

MCHD Press release

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can provide the following backup emergency medical services countywide:

1. MCHD's Quick Response Teams (EMS personnel), located in each community, may respond as needed to medical calls to provide stabilizing care.

2. MCHD may transport patients by ambulance if appropriately dispatched and if a delay in transport would place the patient at risk of harm or death, based upon the professional judgement of the care provider on scene. The same holds true if assistance is requested by officials at the scene of an accident (motor vehicle or otherwise).

After March 12, 2024, MCHD will only have one full-time EMT or paramedic on staff at a time. This person will primarily perform patient care duties in the hospital, but will be available to complete patient transfers from Pioneer Memorial Hospital and may be available to respond to emergency medical calls. MCHD will not have sufficient staff or resources to respond to all medical calls and our assistance should be requested only when the County's selected ambulance service provider is unable to respond timely. It must be understood that any response by MCHD is subject to availability of personnel as MCHD will no longer be the primary responder.

In addition to backup emergency support, MCHD will continue to administer the Tri-County Ambulance Association for the foreseeable future. (Membership covers payment of any balance owed after insurance coverage for medically necessary ambulance service. The cost for a family membership is \$45 per year. In addition to coverage in Morrow, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties, members receive benefits in over 50 other service areas.) We have encouraged Morrow County to require their selected ambulance service provider to engage in a reciprocal agreement with the Tri-County Ambulance Association.

We want to be very clear that Morrow County Health District intends to submit a proposal for a 5-year service agreement to provide ambulance service to all of Morrow County as soon as the County releases their request for proposals for a permanent ambulance service provider. In the interim, we have grave concerns about the changes the County is implementing currently, and MCHD is unwilling to stand by without offering our available resources to the community we serve, especially when patients need us most.

Emily Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
Morrow County Health District
541-676-2915

Robotics Team Invited to Oregon's first LEGO League State Championship

A robotics team from Heppner Jr/Sr High School has been invited to participate in the Oregon FIRST LEGO League State Championship in Hillsboro, Oregon. Each team is made up of students in grades 7 through 12, who start the season by designing and programming a unique robot using a robotics kit. Many teams create custom parts to make their robots more competitive. The 48 participating teams represent

the top teams 120 teams from qualifying tournaments all over Oregon. Each team designed, built, and programmed a unique robot to play offense and/or defense in the annual game. Two pairs of robots compete to move game elements to target locations. At the end of each round, the robots attempt to lift themselves off the field by hooking on a bar to gain additional points.

Alex Lindsay, graduates from the University of Wisconsin Madison



Alex Lindsay

Congratulations to Alex Lindsay from Lexington, Oregon, on graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison! Alex Lindsay earned a Master of Science degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the School of Education.

MADISON, Wis

(March 1, 2024) - A total of 1,966 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Dec. 17, 2023, including students from your area.

Just more than 1,300 of them took part in the ceremony at the Kohl Center. The ceremony was live streamed so that friends and family from around the world could watch. UW issued 1,459 bachelor's degrees, 387 master's degrees, and 120 doctoral degrees.

The keynote speaker was Michael Finley, a Badger basketball legend, NBA All-Star, and assistant general manager and vice president of basketball operations for the Dallas Mavericks.

"The fast track isn't always the best track," Finley

Letter from MCHD to MC

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if appropriately dispatched and if a delay in transport would place the patient at risk of harm or death, based upon the professional judgement of the care provider on scene. The same holds true if assistance is requested by officials at the scene of an accident (motor vehicle or otherwise).

After March 12, 2024, MCHD will only have one full-time EMT or paramedic on staff at a time. This person will primarily perform patient care duties in the hospital, but will be available to complete patient transports from Pioneer Memorial Hospital and may be available to respond to emergency medical calls in South County. MCHD will not have staff or sufficient resources to respond to all medical calls and our assistance should be requested only when the County's selected ambulance service provider is unable to respond timely.

2. MCHD strongly encourages Morrow County to require their selected ambulance service provider to engage in a reciprocal agreement with the Tri-County Ambulance Association. Membership covers payment of any balance owed after insurance coverage for medically necessary ambulance service. The cost for a family membership is \$45 per year. In addition to coverage in Morrow, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties, members receive benefits in over 50 other service areas.

