

# Eastern Oregon hospitals launch Summit Health

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR



Burke

“That mutual respect and collaboration is a fundamental reason it has been so successful,” he said. “It’s a very refreshing working relationship.”

Those same founders of Summit Health are St. Anthony, Good Shepherd Health Care System, Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics, Saint Alphonsus Health System, GOBHI, Eastern Oregon IPA, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic and Moda.

Geller said right now in

Eastern Oregon hospitals are partnering to launch a new health insurance option. The newly formed Summit Health will offer Medicare plans to residents of Umatilla, Morrow, Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Sherman, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler counties. The plans will be available when open enrollment for Medicare begins on Oct. 15.

Harry Geller, CEO of CHI St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton, said the hospitals involved have already had a unique and “very successful” partnership with each other and Moda Health in improving outcomes

for Medicaid patients through the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization.

Eastern Oregon there aren’t many senior citizens participating in Medicare Advantage plans, and Summit Health will be able to offer them more choices. He said the providers were excited and optimistic about the benefits to residents.

“There’s a big gap in the market for this sort of plan,” he said.

Medicare Advantage is an all-in-one type of Medicare plan offered by private health insurance companies under a contract with Medicare. Those plans bundle parts A, B and D of Medicare coverage together and sometimes offer additional benefits, such as dental or vision that traditional Medicare doesn’t cover.

Dennis Burke, CEO of

Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston, said offering Medicare Advantage plans through Summit Health will offer area senior citizens more options, but it also gives greater flexibility to the hospitals involved.

By receiving a flat, contracted rate from Medicare instead of per-procedure reimbursement, Burke said they can use the money more creatively for preventative care and measures that can help improve outcomes for patients before they need an expensive treatment.

One example he gave was the hospital’s CareVan program, which gives patients free rides to appointments to ensure they don’t end up canceling a doctor’s appointment or not seeking

treatment in the first place because they don’t have a ride. A missed appointment can mean a missed opportunity to catch a problem early, resulting in more expensive treatment later.

Coordinated care organizations, such as Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, were founded on a similar idea of reducing health care costs through preventative care and overcoming barriers to care, such as limited transportation. Those organizations focus on Medicaid patients, such as those on the Oregon Health Plan, but Burke said the EOCCO partners have learned a lot from that partnership that can be applied to the population using Medicare.

“I think we’ve gained

quite a lot of experience doing that,” he said.

Sean Jessup, the president of Summit Health, said the insurance group is a partnership of local providers with a track record of working successfully together, that patients already know and trust. He said there has been “limited options” for Medicare Advantage in Eastern Oregon in the past.

“This product is for Eastern Oregon, and operated by Eastern Oregon providers,” he said.

Open enrollment for Medicare begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7, 2020. Medicare enrollees can visit yoursummithealth.com or talk to their local insurance agent about plans offered by Summit Health.

# Grants mean Maxwell Market can reopen Thursday

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

After a monthlong hiatus, the Maxwell Market will reopen Thursday, Aug. 27, with the help of grants from the city of Hermiston and Umatilla County.

Owner Mitch Myers said the market closed for a week at the end of July when temperatures in Hermiston were expected to reach 110 degrees, and then remained closed when Umatilla County was put back to baseline status in response to rising COVID-19 numbers.

“We had to make a decision at that point,” he said.

Unlike many farmer’s markets that are run as nonprofits by volunteers, the Maxwell Market is run as a subsidiary of Myers’ businesses. He said he has always run it as a benefit to the community, and hasn’t turned a profit on it, but revenue from vendors renting space does help him pay for the entertainment, staff and other expenses.

This year, however, had brought less revenue as vendors have had to be spaced out more for social distancing and some have dropped out due to low turnout. On top of that, Myers said, it is harder for him to subsidize the market when his other businesses, such as the Maxwell Event Center and Nookie’s Restaurant, have



People stroll through the Maxwell Market in July.

been closed and not bringing in any revenue.

As he was deciding whether to reopen the market for the last six weeks of the season, he said, he reached out to Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock and Mark Morgan at the city of Hermiston, and both agreed to give the market a grant to cover some of Myers’ expenses and to cover all vendors’ fees for the rest of the season so they don’t have to pay to set up shop each week.

