

Nyssa Gate City Journal

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Malheur County, Oregon, and Payette and Canyon Counties, Idaho:

One Year.....\$6.50
 Two Years.....\$12.00
 Elsewhere in the U.S.A.
 One Year.....\$ 7.50
 Two Years.....\$14.00



Our Hospital Needs Support

Can you imagine this community without a hospital?
 Can you imagine this community without a nursing home?
 Can you imagine this community without ambulance service?

Can you imagine this community without doctors, nurses, and skilled medical practitioners?

No, we can't imagine it, and it need not happen. And it won't happen if we go to the polls next Tuesday, January 11, and affirm our support of the one-year levy requested.

Malheur Memorial Hospital isn't just a little institution out on the edge of town, casually left to its own devices. Instead, it is a living organization daily contributing to the lives of 40 nursing home residents, and varying numbers of medical patients. Very few of us have not been touched by our association with this hospital in some way over the years.

All of the arguments have been presented, and there is no intention of trying to rehash them here. The facts are that the hospital needs a one-shot financial boost, and it is up to us to provide it. Only one time previously has the hospital board asked the patrons of the district to provide tax money, other than the small amount imposed each year within the six percent limitation.

Hospitals do not make money, nor should they. With few exceptions hospitals are financed by revenues from patients, plus either tax revenues or money from religious or charitable organizations. Rarely is any hospital so busy, and collections so good, that additional monies are not needed.

We are a taxing district. Each year we have supplemented hospital revenues with a small tax levy. Now the demands for building and equipment modernization, physician recruitment, and helping with the operating expenses requires some additional money.

It appears that additional doctors will be made available to this community. Passage of the budget will insure the necessary repairs and operating expenses. There appears no reason why an additional effort by all of us should not assure another good 25 years of successful operation of the hospital, with renewed life and vigor.

We can't sit idly by and see something that so many worked so hard to establish, and which has been supported by the patrons of this district for so many years, go by default. We are dealing with human life, ours and others, and we can't afford to gamble on the consequences.

The late Dr. J.J. Sarazin, pioneer doctor, said at the dedication ceremonies back in 1949, "We must remember that this is just the commencement, and our support must be continued in the future as it has been in the past. I feel sure from your past performance, there is no doubt about the future of the hospital."

There should be no doubt of the future, but only if we here today are as dedicated and interested as those who built the hospital over 25 years ago.

The Circuit Writer

Standing On A Snowy Sidewalk
 With A Shovel, Gloves And Three Blisters....

By Jim Monroe

Why is it.....
 that, which when sitting inside,
 was such pretty white fluff,
 becomes, upon shoveling,
 lead-weighted junk 'n stuff?

O tiny flakes!
 You tug my melancholy strands -
 making my heart and feet ache,
 while freezing my hands!
 You fickle flakes:
 frivolity of snowmobiling buffs -
 you always come calling
 when I've lost my ear muffs!

But, alas, Spring wouldn't be Spring,
 if you weren't around....
 Giving God's angel of moisture
 to our dehydrated ground!
 So, snow on! And, snow on! But, if you
 please,
 Try coming, this year, without your friend
 sneeze.....!

News From Big Bend

Mrs. Dyre Roberts and Mrs. Jim Carroll accompanied Mr. and Mrs. David

Krause to Boise Sunday morning taking Wayne and Rochelle Roberts to catch a plane for a flight home to London, England.

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Letters To The Editor

Editor, The Journal:

Malheur Memorial Hospital District has set an election for January 11, 1977, seeking voter approval of a levy of \$274,675 outside the 6% limitation. The money is needed by the hospital for current operating expenses, physician recruitment and to correct building and equipment deficiencies. The need for the funds is urgent; so much so that the voters of the District will really be deciding whether or not after 26 years, the Nyssa and Adrian communities will continue to be served by a hospital.

The Board of Directors and staff of Malheur Memorial Hospital have worked very hard to avoid this situation and they have taken far-sighted and aggressive action to recruit doctors and to improve the hospital's non-tax revenues. We believe that the hospital deserves the support of the District's patrons at this critical time, and that they will willingly give it; not just because of the past work they did and the sacrifices they made to build their hospital and to maintain it, but because they and their families know how necessary it is to have a hospital to serve our present and future health needs.

Sincerely yours,

Nyssa Chamber of Commerce
 Stephen B. Fonda
 President

Editor, The Journal:

Mr. James A. Mattes, Administrator, Malheur Memorial Hospital, District 1109 Park Avenue Nyssa, Oregon 97913

Dear Mr. Mattes:

It is a pleasure to inform you that your application for two physicians for the community of Nyssa, Oregon through the National Health Service Corps has been approved. Dr. Roger Rosenblatt of my staff has already initiated recruitment efforts and he, and his staff, will be in contact with you as the project develops.

