

City meets country in student swap



Heppner's seventh graders and Centennial's eighth graders learned how to plant trees on one of their many field trips during the week.

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Jason Halvorsen killed in accident

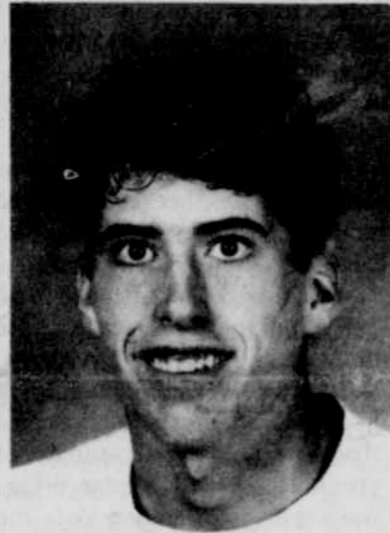
An Ione boy, Jason Halvorsen, 16, was killed following a head-on collision around 7:30 p.m. near Echo Sunday, April 24. Jason, the son of Frank and Cathy Halvorsen of Ione, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident.

Jeremy Ashbeck, 15, critically injured in the crash, was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston and then transferred to Oregon Health Sciences University. Ashbeck, Echo, who sustained head injuries in the crash, was listed in critical condition Monday morning. His condition was listed as serious Tuesday night. Jeremy, the son of Jerry and Norma Ashbeck of Echo, is a sophomore at Ione High School.

According to police reports, Halvorsen and Ashbeck were

passengers in a 1989 Chevrolet four-door driven by Bridger Baker, 18, of Ione. The vehicle was traveling westbound on Highway 320 when Baker attempted to pass another vehicle. The vehicle driven by Baker collided head-on with a 1989 Ford pickup driven by Noel G. "Gay" Harshman, 60, of Echo. Harshman and Baker were admitted to Good Shepherd Hospital for observation. Bridger was discharged Monday afternoon. Harshman was listed in stable condition at the hospital Tuesday.

Funeral services for Jason were scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, at the Ione High School gym. Ione parents, counselors and teachers, themselves grief-stricken, attempted to console grieving students Monday and Tuesday.



Jason Halvorsen

The city kids didn't seem to miss the malls, their stereos or Nintendos as much as they thought they would and most were happy as clams in their "total immersion" experience with country life.

For the past 14 years eighth-graders from the Centennial Middle School in the Portland area trade places with eighth-graders at Heppner Junior High School.

The Centennial students were, however, impressed with the distances rural kids must travel, as they spent many long hours on the bus, visiting farming and processing operations in north county and wheat and cattle operations in south county.

A generally cheerful lot, the Centennial students had really only one complaint—the school food. Not enough. "I miss my girlfriend, the phone and the food," said Chris Campanella, 15, of Centennial. Chris said that he didn't get enough to eat at school so had to stock up at the home of his host family, Cara and Frank Osmin. Chris said that he liked the animals and living on the farm. At home Chris lives with his mother, Lori, who is a dental assistant, his 16 year-old sister and 14 year-old brother.

"It's a lot of fun," said 14 year-old Megan Cassingham. "I've always liked farms. The

branding is the best. I liked to push the cows into the chute, except when they kicked me." Megan lives in Portland with her mother, Penny, who works at Portland Adventist, and her 11 year-old sister. Megan stayed with the Bob and Pam Worden family.

Sho Ikeda, 14, said that he really liked the "freedom to go anywhere" without being afraid. "I don't miss anything," said Sho. "I wish I could stay another week." Sho's only complaint was that the prices were "a little high" at Heppner stores. Sho lives in Portland with his father, Ike, his mother, Elizabete, and his 11 and six year-old brothers. His Heppner hosts were Steve and Kathi Dickenson.

Jaime Prouty, 14, did admit to missing her dad, Tony, but was enthusiastic about her experience riding horses with the Wrangler riding club. Jaime said that she had ridden only once or twice before. Although she hated the long bus drives, Jaime says she will miss her host family, Tim and Kathy Rankin and hopes to return to the area on a hunting trip this fall. Jaime lives in Portland with her dad and mom, Chris and her 17 year old brother.

Nicole Lanning, 15, said that she liked going on the field trips

and to the Merlin Hughes ranch during her stay in the Heppner area. Nicole, who is handicapped, said that it was a little harder to get around in Heppner, especially at the Heppner Middle School, which has three levels. The Centennial school is all on one level. While getting around was harder, Nicole says that school work is easier here. "I kind of want to go back to our school," said Nicole, "but I kind of don't." Nicole stayed with the Joyce Hughes family. Back at home she lives with her father, Matt, who works with US West, and her three step-brothers, 17, 7 and 5 years old.

