

Cousins show excellence on the basketball court

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Two cousins are quickly gaining attention for their skills on the basketball court.

Shoni Schimmel, a freshman at Hermiston High School, was named to the first team of the Class 5A All-State Girl's Basketball Team.

Schimmel is the daughter of Cece Moses and Rick Schimmel. Her grandfather is Bobby Eagleheart.

Schimmel has a history of impressing the crowds with her basketball skills—she's currently playing on the varsity team, and she is only the second freshman to ever do so at Hermiston High School.

Coach Mike Royer told The Hermiston Herald, "Shoni is one of the top freshmen in the state and without a doubt one of the most talented ever at Hermiston High School."

Briana Stacona, a junior at Madras High School, received an honorable mention for the Class 5A All-State Girl's Basketball Team.

Walking down the hallway at Madras High School, the 5'4" Stacona might not seem like the



Briana Stacona

typical idea of a basketball player.

But as a point guard for the girls' basketball team last winter, Stacona stood out in a team that wasn't necessarily successful during the season.

The daughter of Andy Stacona and Blanca Ball, she maintains a 3.13 cumulative grade point average at Madras High School.

At Jefferson County Middle School, however, Stacona maintained a 4.0 grade point average all the way through—something she credits to taking harder classes now.

Not to mention Stacona's heavy involvement in other

sports: during the fall she plays soccer, and currently Stacona is competing with the track team.

In fact, she won every event she competed in during the April 4 track meet.

Still, balancing her natural athletic ability with home life and schoolwork can't be easy.

"I guess I just got used to it," Stacona explained.

Her ability on the basketball court is something that Stacona developed at a young age.

"I've always been around it since I was little," Stacona said.

From fifth grade until eighth grade, Stacona even played in tournaments with an all-boys team.

Lana Leonard, liaison at Madras High School, said Stacona has athletic ability in much more than just soccer, basketball and track.

"I watched her grow up playing. She even plays softball. She can throw the ball from centerfield home," Leonard said.

In Leonard's opinion, Stacona may be small in stature, but that doesn't mean anything when it comes to her ability on the basketball court.

"She's 5'4" and probably plays like a 5'10" girl," Leonard

explained.

Receiving the honorable mention for the all-state team came as a surprise, Stacona said.

She added, "I actually didn't hear about it until afterward."

But Stacona isn't the type to offer self-praise.

She said she expects the honor stems from her ability to focus on what's going on in the game.

"I guess I can just see the court pretty good," she said humbly.

