



Contributed photo/Margee Powell

Dayville School students visit with nurse Theresa Wood, right, Feb. 8 at the school, sharing experiences she's had volunteering with Medical Teams International. From left are Jagger Michael, Austin Walker, Cassandra Buckmaster, Wa Lerttanomwong, Vy Tuong, Kristina Humphreys, Danielle Rhoda, Denali Twehues, Rafael Dualibi (behind Twehues), JT Hand, Gabriel Walker-Hopkins, Rico Sparka and Courtney Nichols.

Nurse travels world, inspires Dayville students

Theresa Wood shares medical mission stories

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Nurse Theresa (Jones) Wood has traveled the world, taking part in medical missions, and she journeyed to Dayville School Feb. 8 to share her experiences with the students.

Dayville teacher Margee Powell, who has known Wood since grade school, invited her to give a presentation.

Wood, who is a Mt. Vernon High School alumnus, works as a registered nurse at St. Charles Health System Prineville and in emergency rooms throughout Central Oregon. She also teaches neonatal resuscitation.

She often travels at her own expense when volunteering with Medical Teams International, which is based in Tigard.

Dayville's sixth- through 12th-grade students watched her slide show presentation, which included photos of her and other medical professionals with patients they've served overseas.

Wood has delivered medical care during natural disasters and at refugee camps. She also trains midwives, nurses and doctors in developing countries.

She said several of the students met with her afterward to thank her and ask more about her experiences.

"They were captivated by the pictures and the story," Wood told the Eagle. "It was a good interaction and experience."

A passion of hers is a pro-

gram called Helping Babies Breathe, which was the basis of her master's thesis, teaching techniques to save babies in respiratory distress.

She's shared the program in developing countries, including Papua New Guinea and countries in Africa.

"It's very rewarding, especially when you hear very shortly after the class that they've applied the training and are saving babies," she said, adding the positive feedback is almost instantaneous.

Her most recent trip was to Bangladesh, where she cared for refugees escaping ethnic cleansing in Myanmar.

Wood said working in refugee situations has been especially humbling, hearing their stories, sharing hugs and giving medical care.

"People are fleeing horrific atrocities," she said.

She hoped the students

would find ways to apply their own talents in service.

"We're all made with gifts," she said, adding she hopes the students don't let location or financial concerns prevent them from moving toward their dreams.

Powell said her friend has kept up with her through the years, sharing photos from her travels with Medical Teams International.

"We thought it might be really great to share it with our middle and high school students to inspire them and show them that one person can make a difference," Powell said. "Whether it be through a medical career, volunteering in their own community, or serving as a missionary halfway around the world, there are people in need, and it only takes a willingness to serve others."

OBITUARIES

Theodore Gerald 'Jerry' Brown Aug. 16, 1938 - Feb. 27, 2018

Theodore Gerald "Jerry" Brown passed away Feb. 27 at Ashley Manor in Burns.

Brown was born Aug. 16, 1938, in Redding, California, to Theodore and Pearl (Simmons) Brown. He was the fourth of six children with three older sisters and two younger sisters.

He graduated from Shasta High School in 1956 and went to work for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph. In 1957, he married Ann Bosworth, and they had three children, Theodore Greg, Brenda Ann and Terry George. When he wasn't working for Pacific, he worked for his father-in-law on his ranch outside of Burney, California. Later he worked for Citizens Utilities, an independent telephone company. He worked out of the Burney, Susanville and Elk Grove, California, districts. While working in Elk Grove he met his second wife, Sandra, and they were married on Aug. 1, 1981.

Brown's lifelong dream was to own and operate a cattle ranch. In April of 1990 that dream became a reality when he purchased a ranch in Izee. He lived and ranched there for 21 years. His love of hunting deer, elk and fishing in his lake on the ranch were added bonuses.

In 2011, the couple sold the ranch. Then in 2013 they moved to the Burns area. Shortly thereafter he was diagnosed with Capgras syndrome and Lewy body dementia and a year later with Alzheimer's.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra, of Burns; sons Greg of Sacramento, California, and Terry of Banks; daughter Brenda (Chuck) Robertson of Anderson, California; stepdaughter Amanda (Clinton) Tyler of Burns; siblings Vecy McDonald of Redding, California, and Gladys Berens of Mesa, Arizona; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his sister Jean Crawford and great-grandson Theodore Gadge.

A memorial mass will be held at 10 a.m. March 17 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Burns, followed by a graveside service and then a luncheon at the church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Harney County Hospice and/or Holy Family Catholic Church.

About Obituaries

News obituaries are a free service of the Blue Mountain Eagle. The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home. Information submitted is subject to editing. Obituaries submitted to the Eagle with incorrect information may be corrected and republished as paid notices. Send obituaries by email, editor@bmeagle.com; fax, 541-575-1244; or mail, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. For more information, or to inquire about a paid memorial, call 541-575-0710.

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The City of John Day is seeking applicants for a vacant position on the John Day City Council under the provisions of Ordinance 82-29-01.

One applicant will be appointed by the City Council to fill Councilor Position #6 for the remainder of the term ending December 31, 2020. Persons wishing to apply for city council must reside within the incorporated city limits.

Applications may be picked up at City Hall (450 E. Main Street) during business hours, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Applications are due to City Hall by close of business on March 30, 2018.

An appointment will be made during the regular session of the city council scheduled for April 10, 2018, 7PM at the John Day Fire Hall (316 S. Canyon Boulevard).

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