

Gazette Times

VOL 110 NO. 26 6 Pages
Wednesday, June 26, 1991 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

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North end favors hospital closure

Reprinted from the Boardman Valley Chronicle, Volume 2, Number 25, June 24, 1991

Financing Health Care in Morrow County raised more concerns at a Health Care Goal Setting Session at Riverside High School Thursday evening (June 20) than the quality and quantity of that care.

The number one goal of the 77 people attending was to more equitably distribute expenditure of tax revenues administered by the Medical Board throughout the county. The total budget for the county health care for 1991-92 is \$4,592,702 of which only \$210,020 (4.6%) is budgeted for the Boardman Clinic and the Boardman ambulance service (including early response capability in Irrigon.)

Some rather dramatic changes have occurred in just the past two years. The total medical budget has grown 68.8% from \$2,719,768 in 1989-90 when the amount budgeted for the Boardman Clinic and Boardman Ambulance service was \$221,837 for 8.1% of the total. The Boardman Clinic and Ambulance portion of the budget has declined in those two years by 5.6% while the tax levy, \$392,857 in 1989-90 has grown by 20.8% to the 91-92 level. Most of the medical fund is financed by patient fees at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and its included nursing home.

The second priority agreed upon Thursday was to close that hospital and to replace it with transportation capability for seniors and acute care patients to hospitals in Hermiston or Pendleton. This goal was based in large measure upon the inordinate high cost of maintaining Pioneer Memorial compared with its lack of ability to care for patients requiring

hospital treatment. The third highest priority was to develop a 24 hour per day, seven days per week, clinic for the Boardman and Irrigon communities that would have emergency technicians and a physician's assistant on site at all times.

Related, but separately stated was a goal of having bilingual (Spanish) personnel available at the Boardman Clinic at all times.

Finally, the group listed no further increase in the tax levy supporting Health Care in Morrow County as its goal.

Pam Sagely, Morrow County Health Care Encourager, said she was pleased with the attendance at

Important health care meeting Thursday at fairgrounds

An important meeting about health care in Morrow County will be held this Thursday night, 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds pavilion in Heppner.

The Morrow County Health Care Council will hear citizens opinions on what they like about county health care; what they disliked and what changes should be made.

A similar meeting was held last Thursday in Boardman and the second priority of that group was to close Pioneer Memorial Hospital (see reprinted story this page).

Opinions gathered at these public meetings will be used to formulate a report to the county medical board on the direction health care should take in Morrow County. Boardman residents came up with 35 goals at their meeting, the following five, in order of priority, were released to the press:

1.) Health care dollars should be spent equally throughout the county.

2.) Close Pioneer Memorial Hospital and develop transportation for senior citizens and acute care.

3.) Open a 24 hour clinic, with full time paramedics, physician assistants, locally administered for Boardman and Irrigon.

4.) Have Bilingual personnel in medical services at all times.

5.) No increase in health care tax dollars.

Members of the health care council which will formulate the final report to the medical board include the following people: Dick Allen, Judy Brown, Stan Hoobing, Grace Drake, Cheryl Tallman, Meg Murray, Roger Scharen, Carleena Britt, Chris Garcia, Jack Strege, Donna Moeller, Ray Michael, Ann Murray, Dave Zachry, and Diane Kilkenny.

Federal regulations require \$152,000 in changes at PMH nursing home

New federal regulations resulted in \$32,000 in remodeling costs and \$120,000 in salaries for additional staff at Pioneer Memorial Hospital Nursing Home, according to Ernest Wick, PMH administrator.

Wick said that guidelines in effect in October 1990 and a federal survey of the PMH nursing home facilities conducted in March necessitated improvements in residents' room lighting, widening bathroom doors to facilitate wheelchair access and adding four new staff positions. In addition to four new staff members—two registered nurses, two aides and one "restorative" aide (required to restore or improve nursing home residents' capabilities), additional hours were added to parttime employees.

After a federal survey is made, said Wick, a facility has 60 days in which to put together a plan to correct the inadequacies cited by the survey or decide not to comply with the recommendations and begin the process of closing the facility. PMH Nursing Home had a deadline of June 21 to implement the changes, he

said. "The majority of everything was done by mid-May," said Wick. "Not one issue that faulted us was in patient care," he added. "A lot of work was involved. In some areas we thought we were in compliance."

The first survey under the new guidelines was more in the nature of education and training.

In the process of complying with the federal guidelines Wick said that several bathroom doors were widened, a new tub with a lift was installed, new curtains were installed in rooms, either a bed light or a room light was installed so that each patient had access to both in their rooms, and a larger screen television was installed in the solarium. Wick said that while not required by federal regulations PMH is in the process of putting in another nursing station nearer the nursing home section to better monitor the nursing home residents. "We're using the survey as a starting point," Wick said.

