

Hospital foundation raises more than \$23,000

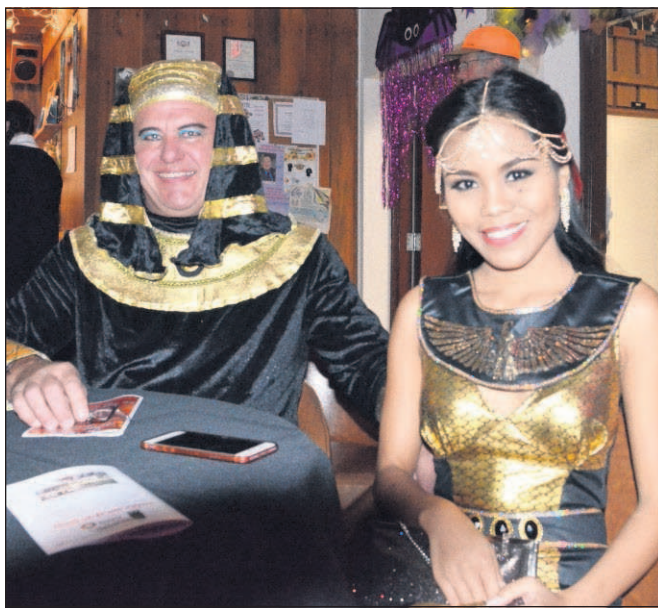
Funds to go for new call system

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation raised more than \$23,000 at its annual dinner and auction at the John Day Elks Lodge on Oct. 20, foundation director Jena Knowles said.

When combined with more than \$8,000 raised during the foundation's annual golf scramble this summer and other funds built up by the foundation, the money will go toward a \$75,000 call system at Blue Mountain Hospital. The system will connect patient rooms and the emergency rooms to the nurse station, Knowles said.

About 150 people attended the annual dinner, many in costume. Funds were raised by ticket sales, a silent auction, table sponsors and a reverse auction held at the end of the night.



Steve and Cherry Hill won the award for best costumed couple at the Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation annual dinner and auction at the Elks Lodge in John Day on Oct. 20.



Amy Kreger, president of the board of the Blue Mountain Hospital District, and her husband, Craig Jackson, enjoy the Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation annual dinner and auction.



Dr. Raffaella Betza won the award for best costumed female at the Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation annual dinner and auction at the Elks Lodge in John Day.

The reverse auction raised \$2,500 for a much-needed \$5,000 vein finder, Knowles said. The foundation will cover the rest of the cost of the device, which illuminates veins to help medical staff

draw blood or install intravenous equipment.

"We are truly amazed at the generosity of our local businesses and this incredible community," Knowles said. "We had some really great

auction items this year and a record turnout. Thank you, Grant County."

Steve and Cherry Hill, dressed as ancient Egyptian royalty, won the award for best costumed couple. Dr.

Raffaella Betza, dressed as Mystique from the X-men stories, won the award for best costumed female. Chris Deiter, dressed as a chained beast, won the award for best costumed male.

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Rose Coombs

Whew, what a week. I've been on the road from Redmond to Looney Springs and I'm tired! But what a beautiful week to be on the road. Derrol has his quarterly test at the urologist's office and he's going to have to have some therapy to process how great his test results were. My, my... Which brings up the thought for the day: success comes in 'cans', failure comes in 'can'ts'. Margie, Dick and Tom got our meal together again today. We appreciate so much that Margie could step in and keep things running in the kitchen. A new cook will start on Nov. 1 and her name is Amber Ford. The assistant will be Dick Field. The kitchen could still use a third person so, if you would like to help our there, just let them know. Juan Rubio led the flag salute and Jack Retherford asked the blessing. Larry, Carlos and Ken took care of the home deliveries. The winner of the gift certificate donated by Chuck's Little Diner was Bev Curtis. The pinochle players and the Tai Chi class did their things before dinner. Tai Chi will resume after dinner next week and beyond. We enjoyed Field's Grass-fed BBQ beef slider sandwiches, green salad, potato wedges, devilled eggs and two kinds of yellow cake for dessert. Um, um, good.

We had 63 names on the registration book. I have been scrubbing the vinyl flooring in the 'new' section of the building. 40 years worth of grime takes lots of elbow grease. Had to get some super-duper heavy-duty cleaner to get it to let loose. And I would bet that this flooring is something that Mother picked out. She liked this color and pattern. So I think about her with every pass of the scrub brush... and know why my new kitchen flooring will be smooth. No little design cavities to catch dirt. Joel wanted to know if the attendees were blinded by the clean floor. I told him that everyone was so bedazzled by the new front door that they didn't even notice anything else! So Joel took his three boys camping at Looney Springs for a couple of days. We had never been there, so we drove up to check it out. One thing is for sure, it is not an improved campground. People have made 'improvements' to the grounds through the years. But if you didn't know where you were going, you would drive right past it. Since we didn't, Joel tied a bandana on a tree where we should turn off. He said it was a rough road. Yeah, two washed-out tracks down through the boulders. But, never fear, Subaru is here! We got in, and 'improvements' it has to be seen to be believed. The Prairie City candidate forum last week was cancelled. I was feeling bad that I didn't get to go 'cause I was ill, but I haven't missed it yet. So try again on Nov. 3. And if you have an Oregon driver's license you are registered to vote. The ballots came, so be prepared to do your civic duty. Many have died so you can.

