

From the Archives

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Huge crowd honors Drs. Berretta

Heppner doctors, Jeanne and Ed Berretta, were honored with an overflow crowd at the Doctors' Appreciation dinner held Saturday, June 22 at the Elks Club.

One hundred seventy-eight people, including mystery guest Mary Mobley, the Berretta's friend and former nanny, from North Carolina and Jeanne's brother Paul Smith from Condon, were on hand to toast the Berrettas for their service to the community.

Besides those attending, letters

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."



Mary Mobley

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.

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.

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

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

County commissioners to discuss Greater Idaho



The Morrow County Board of Commissioners will hold its first discussion of Greater Idaho at its regular meeting May 3 in Heppner. -Contributed

The Morrow County Board of Commissioners has announced it will discuss the "Greater Idaho" relocation of the Oregon-Idaho state border at several upcoming meetings this year. The board will discuss the topic during its regular meetings May 3 in Heppner, Aug. 16 in Irrigon and

Nov. 1 in Heppner. The three meetings are required as part of County Measure 25-88 that passed last November. The measure requires the county commissioners to meet three times yearly to discuss Morrow County's interests in relocating the state border.

Mike McCarter, who has been a driving force behind the Greater Idaho movement, told the Gazette-Times he plans to attend the May 3 meeting in Heppner.

"I have not met the commissioners, as yet, and would like to give them a short update on the Move Oregon's Border/Greater Idaho movement," said McCarter, saying he would be available to answer questions from the commissioners or those attending the meeting. He encouraged Morrow County citizens to attend the meeting.

"This is a great opportunity for Morrow County citizens to express their concerns and ask questions," he said.

Morrow County voters approved the measure with 60 percent of the votes, 2,315 compared to 1,522. The measure passed in every precinct, though the margins were closest in Boardman, Lexington and Ione, with Irrigon and Heppner showing the most support.

Meetings in Heppner will be held at the Bartholomew Building, while Irrigon meetings will take place at the Morrow County Government Center. Regular meetings of the board of commissioners begin at 9 a.m.

Ione moves forward with city security cameras

Ione joined other Morrow County communities this month in purchasing security cameras to help cut down on crime and vandalism.

At its regular April 18 meeting, the Ione City Council approved the purchase of eight Verkada Bullet cameras that have the ability to recognize faces and license plates. The council allotted \$19,875 to the project at the March meeting, and Ione Community Agri-Business Organization (ICABO) is funding the remainder of the project through a \$15,000 grant. The city will be contracting with Verkada for the system.

Brian Points of Points Consulting, Morrow County Planner Tamra Mabbott, and Dawn Hert of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) also joined the April meeting by Zoom for a presentation of the Goal 9 economic development plan for Ione.

Points discussed the project timeline, the tax lots in Ione that have a potential for commercial and industrial development, the possibility of extending the urban growth boundaries, the moderate employment forecast for Ione and other county-wide statistics.

Resident Marvin Padberg and former mayor Linda LaRue commented

that there is not enough room to expand industries and that the city should focus on becoming a livable bedroom community.

Also at the meeting, the council approved an amended engineering contract with Anderson Perry & Associates (AP.) The amendment was for the inclusion of the Build America Buy America (BABA) clause as required by the BABA Act.

Currently, the city is waiting for several Right to Entry documents that need to be returned to Ione City Hall before AP begins surveying properties for the wastewater project. The Land Use Compatibility Statement for the drain field that will be located on Johnson Grade Road has been submitted to the Morrow County Planning Department by Dane Maben, engineer with AP.

Maben also will meet with Morrow County Public Works Director Eric Imes to determine placement of lines up Johnson Grade. The city staff have been tasked to complete a land line adjustment with Morrow County Grain Growers to accommodate the placement of a lift station.

The council also discussed monthly rate fees for residences, RV parks, businesses and restaurants. Padberg inquired if a dump station is part of the project.

The city does plan to place a dump station at the city park.

In other business, the Ione City Council:

- Tabled a noxious odor ordinance until the May 9 meeting. After a brief discussion, it was decided to combine the proposed ordinance with the chicken and dog ordinances and include other issues that need addressed. It will be presented as the Nuisance Ordinance.

- Learned that six shut off notices were placed throughout the city this month. The council approved development of a collection policy that would include a written agreement for accounts with outstanding balances.

- Approved the employment of a summer intern for the public works department.

- Set the budget committee meeting date for May 11. If needed, a second meeting will be held May 18. The meetings will be held at the American Legion Hall at 6 p.m.

- Unanimously approved the financials, minutes from the March 14 meeting and Code of Ethics Policy as written.

The next meeting of the Ione City Council will be held May 9 at 6 p.m. at Ione City Hall. The zoom link can be found on the calendar on the city's website, www.cityofioneoregon.gov.

Ambulance debate at county meeting

-Continued from PAGE ONE with MCHD threatening legal action against both Boardman Fire and the commissioners, and public comments last week were indicative of the high emotional tide the issue is causing throughout the county.

While not every comment addressed the ASA, most did, and the comments from the nine individuals who addressed the board were overwhelmingly pro-health district. Several appeared to question the board's motives in its recent decision, while others expressed fears over loss of ambulance services and possible layoffs.

"As a Morrow County resident, I feel it's my duty to make sure this plan is written in the best interests of providing excellent emergency care to Morrow County residents and that it's not written with hidden political or financial agendas," Jodi Ferguson told the commissioners.

Donna Sherman, chair of the EMS advisory committee for Morrow County, said the advisory committee had noticed a pattern of patient and safety concerns and liability concerns regarding calls to which the Boardman Fire ambulance responded.

"There has been a pattern of patient care interference, unauthorized continuation of care, disregard for patient safety and comfort, disregard for patient privacy while already in the care

of another medical professional," she said.

Other comments addressed the desire for more translation services at county meetings, the request to upload meeting videos to the county website and anger over recent tax abatements granted to Amazon for its Morrow County data centers.

The letter of support for Boardman Fire had been on the board's consent agenda for the meeting, but Morrow County Commissioner Jeff Wenholz asked that it be removed and considered separately because of a wording change requested by BFRD Chief Mike Hughes.

The letter as drafted stated simply, "The Morrow County Board of Commissioners supports Boardman Fire Rescue District in its quest to seek licensing for its agency and ambulances."

Hughes had requested the addition of the sentence,

"If Boardman Fire Rescue District is granted an Oregon ambulance service license, Morrow County shall ensure Boardman Fire Rescue District complies with Morrow County ambulance service plan."

"I don't think we've had an analysis to see the effects of adding that sentence," said Morrow County Counsel Justin Nelson. He added that previous discussion around the letter had been regarding Boardman Fire working with other counties and agencies, not within the Morrow County ASA.

"I think we should wait until we get more clarification from counsel," said Morrow County Commissioner Roy Drago, Jr.

The commissioners voted unanimously to table the letter of support until Blackmore had a chance to review the requested addition and determine its legal ramifications.

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