We look forward to working with you and your community in improving the health services available to the people of Nyssa.

Sincerely yours,
 /s/ David W. Johnson, M.D.,
 Regional Health Administrator
 Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare,
 Region X
 Arcade Plaza Building
 1321 Second Avenue
 Seattle, Washington 98101

Editor, The Journal:

I am concerned that in all the discussion about voting "Yea" or "Nay" on the increased Malheur Memorial Hospital Budget, a very important consideration is not being brought to light. We hear the arguments about increases in taxes, danger of losing our Nursing Home and Emergency Room, income generated in the Nyssa area that might be lost, etc.... However, we are forgetting that there is an important moral issue at stake in our vote on January 11th! What is a human life worth?

While all of the arguments have major points of validity, the basic fact remains that we will be voting either yes or no on the issue of saving lives! The distances involved in reaching other area hospitals could be the major factors in life or death of a human being needing prompt attention. To allow this to be the major factor, in the hopes of guarding a piece of our pocketbooks is to place the value we hold for the dollar above the value we place on human life.

Christ said, "I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me..." What a terrible commentary upon our area if he had to say, "I was naked and sick and you sent me on my way."

I believe that Christian morality and Christian ethics must lead us to vote "Yes" on January 11. "Yes" to "feeding, and clothing and visiting"; "Yes" to our responsibility to care for human life; "Yes" to placing people-needs above our self-interests.

Sincerely,
 James P. Monroe, Pastor
 United Methodist Church,
 Nyssa, Oregon.

Editor, The Journal:

On January 11, 1977, an election will be held in the Malheur Memorial Hospital District which will indicate to the Board of Directors the future course the patrons of this District wish for them to take. I would like to give you a few reasons why the levy should pass.

I believe that each voter must decide for himself what this institution means to him, his family, and his friends. Some say they do not need a hospital in Nyssa because they go elsewhere for their medical care. If some such person is injured from an industrial or farm accident, or has a heart attack, or some similar grave medical situation, they would be only too glad to have a hospital, an ambulance service, and trained personnel ready to give them care.

The wonderful care that everyone has received at Malheur Memorial Hospital is the backbone of our institution. The Hospital, however, is in a present slump because we lack enough medical doctors in Nyssa to take care of the medical needs of this community. Only doctors admit patients to hospitals--no one else. Without doctors practicing in our community, the Hospital understandably has a difficult time.

With the program the Board of Directors has proposed, more doctors will be attracted to the community and the Hospital is ready to serve you for all of your hospital needs.

The staff of Malheur Memorial knows that it operates the best nursing home in the whole Treasure Valley area. Isn't it worth a lot to know that your friends, relatives, and even yourself, someday can have this excellent facility available.

This is only the third time since the Hospital District was organized, that the Board of Directors has gone to the voters for additional operating funds. They have managed the institution prudently and the administrator, James Mattes, is performing financial miracles to keep the institution open. But he cannot continue without your help.

So the question really for every voter in our District is whether or not you want Malheur Memorial Hospital to move ahead or to disappear. The choice is each of ours and I hope that every voter will weigh the consequences of his vote and if in doubt, decide in favor of the continuation of Malheur Memorial.

Very truly yours,
 Gene Stunz

Editor, The Journal:

I would like to respectfully propose that the taxpayers of the District Vote "no" on January 11 to the proposition that we submit to an additional one-time tax levy providing further funds for the Malheur Memorial Hospital. It is more than obvious that this facility has been an unsound investment for quite a while.

There is no guaranteed additional money will provide needed staffing and physicians. Nor is there any reason to believe, if a physician could be found, that he'd stay any great length of time. The physical inadequacy of the local facility, coupled with lack of opportunity in the area, offer no great inducement toward long-term residency for younger, new doctors; and who may also be inexperienced.

It would seem the taxpayers of this District would be demonstrating a really sound, financial judgment if they tried to work out an agreement with Ontario to upgrade that hospital rather than to continue pouring good money after bad into the Nyssa facility. One really good hospital serving the area would be far more advantageous to all of us than two, smaller, inadequate ones.

After all, Ontario is practically in our backyards! Doctors could be much more easily attracted to an improved Ontario medical center, and the two districts working together could provide us all with the long-needed availability of good medical care!

Sincerely yours,
 Mrs. O. M. Cook
 510 N. 4th St.,
 Nyssa, Oregon

Editor, The Journal:

Our Hospital Needs Help?
 Or do the taxpayers need relief and freedom? The taxpayers donated great sums of money to get this hospital started with assurance it would be self-supporting. It was not and the taxpayers have supported it to the tune of \$740,772.74 from 1959 through 1975 taxes. Now we are told again it will sustain itself with more doctors but it ran in the red with seven doctors supporting it in 1971 and 72. Let these facts speak for themselves and let's face this issue with common sense. Times have changed. All small factions have had to be concentrated into big ones to survive. Lets not pay the 83c plus the \$3.19 per \$1,000 valuation this year and more and more in the years to come.