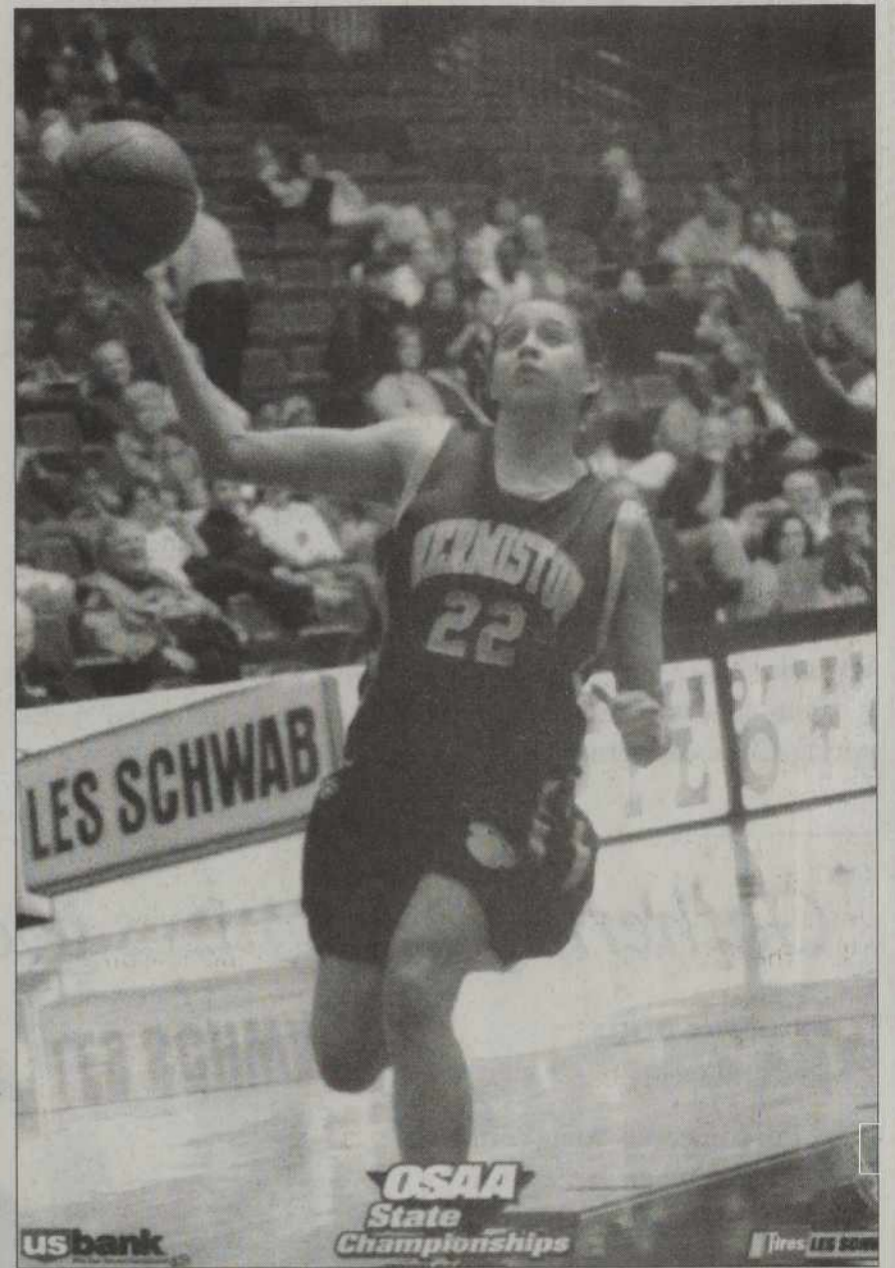
Plus, Stacona said, "I try to get my teammates involved as much as I can."

Up next for Stacona is her senior year at Madras High School—after that, she plans to pursue higher education.

Stacona isn't sure what she wants to study yet, but she does plan on using her athletic skills in college.

According to Leonard, Stacona offers more than just athletic ability.

"She's a great girl," Leonard said. "She's a very good role model."



Schoni Schimmel of Hermiston.

\$10,000 grant helps museum's Celilo exhibit

The Museum at Warm Springs received a \$10,000 grant from Portland General Electric to support the "Remembering Celilo Falls" traveling exhibit.

The exhibit provides insight to the Native American traditions on the Columbia River before The Dalles Dam was

built. The grant to the museum was one of 45 that the PGE Foundation recently announced.

The PGE Foundation is committed to helping communities across Oregon grow and thrive by investing in nonprofit organizations.

The Foundation funds programs in three categories: strengthening and delivering quality education, promoting healthy families and individuals, and helping to make arts and culture accessible to all Oregonians, especially children.

Kah-Nee-Ta offering scholarship opportunity

Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino is accepting applications for the 2007 male and female scholarship award.

This opportunity is for Warm Springs tribal members choosing to further their education at an accredited secondary learning institute as

a full time or part time student. Applications will be available at the Warm Springs Education Building and Kah-Nee-Ta's human resources office, and must be received by the deadline of July 16.

Of those applicants meeting the deadline, one female and one male will be selected to receive

a \$1,000 scholarship and a laptop computer. Mail the scholarship application packet to: Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino Attn: Donation Committee. P.O. Box 1240, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Come see us at Jefferson County Fairgrounds,
Home and Garden Show April 13-15
We're baking cookies

**Dining Room Sets
10% Off**

Serving
Central
Oregon
since 1974



Ralph's Furniture & T.V.

