

Good Shepherd highlights work during community meeting

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

Good Shepherd Health Care System’s annual community meeting highlighted the ups and downs of an unusual year for the hospital and its clinics.

For many community members, this year’s virtual presentation was the first opportunity to get to know Brian Sims, who took over as CEO on Oct. 1. Sims said previous CEO Dennis Burke’s advocacy for rural hospitals had made him a well-known figure among hospital administrators in other parts of the country — including Sims, who previously managed a hospital in Iowa.

“To have the opportunity to follow Dennis and lead one of the best-known critical access hospitals in the nation is one of the greatest honors of my professional life,” he said.

After the state required hospitals to cancel none-emergency procedures in the spring during the pandemic’s first lockdown, Sims said Good Shepherd Medical Center’s patient days were down by 24% during the 2019-20 fiscal year.

However, he said outpatient visits were up by 6.3% and clinic visits, including urgent care, were up by 8.7% in 2019-20. Emergency room visits stayed roughly the same.

During his presentation, Sims encouraged people not to put off medical care.



Sims

“As a personal plea, I’m going to ask you, if you have not been going to the doctor because of coronavirus, I’m going to ask you to go,” he said. “It is safe. We will take care of you.”

The hospital has made adjustments for the pandemic, including preparing a special COVID-19 unit for patients with the virus and setting up an incident command center. According to the written annual report accompanying Sims’ presentation, as of the report’s publication the hospital had conducted 5,404 COVID-19 tests and employees had worked 14,672 hours related to COVID-19 care.

“The pandemic has brought many challenges with it and even spotlighted holes and gaps in supply chains, processes, staffing, financials and even facility space, should we see an influx of patients,” the report stated. “GSHCS has had to rethink things and get creative in order to meet the needs of a potential patient surge during the pandemic.”

Despite those challenges, Sims shared new projects and programs the hospital was still able to complete as planned.

During the past fiscal year, the hospital opened up a cancer center and began offering oncol-

ogy services in December 2019. The hospital also completed an expansion of its cardiopulmonary rehab center in April 2020, and remodeled some of its departments, including its urgent care clinic. According to the hospital’s annual report, Good Shepherd installed a total of 108 new pieces of medical equipment throughout its health care system in 2019-20.

The hospital’s Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Center, focused on pain management, opened in June. Services it offers range from chiropractic and physical therapy to headache injections. Sims said looking toward the future, they are planning a “strong” industrial medicine program, geared toward preventing and treating worker injuries.

Construction on the space for Good Shepherd Sleep Solutions was recently completed, and Sims said the sleep center will open in November.

The hospital recruited 10 physicians in the past year and has plans to add more to the GSHCS staff, which now totals more than 750 employees. Sims thanked the staff, and also the hospital’s volunteers. He said the volunteers have been limited this year in the time they have been able to spend on campus, but they have still pitched in in other ways, including sewing cloth masks for employees and raising money for the hospital’s charitable foundation.

POLICE LOG

TUESDAY, OCT. 27

11:59 a.m. — A caller reported a washing machine and air conditioner were stolen in a burglary on West Locust Avenue.
12 p.m. — An assault was reported on North First Street.
2:38 p.m. — A hit-and-run was reported on South Highway 395.
3:25 p.m. — A disturbance involving a man and woman yelling at each other was reported on East Catherine Avenue.
4:49 p.m. — A non-injury motor vehicle accident was reported on North First Street, and a citation was issued.
5:15 p.m. — A disturbance was reported involving a man grabbing a woman and yelling at her on East Main Street.
7:23 p.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on South Highway 395.
8 p.m. — A disturbance was reported on Northeast Eighth Place.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28

12:04 p.m. — Child neglect involving three very young children left alone in a vehicle was reported on West Theater Lane.
2:20 p.m. — A hit-and-run was reported on East Newport Avenue.
7:12 p.m. — A disturbance was reported on South Highway 395.
7:48 p.m. — A motor vehicle accident was reported on West Highland Avenue, and the caller reported the two parties were arguing with each other. A citation was issued.

THURSDAY, OCT. 29

10:33 a.m. Someone reported their wallet was stolen from their home on Northwest Dawn

Drive and there were new charges on three of the cards in the wallet.
11:25 a.m. — A non-injury motor vehicle accident was reported on South First Place.
8:22 p.m. — A burglary was reported on East Theater Lane.
10:17 p.m. — Oregon State Police requested a Spanish-speaking officer from Hermiston Police Department to assist with a DUI stop on Sagebrush Road.

FRIDAY, OCT. 30

12:34 p.m. — Someone reported that their Biden 2020 banner was stolen off their house.
1:53 p.m. — A disturbance involving a man screaming was reported on East Newport Avenue.
11:05 p.m. — A burglary was reported on West Beech Avenue.

SATURDAY, OCT. 31

10:51 a.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on South Highway 395.
12:26 p.m. — A burglary was reported on East Jennie Avenue.
6:29 p.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on East Diagonal Avenue.
8:23 p.m. — A drunken driver was reported on West Hermiston Avenue but police were unable to locate.
8:49 p.m. — A burglary was reported on Northeast Eighth Street.

SUNDAY, NOV. 1

12:57 a.m. — A fight was reported on West Joseph Avenue.
1:27 a.m. — A disturbance was reported on South Highway 395.
10:14 a.m. — A hit-and-run was reported on Southwest 13th Place.

Echo School plans veterans celebration

HERMISTON HERALD

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade at Echo School invite veterans and the public to attend their annual Veterans Celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

A Veterans Assembly will kick off the event at 10 a.m. at the Echo School football field, 600 Gerone St., across the street from the school.

Bleachers will be set up, or attendees can bring a lawn chair. Afterward, the students will honor all military branches in a parade through Echo, starting at 11 a.m. from the school down Main Street and back to the school, escorted by local police and fire personnel. The Middle School Wax Museum will be stationed on Main Street for viewing

following the parade. Those attending in person are asked to observe social distancing and face covering protocols, and warm clothing is highly recommended. The assembly will be livestreamed on the Echo School District Facebook page. For more information, contact Billie Parker at bjparker@echosd5.org or 541-376-8436.



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2020 FORD EXPLORER XLT
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
10pm



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12X 14X 16X 25X
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EVERY THURSDAY

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VETERANS DAY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

VETERANS U-PICK

\$15 Off Dining or \$15 FreePlay!

Veterans, bring your military ID to Club Wild, swipe at an e-STATION, on Wednesday, November 11 to pick your free gift!

Must swipe between 8am – 11:59pm on Wednesday, November 11, and use by 11:59pm on December 20, 2020.

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