He said he is hoping that an increase in nursing home residents' charges, an increase in state reim-

bursement, more efficient staff and more effective operations will "fill that void" created by \$152,000 in required remodeling and staffing expenditures.

Potluck to honor Wilsons retiring

A farewell potluck will be held for Darrel and Bev Wilson Saturday, June 29 at the Lone Legion Hall starting at 4 p.m. The Wilsons have taught at Lone High School for 24 years and retired at the end of this school year. They plan to move to Post Falls, Idaho at the end of summer.

G-T closed July 4

The Gazette-Times office will be closed Thursday, July 4 to celebrate Independence Day. Publication will remain on Wednesday, however, out of town subscribers will not receive their papers until Friday due to the holiday. The staff at the G-T wishes everyone a safe happy holiday.

Huge crowd honors Drs. Berretta

Heppner doctors, Jeanne and Ed Berretta, Ed's dad from North Carolina, Fred Berretta, Ed's brother from San Diego, Kathy DeSimone, Ed's sister from New York, two of Jeanne's teachers at her hometown of Condon, Mrs. Furnish and Mrs. Parish; Fr. Ron Maag, friend of the family from The Dalles and Dr. Joseph Diehl, Pendleton.

Following the dinner the Berrettas' long-time friend Mary Mobley said "I was kind of hoping they'd release them (the Berrettas) to come

were received from Salvatore Berretta, Ed's dad from North Carolina, Fred Berretta, Ed's brother from San Diego, Kathy DeSimone, Ed's sister from New York, two of Jeanne's teachers at her hometown of Condon, Mrs. Furnish and Mrs. Parish; Fr. Ron Maag, friend of the family from The Dalles and Dr. Joseph Diehl, Pendleton.

Following the dinner the Berrettas' long-time friend Mary Mobley said "I was kind of hoping they'd release them (the Berrettas) to come

back (to North Carolina), but I have my doubts now."

Ernest Wick, Pioneer Memorial Hospital administrator commented, "I think it was a fantastic outpouring of love, compassion and caring and a welcome indication of support for the physicians in Morrow County."

The Doctors' Appreciation Day was sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce and Soroptimist International of Heppner.

Surprise visitor attends dinner

When Dr. Jeanne Berretta received a call from family friend Mary Mobley of Greenville, North Carolina at the Doctors' Appreciation dinner held June 22 at the Elks Club in Heppner Jeanne said "I wish you were here."

And Mary obliged. Instead of calling from her home in North Carolina Mary was calling from the other room. Unbeknownst to everyone in the Berretta family, except Gretchen, a high school freshman who is very good at keeping a secret, Mary had been flown to Heppner to attend the dinner as a special surprise to the Berrettas.

Mary began working for the Berrettas as a nanny and housekeeper, a job that evolved into a lasting friendship, when Gretchen was six years old and Jeanne was completing her residency. Matt, now a fourth grader, was 18 months old. Mary stayed with the family until they left to come to Heppner in 1987 and by that time they had another baby, Vincent. The Berrettas have had a fourth child Nicholas, since they moved to Heppner.

Mary hadn't been able to visit the Berrettas since they came out West. "But I write," said Mary. "I keep in touch with my children." Mary also took care of Jeanne's



Mary Mobley

mother, Pauline, and her father, P.C. Smith when they were ill.

A clear advocate of the work ethic, Mary got married when she was 16 and began working for \$18 a week at a day job. When she discovered that she could make almost twice that—\$35—as a nanny, "That's when I started taking care of babies."

Mary began working for Blanche Forbes and helped raise her three daughters, Jenny, Jane and Josie. Mary got acquainted with Mrs. Forbes, who is in the real estate business when Mary and her husband were tenants on the Forbes' land. "I started with her when Jenny was about six months old," said Mary, "and now Jenny is 44 years old." Over the years that relationship, too, became a close friendship and it was Forbes who recommended Mary to the Berrettas. Now 69 years old, Mary says "Working hard won't hurt you. You can make life whatever you want it to be. There are those who say 'take it easy,' but those that tell you that don't have anything." Still working, Mary has taken care of a woman with

alzheimer's disease for the past two years.

Mary and her husband of 51 years, Curtis, 72, raised four children—two daughters, Evelyn and Betty Lou, and two nephews—three of whom the Mobleys put through college. Mary said they would have put all four through, but one of the nephews decided that he didn't want to go, a decision she says he now regrets.

Mary is still involved with kids, two granddaughters, 10 year old Starla and 11 year old Erika, both of whom spend a lot of time at Grandma's place, and two grandsons, Curtis, 22 who is in college and Byron, 17.