Lets let Malheur County take over the hospital and bring our nursing home up to standard by using Federal Revenue sharing and increase its capacity as needed.

As reported in the local newspapers, Malheur County is down between \$7 and 8 million dollars in farm income. Can we continue to support a hospital that has cost the taxpayers \$17,809.89 in 1959 with a steady increase each year to \$69,024 in 1975? Delbert Garner Route 2, Box 404 Nyssa, Oregon

Editor, The Journal:

The primary concern of the Hospital Board is to give direction in cooperation with our Administrator and Medical Staff, work within Local, State, and Federal regulations, and keep cost in balance with our financial resources.

Our decline in revenue over the previous four years has resulted from a decline in business on the Hospital side. We have lost business for two primary reasons. First--there are not enough Physicians to go around--we are an Official "Disaster Area" in this respect and have lost 80% of our community's business to the North and the East. Second, new regulations imposed on the Medical Profession limit length of confinement and arbitrarily restrict admission by setting up "standards" that specify how sick you have to be before qualifying for Hospital admission. This, with the specter of malpractice suits have greatly curtailed Hospital admissions by Doctors throughout the industry.

Availability of Physicians for small towns and remote areas is a problem. Both income and the opportunity to practice specialties are limited. The solution to obtaining physicians is a comprehensive recruitment program, or to make application to the Government for new young Doctors that have obligated themselves to accept assigned service in return for educational aid. Our community does qualify, the application has been made and approved, however the Community must provide the clinic and initial operating funds--We have to prime the pump in either case.

Federal and State regulations are biting us on both ends. On one hand we must meet stringent controls and regulations imposed by law on Hospitals which greatly increase our fixed costs. Next, payment of bills by State and Federal funds (Medicare and Welfare) is limited to the lesser of provable cost or charges. Medicare payments are further discounted 15%, thus we do not make a profit on State or Federal business. The revenue to survive must come from private-pay patients and from taxation.

Our operating Revenue last year was approximately \$700,000 from patient charges and \$46,000 from Tax Money; a ratio of \$15.00 from charges to \$1.00 from Taxes. During my term on the Hospital Board we have survived by "biting the bullet" existing on a break even basis by deferring Capital Expenses and performing minimum maintenance. Now we have to ask you--the Tax District--for an additional \$275,000, this year only, for Building Maintenance. Improvements to meet regulations, and some form of Physician recruitment.



A MAJOR SNOWSTORM arrived Monday morning, finally giving skiers and snow-mobilers hopes, and making it rough on motorists. City crews took care of Main Street and major intersections, and soon had traffic moving in relative safety.

Snow Blankets Area

Students in area schools received an extra day of vacation as all school closed except the Payette School District due to adverse weather conditions. Schools in Nyssa, Adrian, Vale, Ontario, Weiser and Harper were closed. Schools reopened Tuesday as the storm that dumped approximately eight inches of snow stabilized and highway crews were able to clear the roads.

The long-awaited snowfall did, just as some oldtime weather observers said it would--all at once. The eight to nine inches began falling early Sunday bringing exclamations of glee from children and some equally audible groans from those old enough to shovel walks and driveways and drive vehicles. The agricultural sector has been wishing for snow along with operators of ski areas.

Area law officers including Oregon State police reported no major traffic accidents. However they were busy helping motorists who were stuck or stalled and there were some fender bender accidents. Forecast calls for partly cloudy weather with a chance of snow showers.

Apple Valley Items

By Frances Smalley

APPLE VALLEY - Mr. and Mrs. Lester Robinson Tereca and Donald of Connell, Washington were Wednesday and Thursday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Seward. Trena and Kayleen Fowler, cousins of the Robinson children were also overnight guests on Thursday at the Seward's.

Ronda, Betty and Larry Downs of Nampa; Kimberlee and Kent Pierce of Boise and Gary Seward enjoyed a skating party on Friday north of town and later had refreshments at the Dwight Seward home.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Scofe of Ashton, Idaho were Thursday evening visitors and Mr. and Mrs. John Hohhalter of Pocatello were Wednesday evening visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Trupp.

Mrs. Lavone Fox of Caldwell was a New Years eve dinner guest of Mrs. Helen Wilson.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rookstool and Mrs. Zora Edens attended the potluck Bubble Hop for Senior Citizens at the Eagles Hall in Nyssa on Thursday.

Sunday afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rookstool, Mrs. Pierce and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Rookstool and family enjoyed pizza at Ontario. Then came home for ice cream and birthday cake to celebrate anniversaries for Kim, Stacey and Ron Rookstool.

