PGH chiefs on hot seat during Thursday meeting

By Shery Koester

Panola General Hospital administrators faced themselves on the hot seat Thursday when they were forced to answer questions about the hospital's contract with the county.

The hospital's chief administrator, Paul J. Bondurant, Jr., said the hospital had been trying to settle on a contract with the county for over a year, but that the county had not been willing to negotiate.

Specifically, Bondurant said that the county had not been willing to discuss the hospital's request for an additional $2 million in funding.

The hospital's current contract with the county is set to expire on June 30, and Bondurant said that the hospital would be forced to go back to the drawing board if a new contract cannot be negotiated.

Bondurant said that the hospital had already invested over $5 million in infrastructure improvements, and that it would be difficult to continue providing services without additional funding.

The hospital has been forced to cut services in recent months due to the lack of funds, and Bondurant said that the hospital would be forced to do the same again if a new contract cannot be negotiated.

In the meantime, the hospital is looking for other sources of revenue, including private donations and grants.

Taxing entities show decline in 1996 property values

Final 1996 values of taxable property in Panola County were released on Thursday, and the news was not good for residents.

According to County Auditor Apolonia Smith, the final 1996 property values in Panola County were down by an average of 10 percent from the previous year.

The county's total property value dropped from $2.8 billion to $2.5 billion, and Smith said that the decline was due to a variety of factors, including a weak economy and changes in the market value of property.

Taxpayers will be hit with a higher tax bill this year, as the decrease in property values will result in higher tax rates.

The county's tax rate will increase by 5 cents per $100 of property value, from 30 cents to 35 cents.

Revenues for the county will decrease by an estimated $1.2 million, and Smith said that the county will have to make cuts in its budget to offset the loss.

However, Smith said that the county will continue to provide the same level of services to its residents, and that it will look for ways to increase revenue in the future.

Rebuilding's benefit will be seen in Carthage incinerator plant

Rebuild of the Carthage Incinerator Plant will be completed in six months, according to officials.

The incinerator plant, which was destroyed by a fire in May, is being rebuilt at a cost of $5 million.

The plant will have a capacity of 1,500 tons per day and will be able to handle all types of waste, including municipal waste, medical waste, and hazardous waste.

The plant will be operational by the end of the year and will be able to handle all of Carthage's waste.

Emergency blood drive planned for UPRC employee

An emergency blood drive is scheduled for Monday for a UPRC employee who was injured in a car accident.

The driver, 30-year-old Thomas M. Miller, was involved in a head-on collision with a semi-truck on U.S. 78 near Carthage.

Miller is in critical condition at University Medical Center in Carthage, and the hospital is working to save him.

The blood drive will be held on Monday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the UPRC administration building.

Blood donations are crucial to saving lives, and the community is asked to support the drive.

The drive is being held in cooperation with the American Red Cross and the hospital.

The hospital is running low on blood, and the blood drive is a crucial step in ensuring that Miller receives the care he needs.

Blood donation is a simple and safe process, and it can make a big difference in someone's life.

If you are able to donate blood, please consider it.

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County's jobless rate jumps to 12.4 percent

The unemployment rate in Orange County rose to 12.4 percent in September, the highest rate since 1982, according to state figures released Thursday.

The rate was up from 11.6 percent in August and 11.3 percent in September 2009.

Orange County was one of 16 counties in California to see an increase in the unemployment rate from August to September.

The current rate is also higher than the 10.2 percent rate recorded in September 2008.

The jobless rate in Orange County has been above 10 percent for 19 of the last 20 months.

The September jobless rate in Orange County was also higher than the state's 10.8 percent rate and the nation's 9.1 percent rate.

The increase in the jobless rate comes as the county's economy continues to struggle from the effects of the recession.

The county's unemployment rate has been above 10 percent since December 2008.

The September jobless rate in Orange County is also higher than the county's rate before the recession began in December 2007, which was 4.1 percent.

The increase in the jobless rate is also higher than the national rate of 9.1 percent and the state rate of 10.8 percent.

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The Sheriffs Report

The other day I had the opportunity to meet with a group of parents who were particularly concerned about the safety of their children. They expressed their worries about the high number of break-ins and thefts that had occurred in their neighborhood. We discussed the matter at length and came to a mutual understanding. I promised them that we would do everything in our power to ensure the safety of their children. We arranged a joint meeting with the parents and I suggested that they could meet with the police department to discuss further strategies.