The trip to Heppner marks the first trip on a plane for Mary and the first trip this far west. "Charlottesville, Virginia is the farthest west I've been. I love it here. Home is so flat and here it's so hilly. Dr. and Mrs. Berretta took me for a ride in the desert and you can go for miles and miles and don't see a house. I love the scenery and the ranches and things." Besides a trip into the desert Mary and the Berrettas visited Condon, Dr. Jeanne's home town and spent some time at the Murray ranch. She stayed with Ann and John Murray home in Heppner using their home as a hideout Friday night and Saturday before the appreciation dinner.

As much as Mary has enjoyed her visit to Heppner, she can't be talked into staying. "We've got land and we wouldn't give it up for anything. That's where our roots are." Mary, who was scheduled to make her return trip back on Wednesday, has already planned what she is going to do when she returns. Relax? No. "I think I'll put up some preserves," she said.

Pool plagued by cloudy water

The Heppner city pool has had to be drained and filled several times since its opening day June 16. The pool has been plagued with the same problem as last year—cloudy water—because of an ineffective filter system.

City recorder Renee Devin says that after about three days the water becomes so cloudy that it must be completely drained and refilled, which takes about 24 hours.

New filters are expected to be shipped on Friday, June 28, but in the meantime, Devin asks that swimmers please wear a clean swim suit to the pool and to shower before entering the water. New water heaters have been installed at the pool, so showers are warm, Devin added.

School levy passes by two

Morrow County voters okayed a school operating levy Tuesday, but not by much.

Voters passed the school budget 995 yes to 993 no, a margin of only two votes.

Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth said the slim margin means there will be an automatic recount as prescribed by Oregon law. Bloodworth also reported a 51 percentage voter turnout.

Following is a precinct by precinct breakdown of the county voting:

	Yes	No
Boardman - 01	80	69
Boardman - 02	148	127
Boardman - 03	9	9
Ione - 04	155	84
Irrigon - 05	105	163
Irrigon - 06	77	108
Lexington - 07	94	89
Heppner - 08	86	84
Heppner - 09	105	119
Heppner - 10	66	63
Heppner - 11	70	78
Totals	995	993

Ione's 4th of July festivities to honor American veterans

By Anne Morter

The annual Ione Fourth of July celebration is on top once again and plans call for a full day of activities. Events range from a basketball tournament to a historical tour to the ever-popular frog jumping contest. (For those in need, frogs are available).

Grand marshals of the parade will be all veterans, with a special ceremony to honor them immediately following in the city park. The theme of this year's celebration is "Proud to be an American".

A mouth-watering supply of 4th of July eats will be available throughout the day and plenty of activities are scheduled for the young ones, so be sure to bring the whole family for this day long celebration.

The day will end with a display of fireworks and a dance on Main Street.

Proud to Be an American

Wednesday, July 3

6:00 p.m. 3 on 3 Basketball Tourney, Ione School Gym. Double elimination. Money prize for first three places. Call Gregg Rietmann, 422-7243. Tennis Tourney. Call Betty Gray, 989-8161 or 989-8144.

Thursday, July 4

9:00 a.m. Tennis Tourney continues

10:30 a.m. Ultra-Lite Fly By, Rick Peterson

11:00 a.m. PARADE. Call Del LaRue, 422-7468. City Park activities begin. Food booths and root beer floats. Horseshoe Tourney. Sign-up in the park. Chalk drawing contest in front of Catholic church.

1:00 p.m. Volleyball Tourney. Call Sandra Halvorsen, 422-7547. Frog jumping contest, City Park. Frogs available.

2:00 p.m. Children's games in the park (sack races, baseball throw, straw money pile). Historical Tour. Meet at the bus by Post Office. For info call Ruth McCabe, 422-7194. Bingo at Legion Hall by Lions Club, 2-5 p.m.

2:30 p.m. Western Swing demonstration, City Park.

3:00 p.m. Cow Chip Toss, school football field.

4:00 p.m. Historical Tour (repeat of 2:00 p.m.) Swimming pool opens. Free swimming 4-6 p.m.

4:30 p.m. Watermelon eating and seed spitting contest.

5:30 p.m. Bed Race, school football field. Call Marvin Padberg, 422-7276.

6:00 p.m. Chicken Barbecue, school cafeteria, 6-8 p.m.

6:30 p.m. Games on football field. Bring your mitt!

7:00 p.m. Bingo at Legion Hall. Lions Club, 7-9 p.m. Oregon Trail Tour. Meet at Office Cafe.

Dusk Fireworks. School football field. Street dance on Main Street following fireworks.

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