

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hospital District - Richardson Resigns, Hoffman Appointed

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POMEROY, WA – After nearly six years of service Garfield County Public Hospital District Commissioner Pat Richardson has resigned her post as commissioner to the district. Richardson, who served a number of years as a nurse before her retirement and then as interim administrator to the district cited personal and health reasons for her early departure. “We love Pat” said District Administrator Andrew Craigie. “She has served this district tirelessly and is recognized across the state as a champion of rural health” he added. “Pat is a very smart leader. For many years she has been a pillar of our organization. We will miss her.”

The commissioners moved quickly to appoint a replacement for Richardson at their meeting here Wednesday. Invited to interview with the board were two candidates that filed to run for Richardson’s post in the coming election. Local mechanic, Steve Lytle and retired nurse Ray Hoffman were both given an opportunity to introduce themselves to the board. The commissioners noted each candidate would bring something different to the board; Lytle’s youth and interest in serving the community and Hoffman’s extensive experience in healthcare, the last twelve at the district itself.

Board President Roger Dumbeck noted that timing of the transition was fortunate. “With the upcoming election we happened to have two candidates to consider. After meeting both of them the commissioners decided that Ray was the best fit due to his experience and availability.”

Ray Hoffman began his healthcare career as an Army Medic serving at Walter Reed Medical Center and has a career spanning over 30 years in the medical field. In addition to his years at Garfield County Hospital he has owned an in-home care agency, managed a retirement community and served as a nursing home administrator. “Ray has a wonderful background and a real appreciation for the complexities of the healthcare profession” said Craigie. “His personal experience as a nurse in our organization is a huge benefit. He knows the residents and staff and really knows the district. I don’t know a single person who doesn’t think the world of Ray. We are very excited to have him step into leadership as a commissioner of the district.”

Hoffman and Lytle will square off again in the upcoming election when the community will be given an opportunity to vote on the contested office. Hoffman is expected to take the oath of office at a special meeting of the commission this Wednesday.

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