The parents were grateful for my assistance and thanked me for my efforts. We left the meeting feeling hopeful and optimistic about the future of our community. I am committed to making our city a safer place for everyone.
Panola Kids' College 1996

July 15-19 and July 22-29

Photos by Daniel Humphries

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12 Month CD
Annual Percentage Yield

First National Bank
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693-3801

The Violet Shop
109 W. Sabine
693-3801

City of Carthage
P.O. Box 400
693-3868

City of Buckville
P.O. Box 96
678-3661

Panola National Bank
1510 W. Panola
693-2335

The Garden Center
110 E. Sabine
693-3334

City of Gary
P.O. Box 160
685-2225

Golden Eye Associates
105 Cottage Rd.
693-7745

Biarnell Health Center
200 NW Loop 436
693-8504

Reeves Motor Sales
411 W. Sabine
693-6142

First United Methodist Church
201 S. Shelby
693-5227

Union Pacific Resources Co.
Hwy. 79 E. & Hwy 79 W.
694-4100

First State Bank & Trust Co.
110 W. Panola
693-6606

Joe's Family Restaurant
100 N. St. Mary
693-6282

Panola General Hospital
401 W. Cottage Rd.
693-3841

A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. APY assumes balance remained on account for entire term. Rates are subject to change.
CRISA Center open house postponed

As rain clouds gathered for the young lady of the Community
CRISA Center in Kilgore the open house was postponed. The CRISA
Center is located in Kilgore, providing a safe haven for families
who have signed up for a family support program. This was a
welcome addition to the Kilgore community.

Hight knocks in nine runs in 16-1 Panola 14 victory

LONGVIEW — Jimmy Hight and Randy Hight of the Longview
Panthers scored 16 runs in an 11-inning victory over the
Panthers on Thursday at Sunset Drive Library's softball field. The
Panthers lost to the Panthers in the first game of the series, but
won the second game today.

Junior Football

COCKRELL one-hits Longview

WADSWORTH — The Wadsworth Panthers defeated Longview
Panthers 14-0 in a one-hitter on Thursday at Sunset Drive
Library's softball field. The Wadsworth Panthers scored five
early runs and held on for the win.

Panola teams both to vie for state titles

Panola 13's oust East Montgomery in Dixie 13 state

MACEDONIA — The Panola 13s defeated East Montgomery in
Dixie 13 state on Wednesday at Sunset Drive Library's softball
field. The Panola 13s scored five runs in the first inning and
defeated East Montgomery.

Junior Football

FC's Mills, Centex East Longview on all-Area team

Mills, Centex East Longview were recently announced as
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recently. The team's recent success is the result of the teamwork
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Grafton family holds reunion

The descendants of the late Rev. J. B. Stevick and his wife Elizabeth (Lizzie) Stevick, who were early settlers in the Grafton area in the late 1800s, held a family reunion on July 21, 2000, at the Grafton Historical Society in Marion, Ohio. The event was organized by the Grafton Historical Society and was attended by members from various parts of the United States.

Milam receives five year service award

Milam Carter recently received a five year service award from the Board of Directors of the Grafton Historical Society. The award was presented to Milam for his dedication and hard work in preserving and promoting the history of the Grafton area.

Local Kiwanians meet the international president

The Kiwanis Club of Marion, Ohio, recently held a meeting with the international president, who is based in Marion. The club members had the opportunity to hear about the organization's initiatives and goals.

HUDCO food service program in operation through July 31

The HUDCO food service program is currently in operation through July 31. The program provides meals to low-income seniors and helps them stay independent.

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Bell Electric Motor Co., Inc.

Ritchie Arnold, of Bell Electric Motor Co., Inc. is shown above rewinding an electric motor. Bell Electric Motor Co. also specializes in repairs of swimming pool pumps and motors, air conditioner motors and water well motors. They are located at 207 Fannett Dr. W. in Marshall or you can call them at (903) 935-5282.

Bell Electric Motor Co., Inc.

David M. Cleaners

Steam Cleaner • Pressure Washer
Miracle Blue • Miracle Pink

Black Lion Piano

Private Lessons • Tuning & Repairs
Terry Blackstone • Jim Blackstone

M. G. Cleaners

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