pioneer Memorial Hospice is celebrating 20 years of service to the community by honoring the many people who have provided comfort in the face of pain, hope in

the midst of despair, and peace at the end of life's journey. Their sacrifice and dedication have been immeasurable gifts to those in need.

Hospice nurses, doctors, aides, social workers, counselors, volunteers, and many others go above and beyond to ensure that patients facing life-limiting illnesses can find peace, comfort, and dignity in their final days. Their service is not just a job; it's a calling driven by empathy and a deep sense of purpose. "We hope all the friends of Hospice will come," said retired Hospice Director Molly Rhea. "We have many colleagues, volunteers, and family caregivers throughout Morrow and Gilliam counties, and we want to recognize their contribution to building the exceptional program in this area."

The care provided by hospice professionals extends far beyond medical

treatment. They also offer emotional support, guidance, and companionship to patients and their families, helping them navigate end-of-life care's physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges. Their presence brings solace and reassurance during times of uncertainty and grief.

Not only do hospice professionals and volunteers need to be celebrated, but also the family caregivers dedicated to their loved ones in the last months of life. "It's crucial to recognize their remarkable commitment. Countless times, we marvel at the families that come together to help in the caregiving," states Jerry Conklin, Pioneer Memorial Hospice's Chaplain. "Their unwavering commitment to sustaining the quality of life for those facing life's end is a testament to the strength of the human spirit."

If you have been involved in Hospice as a

volunteer, a professional, or a caregiver, or would like to celebrate and learn more about Hospice and how you can become involved, we are thrilled to invite you to the 20th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon of Pioneer Memorial Hospice on Wednesday, November 8th at 12:00 pm at St. Patrick's Center in Heppner.

Please join us as we commemorate two decades of providing compassionate care and support to those in need. Please RSVP to (541)-676-2946 by Friday, November 3rd, to ensure we have a spot reserved for you. "We look forward to celebrating this significant milestone with you," states former Hospice Director Molly Rhea. "If you cannot attend, thank you for your incredible service. Your work leaves an indelible mark on the lives of those you touch, and for that, we are grateful."

Lexington revamps its Town Hall parking lot



Lexington Town Hall new parking lot - Contributed Photo

By Annalynn Black

In a triumph for the town of Lexington, a much-needed renovation project has reached its successful completion, bringing a breath of fresh air to the community. The state of both the Town Hall and Fire Hall parking lots had been a pressing concern, threatening the safety and accessibility of these vital public spaces. Thanks to a timely grant from the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development group and the AWS In Communities Eastern Oregon Fund, the town was able to revamp the parking lots. Another grant from AWS enabled the town to upgrade the garage door of the Fire Hall, ensuring a heightened level of security for both the firefighters and the public.

The core objectives of this endeavor aimed at en-

hancing the safety of public access, implementing clear signage to define parking areas and ADA-compliant spaces, as well as creating appropriate driveways for the Fire Hall, and granting an unimpeded right of way for fire trucks in emergencies.

It is undeniable that the completion of this project holds value for the residents of Lexington. The Town Hall serves as a hub of community activities and a conduit for conducting business. By addressing the pressing issues with the parking lots, Lexington can now provide a welcoming and accessible space for its citizens. The town's commitment to its residents' needs and its proactive approach to securing grants acts as a standard for other towns seeking to revitalize their infrastructure.

Woolery Project host a Successful Oktoberfest auction



Wendy West speaking at the 9th annual Oktoberfest

- Contributed Photo

The Ninth Annual Oktoberfest Auction and Dinner, hosted at the American Legion Hall in Ione, proved to be an astounding success for The Woolery Project. Though the event did not draw a large crowd, the attendees more than compensated with their immense generosity and unwavering enthusiasm. Thanks to their support, The Woolery Project achieved its most successful fundraiser to date, enabling them to make a considerable contribution of \$10,000 to Anderson and Perry for the building site plans and engineering work. The runners of the Woolery Project and Oktoberfest extend their heartfelt gratitude to all those who attended the event, as well as those who generously sponsored and donated to this noble cause. It is thanks to your unwavering support that The Woolery Project has made such remarkable

progress. They would also like to extend a special note of appreciation to the dedicated students from Arlington High School. Their invaluable assistance with overseeing raffles, managing auctions, and helping with the cleanup after the event played a vital role in its smooth operation.

Heppner Cross Country Boys and Girls advances to state



Heppner boys and girls cross country team.

-Contributed photo

Heppner Boys and Girls have qualified for the state championships in 2A Cross Country. The team will be competing at Lane Community College on Saturday, November 4th. While the

boys automatically secured their spot by finishing 2nd at Districts, the girls received a wild card entry. Lily Nichols and Grady Greenwood both clinched

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Dance is in session Nov. 8th



Dance instructor Paige Counsell - Photo by Annalynn Black

By Annalynn Black

Heppner is buzzing with excitement as The Element dance company makes its grand entrance. The brainchild of the talented and ambitious Paige

Counsell, a mere 20 years old, this dance company has already started accepting registrations for children aged 3 to 15 and starts November 8th

Paige's love affair with dance began at the age of 8 at Dance Unlimited in Hermiston. Since then, she has embraced various dance styles such as hip-hop, tap, ballet, contemporary, and jazz. Out of all these genres, jazz, and contemporary hold a special place in her heart, igniting her passion for movement and expression.

Driven by her enthusi-

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Senior Matters

The Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program is a valuable resource for individuals enrolled in Medicare. Covering the entire state of Oregon, SHIBA consists of a network of well-trained counselors who specialize in providing guidance and assistance to seniors navigating the complexities of Medicare. Among the dedicated representatives is Edgar Chavez-Lopez, who serves as a local SHIBA representative based out of Good Shepherd in Hermiston. Recognizing the importance of educating seniors about their Medicare options, Mr. Chavez-Lopez will be speaking at the senior lunch on Tuesday, November 7th, starting at 11:30 AM. During his visit, Mr. Chavez-Lopez will be available until 2 PM to address any questions or concerns individuals may have regarding their Medicare coverage. With the Medicare open enrollment period spanning from October 15th to December

7th, this event presents an opportune moment for attendees to seek clarification on any uncertainties they may have.

The senior lunch, held weekly, takes place at the St. Patrick's Apartments meeting room, located at 190 N Main St. in Heppner, Oregon. Lunch commences at 11:30 AM every Tuesday and is provided free of charge for individuals aged 60 and above. A nominal fee of \$5 is requested for those under the age of 60, and any voluntary donations are greatly appreciated.

For seniors seeking guidance to make the most informed decisions about their Medicare coverage, Mr. Chavez-Lopez's presence at the senior lunch provides an invaluable opportunity to address any questions or concerns they may have. As the open enrollment period draws near, it is crucial to take advantage of these resources and ensure that you are well-informed about your Medicare options.

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