

Junior High band entertains downtown



Band teacher Bob Isted leads the Heppner Junior High students through some Christmas music on Main Street last Thursday in preparation for their upcoming Christmas concert to be held this Thursday, December 20 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Junior High School gym. The public is invited to attend.

The Heppner

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Loren Unruh hired as district conservationist

Loren Unruh has been hired as the new district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service office in Heppner. He replaces Sharon Schneider, who resigned in August.

Unruh, 30, comes to Heppner from Republic, Washington, where he was also district conservationist. As district conservationist Unruh will assist the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District in planning and implementing the 1985 and 1990 farm bills.

Unruh attended Washington State University at Pullman and graduated



Loren Unruh

with a degree in range management in February 1984. While attending school he worked with the Soil Conservation Service as a cooperative education student and as a volunteer. Following graduation Unruh was employed at Ritzville, Wash., and then at Davenport, Wash., before moving to Republic.

Unruh and his wife, Kathryn, have three daughters, Emily, six, Meaghan, five and Anna, seven months. The Unruhs are currently living in an apartment, but are in the process of looking for a home in the Heppner area.

Include whole family in Christmas

How often have you heard people say, "Christmas is for children?" Although we sincerely intend this occasion to be for our children, quite often we exclude them from the preparations for the event. As adults, we become so involved in the hustle and bustle, that we don't realize how easily children get lost in the excitement.

Quite unintentionally, we ignore or exclude children from many Christmas activities. We have a tendency, when trimming the tree, to think that expensive baubles should be kept away from clumsy little fingers. Children are only allowed to watch, not participate in the gift wrapping, so as not to break any

precious items. Card writing is done by parents, as children might leave fingerprints all over the expensive greeting cards. Do we involve children with the Christmas baking, shopping, or other holiday festivities? Less polish and more participation may be in order.

The best part of Christmas is preparing for the event, not just the gift opening. There are a number of things you can do together to share in the fun and joy of Christmas. As a family you could:

Make paper chains or string popcorn and cranberries for the tree.

Make your own gift wrap. Brown paper and potato prints are easy for children to handle. Make special Christmas cards for grandparents

from pictures, cutouts, ribbons, and other trims.

Bake Christmas cookies. A plain sugar cookie dough is quick and simple to work with. Children love to make colorful trees, stars, etc., with candied sugar sprinkles.

Create simple decorations for the house. Spray paint pine cones for a basket or make a styrofoam tree as a centerpiece.

Have an afternoon Christmas party and invite the neighbors.

Whatever the activity, make an effort to include the whole family. Start some new traditions. Remember, it's the simple, fun activities that children appreciate and cherish the most.

Ione students win reading contest



Ione third and fifth graders were regional winners

Photo by Pam Minster

The Ione third and fifth graders were regional winners in the "Reading Fitness" segment of the Blazer/AVIA Scholastic Improvement Concepts (BASIC) program. Each class received a plaque, special recognition certificates and bookmarks.

Winning classrooms were selected based on the average number of leisure reading hours logged per student.

Bonus hours were credited to students who made the effort to visit their community library or complete the special Oregonian reading project.

Each student competing in the contest spent an average of 13.4 hours reading. Top readers in the third grade were Elizabeth Allen, 35.75 hrs., Miranda McElligott, 29.5 hrs., Andrew Vosberg 21 hrs., Erin

Crowell 16.25 hrs., Cody Bellamy 13.75 hrs., Nikki Snow 13.5 hrs., and Nathan Nolan 13 hrs. The third graders read an average of 14.75 hours per student.

The top readers in the fifth grade were Nathan Reitmann, 63.75 hrs., Kara Miller 31.25 hrs., and Megan Proudfoot 25 hrs. The fifth graders read an average of 13 hours per student.

Ione plans music concerts

The Ione Middle School-High School concert will be held Wednesday, December 19, in the Ione High School cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. There will be traditional band and choir music as well as jazz, rock, and rap. The Elementary concert will be held Thursday, December 20, at 7 p.m.

in the High School cafeteria. Students will present a one-act music melodrama called "The Case of the Counterfeit Santa". Santa will also be there after the program. "The public is invited to attend," said Geneva Mathews, director of music.

Christmas music will be heard

Yes, Virginia, there really will be Christmas music on the streets of Heppner this year.

Mike Mills, attorney with Kuhn and Spicer Attorneys in Heppner has contacted BMI, the company that threatened Gardner's Men's Wear with enforcement of BMI's copyright agreement. Mills said that BMI verbally agreed not to attempt enforcement of the agreement when music is played outside during events such as the rodeo, St. Patrick's Day and Christmas.

Gardner's Men's Wear owner Roe Gardner had been forced to disconnect his speaker system, which usually broadcasts Christmas music throughout the downtown area for the enjoyment of Christmas shoppers and passers-by.

Gardner received two letters from BMI Licensing threatening him with a lawsuit if he continued to broadcast music in his store-unless he signed an agreement with them for payment of royalties.

According to Gardner, BMI had signed with various composers, so that any time music is played in a commercial setting, such as a store or mall, they receive royalties.

Gardner said that BMI set up several payment categories, depending on business square footage: up to 1,500 feet, \$60 a year; up to 2,500 feet, \$120 yearly; up to 5,000 feet, \$240; and over 5,000 feet \$480. Each business level, such as a department store with more than one floor level, is assessed separately, at \$60 a floor after the first floor.

Heppner TV seeks input on scheduling

A request has come before the Heppner T.V. board for Blazer Cable or games played but not shown on the national networks. The Blazer channel is being offered to basic subscribers in Hermiston, Pendleton and The Dalles, said a Heppner TV spokesperson.

The TV board said they would like to know how much interest there would be to put the remaining games for this year on the system. Interest shown would decide whether it would be feasible to sign a five-year contract with Blazer Cable, they said. The channel requires all cable companies to sign a five year contract at a fee each month for service. Heppner TV is also financially responsible, cost wise, for all the equipment to receive the games, including the satellite dish antenna.

If you are interested and willing to pay for an additional channel fee, please call the TV office at 676-9663 or stop by the office to sign a request.

Workshops to help say no to drugs



Photo by Pam Minster

Jeri McElligott (l), prepares children for drug free years

If you have young children, ask yourself: "Are they really equipped to say no to drugs?"

Research indicates that it's no longer a matter of "if" your child will be exposed to drug use. It's a matter of "when."

The best protection your child has against drugs is you. "My Parents" is the number one reason children give to explain why they refuse drug offers.

Join with other Morrow County families in the "Preparing for the Drug (free) Years" program. This special program for parents and their children-under age 13-is comprised of a series of five workshops. The workshops equip families with practical knowledge and skills that actually help prevent their children from using drugs.

The program begins Sunday, January 6, 1991 at 4 p.m. The series will take place at the Ione High School Library. The program is free

to parents, but there is a \$10 charge for workshop materials.

Enrollment is limited, but there is room for a few more families. To enroll your family, contact Carol Bennett, Morrow County Extension Agent at the Pettyjohn Office Building, 430 Heppner Lexington Highway, Heppner 676-9642.

G-T Holiday Schedule

The Gazette-Times will close at noon Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and will be closed Christmas Day.

Deadline will be Friday, Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. The Gazette-Times will be published on Thursday, Dec. 27.

The Gazette-Times will have regular hours New Year's Eve, but will be closed New Year's Day. Deadline will be 5 p.m. on Dec. 31 for that week's paper. The paper will be published on Thursday, Jan. 3.

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