Terry Nunn, 14, Gresham, said that he had the best time at the home of his host family, Butch and Mary Knowles. He also enjoyed the trip out to the Hughes ranch. Terry missed the sports at home, commenting that it was "pretty easy" playing basketball with the Heppner kids. He said it was hard getting used to the school, compared to Centennial which has around 855 students. Terry lives with his mother, Linda, who is a city bus driver for Tri-met, brothers, 27, 26 and 21 and sister, 19. Terry says that he will miss a certain girl, "Holly", when he goes back to the city.

Candidates visit Heppner



Joan Silver

Candidates for Oregon's 59th congressional district, vacated after one term by Michael Payne, were in Heppner Tuesday, campaigning for votes.

From Kimberly came Joan Silver, a Democrat, who says the state is not in as bad a financial state as some people may think.

A former corporate accountant who, along with her son, is now doing some ranching (including ostriches), Silver says she doesn't think we're on the verge of financial catastrophe because of measure 5.

She is not in favor of the sales tax or a general business tax, but thinks we need "somewhat more revenue". She thinks government should work more efficiently and says there is room to cut some "sacred-cows" in Salem.

Living on the ranch with her son, Silver says there needs to be more dialogue with people from the western part of the state to have them better understand how we, on the eastern side, use natural resources.



Lynn Lundquist

On the Republican ticket, Lynn Lundquist, a Powell Butte rancher, says he has the experience dealing with Salem to get things done if elected.

A former two-term president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Lundquist says he has dealt with the legislature on behalf of the OCA enough to have some experience on how the legislature operates. He says he will bring that experience to bear when building coalitions with the west-side legislators.

On the budget side, Lundquist says Oregon has financial problems, but he doesn't think Oregonians want any new taxes. "We need to prioritize spending, and I think education should be at the top of the list," he says. The average citizen doesn't understand the magnitude of the funding problems we face, says Lundquist. "There will need to be serious cuts in the human resources sector. I believe I have the business background to make those hard decisions."

Job placement office opens

A career center and job placement office is now open two days per week at the Forest Service office building in Heppner.

Local people can file for unemployment or check job listings throughout the state at the newly-opened office, according to Marlyn Stolz, manager of the

Hermiston Employment Dept. office.

The office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tues. through Thurs., and is "open to any interested persons."

Depending on the situation at the mill, the office will be open until June 30, said Stolz.

Heppner TV receives rate increase

Heppner TV Inc. has received recently substantial rate increases from two of its most significant signal providers, Western Telecommunications Inc and ESPN.

The Heppner TV board of directors say the company cannot absorb these increases at the present subscriber rates. "Due to the economic status of the town, the company cannot predict the number of subscribers in the future," said a Heppner TV spokesperson. The matter will be the main item for discussion at the cooperative's annual meeting in June. Alternatives are rate increases or reduction in programming.

"It is important for members to understand that Heppner TV pays for the signals for each channel as well as for receiving and retransmission equipment," said the spokesperson.

A 260 percent increase has been passed on by Western Telecommunications Inc., which has provided micro-wave service into Heppner since 1965. WTCI transmits four Portland television stations: KATU-Channel 2, KOIN, Channel 6; KGW-Channel 8 and KPTV-Channel

12. The last rate increase was in 1985 to \$385 per month. The new rate is \$1,000 per month. WTCI provides all necessary receiving equipment at the Heppner T.V. Inc. headend.

The cooperative has still not signed the new ESPN contract and has until May 17 to do so. Upon receipt of the contract, the board learned the NFL pre-season and regular season games had become a required component of the agreement. This results in a substantial rate increase, 52.5 percent increase for 1994 and within the next three years, an 85 percent increase. ESPN is Heppner TV's most expensive satellite channel, excluding HBO and the Disney Channel.

Mill to re-open soon

About 85 percent of the hourly jobs at the former Kinzua sawmill will remain when the mill re-opens next month, mill general manager Frank Pearson said Tuesday.

The mill will be taking applications for hourly positions on Friday, April 29 and Monday, May 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. He said the majority of the management staff has already been rehired.

Pearson says Pioneer Resources, new owners of the mill, hope to have a tentative start up of a portion of the mill on May 9, with the balance starting up May 16. The mill's co-gen plant will not re-open under mutual agreement between Pioneer and Portland General Electric. However, the boiler side will still be running to create steam to dry lumber. The turbine side will stay

down, Pearson says. Pearson says the log supply at the mill is also of concern with about one and one half months supply of logs still in the yard. But he said the mill has log volume "lined up to deliver to the mill as soon as feasible for continuing operation."

The company still owns 130 thousand acres of timberland with good volume still left on those lands, he said. "It may be more difficult (to operate without the previous amount of timber Kinzua had), but its not insurmountable," Pearson said. He says he has met with the new owners and they are receptive to ideas. Two of them have mill operating experience.

The company now has a new phone number 676-9000.

District math contest May 4

The annual Morrow County School District math contest will be held May 4 at Columbia Junior High School at 6:30 p.m.

The public is welcome to

observe the district contest. Sharon Leinweber is in charge of arrangements at CJH. Refreshments will be served following the competition.



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