

Inside

QJHS
students learn
water safety
Page B6

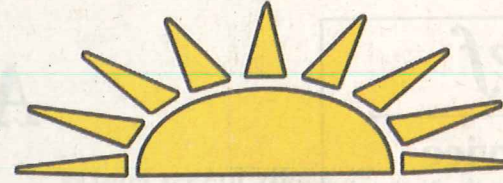


Sports

Jacks sweep
Hounds
B1



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March was a black number month for QVMC

Medical center sees positive net income

BY REBECCA YOUNG
Post-Register Writer

March was a good month for Quincy Valley Medical Center.

"We've had some good cash flow," said board chair Don Condit during the hospital's board meeting on Monday.

In March, the hospital received \$721,629.26 in Medicare reimbursement, the highest Medicare payment it has received since 2003. Administrator Mehdi Merred said they are maintaining high patient volume in auxiliary services like the lab, MRI and other areas. The clinic's numbers are increasing, with over 450 visits in March, and the number of surgical procedures are also increasing. The hospital had a

net income of \$22,632 in March.

"It has been a long time coming," said controller Ken Kiehn. "The month of March was very positive."

He said they are waiting for a cost report that could adjust the figure, but said the hospital is looking good to date.

"We are on track to do what the board set out to do and break even by the end of the year," said Kiehn.

A program offering a provider's fee discount to self-pay patients who pay the day of service at the SageView Clinic was discussed. A committee will get together to form recommendations on the best way to implement the system and report back to the board.

The aging ambulance fleet was discussed after some costly repairs in March and April.

"The majority of the repairs are because they are old," reported ambulance captain Doug Martinson, who added it is difficult to find parts for the vehicles.

The three-vehicle fleet is comprised of a 1989 four-wheel drive, and 1998 and 2001 two-wheel drives. He said the EMS service would like the ability to transport more than one patient and that they need at least one vehicle in the fleet to have four-wheel drive. Martinson said his crew has seen some deals on the internet for newer used ambulances, demo ambulances or a new chassis with an old ambulance box remounted and completely refurbished, but to act on those deals, he would need to have cash on hand. The board asked him to come back with some recommendations so they could allocate money for replacement.

Merred introduced new marketing director Mi-

chele Wurl, who recently replaced Dick Burkenpas. She reported that 21 teams and 42 people participated in the Spring Swing Hospital Foundation golf tournament, which raised nearly \$4,000.

"It was a good day and fun was had by all," she said.

In other action, the board:

Wrote off \$40,874.70 in bad debt.

Appointed CRNAs Lois Blair, Brian Nordstrom and Cathy Estremera and reappointed CRNA Harold Allerton. They also appointed nurse practitioner Charlene Brush and DPM Michael Lee, who comes over to provide podiatry care to long-term patients. Merred said he is very pleased with the interest the surgery program has generated with the CRNAs.

The board then held an executive session to discuss buildings and grounds.