It is my conviction that we need to maintain Malheur Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home as a part of our Community Health Care. To do this we need Building repair, Capital Expenditures, and Physicians to capture business--a portion of that 80% now going elsewhere.

I urge every one to vote their personal convictions. We need your "Yes" vote, your confidence, and your business. Sincerely yours,
 Paul Kunkel
 Board Secretary

Church Directory

United Methodist Church News

The United Methodist Church and the Rev. Jim Monroe welcome you to all church activities.

Thursday, January 6 - General meeting of the United Women's Society, at the church, 2 p.m.

Sunday, January 9 - Prayer Service, 9 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service, "Christian Ministry and Pain," by Rev. Monroe. Study Second Corinthians 4:7-18.

Tuesday, January 11 - Be Sure To Vote For The Hospital Election.

Wednesday, January 12 - Open Forum at the church, 7 p.m.

Administrative Board, 8 p.m.

If interested in a mid-week study of "Death In A Christian Perspective" contact Jim.

OBITUARIES

Roy T. Carter

Services for Roy Truman Carter, 70, Nyssa, who died of natural causes Sunday, January 2, 1977 at home will be conducted at 2 p.m., Thursday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Nyssa Stake house, by Bishop Gary Thompson. Interment will follow in Nyssa Cemetery, under the direction of Lienkaemper Chapel, Nyssa.

He was born April 5, 1906, at Preston. He married Marjorie Briggs, April 5, 1941, at Preston. They moved to the Nyssa area in 1946 from Trenton, Utah. He worked for Amalgamated Sugar Company, retiring in 1971.

Surviving are his wife, Nyssa; three sons, Jack, Nyssa, Ralph of Coulee Dam, Washington and Roger, Ventura, California; a daughter, Mrs. Robert (Louise) Quick, Salem, Oregon; two brothers, four sisters, and two grandchildren.

Hospital Visitations

The Malheur Memorial Hospital visitation schedule for the month of January is as follows:

Faith Lutheran Church, Chaplain Rev. Walt Schmidt from December 27 to January 2, with nursing home service, Sunday, January 2.

The Conservative Baptist Church, Chaplain Rev. Don Beattie from January 3 to January 9 with nursing home service, Sunday, January 9.

The St. Bridget's Catholic Church, Chaplain Rev. Bob Simard from January 10 to January 16 with nursing home service Sunday, January 16.

Latin Assembly of God Church, Chaplain Rev. Alex Najar from January 17 to January 23 with nursing home service Sunday, January 23.

United Methodist Church, Chaplain Rev. Jim Monroe from January 24 to January 30 with nursing home service Sunday, January 30.

Meals on Wheels volunteer workers for the month of January will be women from the Faith Lutheran Church.

Nazarene Church News

Sunday, January 9, Morning Prayer at the Church, 7 a.m.

Christian Education Classes, 9:45 a.m.

Children's Church, 11 a.m. Morning Worship with message by Pastor Russell, 11 a.m.

Choir practice, 6:45 p.m. Evening Gospel Hour, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 11, Ladies Bible Study was postponed last week due to inclement weather so is again scheduled to meet with Linda Taylor, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 12, Bible Study at the Nursing Home, 4 p.m.

Midweek service for Caravan children, Teens, and Adult study, The Growing Congregation, 7:30 p.m. Church Board meeting following Prayer service.

"Divine forgiveness meets a deep human need."

Park Avenue Baptist Church

Sunday, January 9 day School for all ages, 10 a.m.

Worship Service in the sanctuary with message by Pastor Dale Mitchell, 11 a.m. Choir practice and Bible study, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 11 - Youth group, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 12 - Business meeting, 7 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NOTES

Thursday, January 6, Confirmation Instruction, 6:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study, 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 9, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service, 11 a.m. Parish Luther League Tubing Party, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, January 12, Nyssa Ministerial Association, 7:30 a.m. meeting at the Twilight Cafe.

Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 13, Confirmation Instruction, 6:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study, 8 p.m.

Thursday, January 6 - Oregon Trail Grange, "Questions on hospital Election" by Jim Mattes at the Oregon Trail Hall, 8 p.m. Public invited.

Friday, January 7 - Friendship Club, IOOF Hall, weather permitting, 2 p.m.

Saturday, January 8 - United Methodist Church rummage Sale, Church Basement 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, January 10 - Stardusters, Sadie Metcalfs, Adrian Blvd., weather permitting, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, January 11 - Yellow Rose Rebekah Lodge, IOOF Hall. Installation, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, January 12 - Nyssa Senior Citizens, Clubhouse on Bower Avenue, potluck 10:30 a.m.

Job's Daughters Bethel No. 33, Masonic Hall, weather permitting, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 13 - OKK Club to meet at home of L. Vandewall at 2 p.m. Roll call will be election of officers.