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John Day Seniors

Nicky Essex

What a crazy week! But first, Monday, Oct. 15, Pacific Source Insurance sponsored and treated all 28 diners to a yummy lunch of Chicken Cacciatore. Peas with pearl onions, cheese stuffed bread sticks and 2 salads; tossed green and pasta were added as well as Lisa's wonderful fruit crisp! First Christian Church did our table service and our Step Forward friends, led by David Gill and Rodney, delivered all 30 regular and 36 frozen meals to John Day, Canyon City and Mt. Vernon. Thanks to all.

Thursday, Oct. 18, was a great day! Our Asian style meal, sponsored by Blue Mountain Eagle, of sweet and sour pork, veggies, rice and Asian sesame slaw, was exceptional. We enjoyed a chance to meet the editor, Sean Hart, and writer, Angel Carpenter, representing The Eagle. We served about 52 diners!

Has anyone ever been served bread in a Chinese restaurant? Not here, either, but all the fortune cookies you could eat. And lots of birthday cake! We are blessed by having 97-year-old Billie Bullard here to celebrate with her and her family, daughter Cheryl Berry, her husband Tom and son, Tom Jr. They brought a beautiful bouquet of multicolored roses and 2 cakes to share. We love you Billie!

A big day for us too, we filled a table with our family, who had set out last Saturday for a week of hunting in their favorite spot near Fossil, and we planned to go to visit their camp for a while on Tuesday. They called Tuesday morning to ask for help; their rig broke down outside of camp and appeared to be out of transmission fluid. A man named Paul let them call us and he got them to their camp; we picked up several quarts and headed out. After trying that, our borrowed rig also broke down! There we were up in the "tullies" with two broke down 4-wheel drive rigs, a week's worth of food and gear, a utility trailer and two tents full of etc.! My nephew and younger brother, after scouring the camp for ideas, built a part out of wrist rocket tubing, snap ties, duct tape and another item I can't remember; it got us to John Day. Then we needed a pickup, and wouldn't you know Katrina Page just gave us hers to do whatever we needed. She is an angel in our family. The guys took it up to the camp, loaded all of their gear and trailer and got it all home. Our meal today was a celebration; our nephew had to leave his rig and donated it to someone who was willing to tow it away. I'm sorry Steve. Their wives came and rescued them in another rig and they all arrived safely home in Aloha about 10 p.m. Memories for Kentucky.

Next Thursday's meal, Oct. 25, will be our Halloween meal; bat wings and grave yard enchiladas! Monday, Oct. 22, beef stew and fruit salad!

Hebrews 10:23 NIV Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.

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Monument Seniors

Soo Yukawa

Our greeters were Jimmy Cole, Linda Blakeslee, Kristi Guimont and Judy Harris. Jimmy and Linda collected and counted the money, Kristi checked off the guests, Judy led us in the flag salute and made the announcements and yours truly prayed the blessing over the meal. We had quite a crowd, 57 guests on the books and seven takeouts. The free meal ticket winners were Tina Davenport and Kristi Guimont. The Len's Drug gift card went to Christian Yukawa. We had a few visitors join us for lunch as well. We had Katee Hoffman from John Day, who is the V.A. rep for our area, Kit and Herman Brown from Long Creek and we also had a group of ladies from Heman present; Sally Dyer, Shirley Ludlow, Garnett Bettencourt and Karie Hickerson. Hope they all enjoyed their meal and come back again real soon. Some of the announcements were that the library will be closed until renovation is complete so please refrain from donating any books. Another announcement is that there will be the first shoot on Nov. 3 at Brad and Julie Smith's in support of our local 4-H program. They would

appreciate some pumpkins to use as targets. Krista, the foot doctor, will be here at the Monument senior center on Oct. 23. I think there must be lots of vermin out looking for food. I was riding the 4-wheeler and I saw something scamper across my driveway; it wasn't moving very quickly. It was kind of hopping and running, when I suddenly realized it was a packrat! Yes, can you believe it, in broad daylight? So of course I'm hollering for one of the dogs. The packrat takes a dive under one of the pine trees and I'm trying to direct the dog to its hideout. He totally misses it when our other dog shows up. She immediately smells something and then finds the packrat and goes for the kill bite. Yes! She killed it and then I think the puppies all jumped at it afterwards. I don't know who ate it and I don't think I really want to know. Eww. My cats have been doing a fine job of finding mice and moles all over, too. I don't know where they've been hunting for those. Too bad they can't scare off the deer that's been trying to visit my garden. He's been driving the dogs crazy at night and he did munch on my new lettuce. I've blocked it off with an old window for now and I hope to harvest some fresh lettuce soon. I just hope the frost doesn't kill it anytime soon. Which reminds me, it's been really, really cold in the mornings here in Monument. Winter is coming soon! *Psalm 18:46 The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; And let the God of my salvation be exalted.*

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