

GU musicians perform in honor concert

Students share new knowledge with ensembles

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

HERMISTON – Seven Grant Union music students were selected for the Honor Band and Honor Choir concert held Nov. 9 at Hermiston High School.

Grant Union music director Mary Ann Vidourek chose seven students to attend, including choir students Devon Vargas, Nikki Jones, Tiana Allen and Avery Lenz, and band students Chloe Bentz (flute), Sam Bentz (tenor saxophone) and Samantha Floyd (trombone).



Grant Union band students Samantha Floyd, Chloe Bentz and Sam Bentz, enjoying their time at the honor band event.

professor of music education at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash.,

directed the honor band, and South Salem High School choir director William McLean directed the honor choir.

Among the selections presented by the students were “Prairie Dances” and “Declaration Overture” by the band,



Grant Union choir members Nikki Jones, Tiana Allen, Avery Hughes and Devon Vargas take in the honor choir event in Hermiston.

and “Prayer” and “Unclouded Day” by the choir.

“All learned something to help them be better musicians,” Vidourek said.

The students also brought

what they learned to share with the other students in their ensembles at Grant Union, she added.

Vargas said it was a positive experience.

“We had an amazing director and got to perform songs that had a lot of meaning,” she said. “I made new friends, and I learned new techniques to help me sing better.”

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TOWN

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Porter, who is also the town's fire chief, has lived in Long Creek since 1984. He has owned and operated his own business, Blue Mountain Herbs, for 16 years. He and his wife, Denise, who teaches at Long Creek School, have been married since 1992.

The town is home to the Long Creek Historical Society, an active group dedicated to preserving and promoting the long and colorful history of the area, including the neighboring communities of Monument, Fox and Hamilton.

The society recently erected Fort Townsend, a relocated Army fort that was established in Long Creek during the Indian Wars of 1878, and is striving to build



The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler

The wide open spaces of Long Creek are perfect for panoramic sunsets and sunrises.

a museum and interpretive center there, to house historical photographs and artifacts of that region.

The North Fork John Day Watershed Council is also based in Long Creek. The natural resource management nonprofit strives to increase awareness of landscape and ecosystem issues through youth education op-

portunities and community service projects.

Long Creek School serves about 35 students in grades preschool through grade 12. In recent years, the school has boosted its enrollment by opening its doors to foreign high-schoolers. The visiting youth live with local families and spend a school year learning about Ameri-

can life – Long Creek-style.

Social Security Pond, about 4 miles west of town on State Route 402, offers a tranquil respite for fishing, reading, picnicking and more. For those seeking “in town” outdoor recreation, City Park has plenty to offer – a basketball court, horseshoe pits, playground and picnic area.

Porter enjoys living in Long Creek and his position as mayor.

“The thing I like best about being the mayor is being able to help people with their needs and to be able to help the community prosper,” he said.

Current councilors are David Hines, president; Alvin Hunt, Denise Porter and Joe Gibson.

The city recorder is Marsie Watson, who is also school board chair.

City Hall, which has an adjoining community center, is located at 250 Hardisty St.

City council meetings are at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of the month.

Call the City of Long Creek at 541-421-3601.

For more information, visit www.cityoflongcreek.com/.

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