3. Based on comments made in Boardman Fire Rescue District's last board meeting, MCHD has concerns about whether BFRD will transport to the nearest appropriate facility when transporting patients in South County. BFRD has not made any effort to determine the capabilities of Pioneer Memorial Hospital and is not familiar with the services that we provide. A failure to trans-

fer patients to the closest, appropriate care facility would place lives at risk and violate the appropriate standard of care. It would also create serious liability concerns for the County, as you are ultimately responsible for the service. For these reasons, we ask the County to require that BFRD become familiar with the services available at PMH and that the County closely oversight whether BFRD is transporting to the most appropriate facility. MCHD is particularly concerned about strokes, when time lost is brain lost. MCHD provides stroke care via a tele-stroke agreement with OHSU and can administer critical medications to reduce the impact of strokes. These medications must be administered within a critical time window, which boils down to just minutes in most cases.

4. We want to be very clear that Morrow County Health District intends to submit a proposal for a 5-year service agreement to provide ambulance service to all of Morrow County as soon as the County releases their request for proposals for a permanent ambulance service provider. In the interim, we have grave concerns about the changes the County is implementing currently, and MCHD is unwilling to stand by without offering our available resources to the community we serve, especially when patients need us most.

Emily Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
Morrow County Health District
541-676-2915

SYKES REAL ESTATE

Broker

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\$395,000

Pending

Discover peace and seclusion on this expansive forty-acre parcel boasting a fully functional two-bedroom, one-bathroom cabin. Embrace the breathtaking views of the mountains from the upper level's reverse living 640 square foot great room. In the summer, explore the property's ATV trails, while in the winter, delight in snowmobiling or sledding with access to thousands of acres of National Forest Land located at the property's corner. LOP tags may be available for hunting enthusiasts, or simply relish in the opportunity to observe the abundant wildlife that frequently visits the property, including elk, deer, bear, and turkey. Enjoy the convenience of a private well with a backup valve-filled cistern, two natural springs, electricity, and internet access, ensuring utmost comfort and connectivity.

80439 Black Mountain Ln Heppner
MLS#:23425595



Secluded mountain property! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to own your own mountain property. Whether you're looking for a hunting retreat or a permanent residence, this property has it all. With approximately 9.09 acres of land and a private pond you can embrace the beauty of nature and create a life of serenity in the mountains you've always desired. MLS#:23510132

PINEGATE RENEWABLES

Sunstone Solar Open Houses

You're invited to open houses to learn more about the Sunstone Solar Project, ask questions and provide feedback. Information provided at open houses will be identical, so please attend the event that is most convenient for you.

Wednesday, March 13, 2024
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Gillian & Bisbee Building
Event Center and Suites**
106 E. May Street
Heppner, OR 97836

Thursday, March 14, 2024
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The SAGE Center
101 Olson Road
Boardman, OR 97818

Sunstone Solar, LLC, a subsidiary of Pine Gate Renewables, LLC, is planning to develop the Sunstone Solar Project (Project). The Project is an up to 1,200-megawatt solar energy generation facility, an optional 7,200-megawatt hour battery energy storage system, and associated facilities. Construction will occur in six phases of approximately 200 MW each, expected to begin in April 2026 and be complete by February 2030.

Questions?
Nikki Olofson, Sr. Manager, Stakeholder Relations
nikkiolofson@pgrenewables.com
(661) 557-1280

Smith Votes to recriminalize hard drugs



Greg Smith

SALEM, Ore. - House Bill 4002 has passed in the Oregon House of Representatives. Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner)

voted in favor of the legislation that recriminalizes hard drugs and provides more treatment options for addiction. "Our Police Chiefs, County Sheriffs, District Attorneys, Counties, and Cities believe that HB 4002 strikes a balance between criminal accountability and the need for adequate access to behavioral health resources," said Representative Smith, "I wholeheartedly agree and was proud to support this legislation, it's justice with mercy".

Representative Smith is the longest-serving member in the Oregon Legislature

and holds key positions in committees. For contact details, visit Rep Smith's Facebook Page or email rep.gregsmith@oregonlegislature.gov. To reach out, please visit [Rep Smith's Facebook Page](#) or send him an email at rep.gregsmith@oregonlegislature.gov

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