525 S.E. 5th Street
Madras, OR 97741

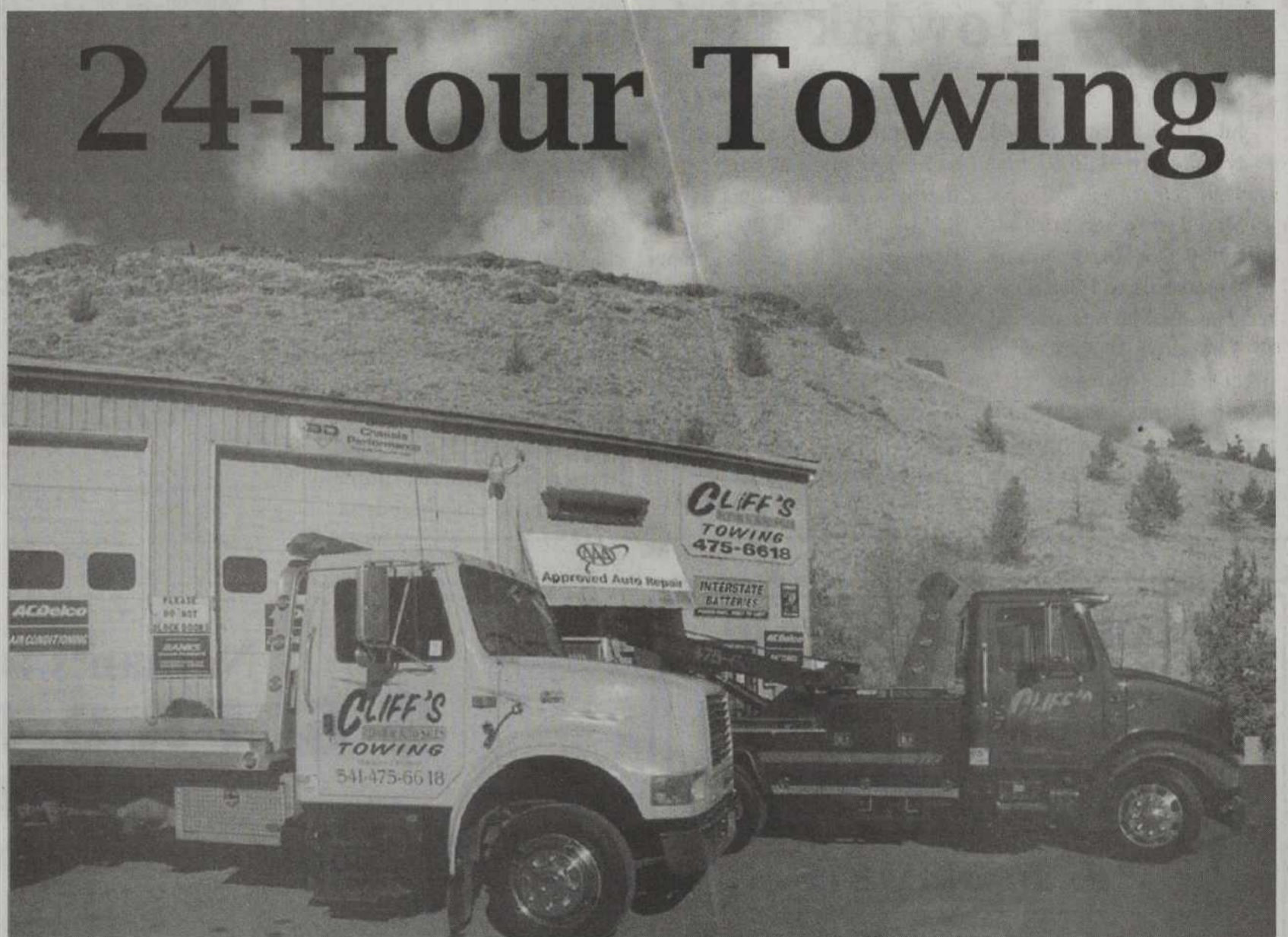
(541) 475-2578

Cliff's Repair & Auto Sales

Free towing w/engine or trans replacement from Warm Springs & Madras area



Approved Auto Repair



24-Hour Towing



475-6618

330 S.W. Culver Hwy.
Madras, OR 97741

Free Battery Check & Installation with purchase