Myers said the private-public partnership will benefit more than just the vendors.

“I think the market is good for the commu-

nity,” he said. “I think it’s important for the vendors, and it’s important for people socially, to give them

some sense of normalcy. I still believe the community needs some normalcy.”

Myers said the market



Fresh blueberries line a table at the Maxwell Market on Thursday, July 23, 2020.

has stringent safety protocols for COVID-19 in place. Vendors must wear masks, social distancing measures are in place and surfaces are sanitized regularly.

Starting Thursday, Aug. 27, the Maxwell Market will run from 4-7 p.m. each Thursday at the Maxwell Pavilion on the corner of South First Street and Locust Avenue.

**HOME MAINTENANCE CENTER**  
541-567-7534

**Blue Mountain**  
100% Douglas Fir Brown Bag Pellets \$225 per ton  
White Bags \$195 per ton  
Fir-Pine Mix

**TN10 Wood Stove**  
\$1,099

- 10”/12” logs
- 30,000 BTU

ALL STOVES ARE 2020 CERTIFIED

**American Printing**  
Since 1985

**WE DO BUSINESS CARDS!**

Call, Email or Stop By today to get started!

541.567.8073

53 W Beebe Ave  
Hermiston, OR

## MEDICAL DIRECTORY

**URGENT CARE**

**HERMISTON FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE**

Family Care • Minor Injuries  
Sports Physicals • Minor Surgeries

We accept Medicare & some Advantage Medicare plans

**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**  
541-567-1137  
236 E. Newport, Hermiston  
(across from U.S. Bank)  
Hours: Mon-Sat 7:30am-7:00pm

**MENTAL HEALTH**

LET US BE THE ONE THAT HELPS!

- Adult, Child & Family Therapy
- Psychiatric Evaluation & Treatment
- Mental Health & Crisis Services
- Confidential & Professional Care

**LIFEWAYS**  
HELPING PEOPLE

**CRISIS PHONE: 866-343-4473**  
HERMISTON: 595 NW 11th St. • 541-567-2536  
PENDLETON: 331 SE 2nd St. • 541-276-6207  
[WWW.LIFEWAYS.ORG](http://WWW.LIFEWAYS.ORG)

**FAMILY DENTISTRY**

**COMPREHENSIVE CARE**

A Better Way to Oral Health

**DESERT DENTAL**

541.567.8161  
995 Orchard Ave.,  
Hermiston, OR

RYAN M. WIESELER,  
D.D.S., P.C.

[www.desertdentalsmiles.com](http://www.desertdentalsmiles.com)

**To advertise in the Medical Directory, please call**

**Jeanne**

**541-564-4531**

**email:**  
[jjewett@hermistonherald.com](mailto:jjewett@hermistonherald.com)

**DENTURES**

**BLUE MOUNTAIN DENTURE CENTER**

Affordable Care in Eastern Oregon since 1991

**TROY STEWART**  
Licensed Denturist

**UMATILLA, OR:**  
1300 6th St., Suite G

**BAKER CITY, OR:**  
2194 Court Ave.

541-519-4696 • 541-523-4752

**PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

**Advanced**

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Call Today! **541-289-5433**  
1060 W. Elm, Suite #115, Hermiston  
(across from Good Shepherd Medical Center)

[www.apd4kidz.com](http://www.apd4kidz.com)  
Office hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm

CareCredit Patient Payment Plans

## Thank you for all you do!

Over the years, all of us here at American West Properties, Hermiston, LLC and American West Properties in Boardman have come to rely on the professional expertise of our ad rep, Jeanne Jewett. Not only with our ads for the EO Real Estate Guide & the Hermiston Herald, but also with the special ads she offers throughout the year! From all of us here at American West Properties, thank you Jeanne!

**AMERICAN WEST PROPERTIES, LLC**

- Gain Exposure.
- Drive More Business.
- Find New Customers.

**EAST OREGONIAN** Hermiston **Herald**

Marketing assistance from the print & digital experts. Talk to Jeanne today!  
**541-564-4531 • [jjewett@hermistonherald.com](mailto:jjewett@hermistonherald.com)**