

## Students get involved in community



Heppner Middle School fifth graders (L-R), Rhonda Wilhelm, Teresa Victorio, Krystal Baker, Meghan Bailey, Claire Anderson and Kristin Nesse, help teacher, Bill Ewing, put the finishing touches on the baseball field.

Heppner Middle School teachers Bill Ewing and Pam Dowdy wanted to find a way to encourage their fifth grade students to get involved in their community.

The teachers discovered a project which would increase the kids' sense of community pride and "pay back" the com-

munity. The fifth graders, their teachers and parents got involved in refurbishing the bleachers at the baseball field near the dam, which is soon to be dedicated to George Waterland, local coach and sports enthusiast who recently passed away.

The teachers, students and parents formed work crews on

April 11, 17, 19 and 20 to remove the bleachers, sand, paint and reattach them. In addition to the entire fifth grade, helpers included parents, Karla Waterland, Julee Schmeltzer, Tammy and Mark Rietmann, Nancy Kurts, Debbie Miller, Charlie Anderson, Dan Van Liew and Ken Bailey.

## Students learn about life in Russia



L-R: Nina Nikolaevna, Stanislav Vladimirovich Silinsky and HHS teacher Linda Dutcher

Forget the Cold War. It's ancient history. Let's get down to the nitty gritty. So what's life in Russia really like?

Heppner High School juniors and seniors learned about real life in Russia through two Russian visitors to the school, Professor Nina Nikolaevna Kazakova and Professor Stanislav Vladimirovich Silinsky. The professors, currently Fulbright research scholars at the University of Oregon, came to Heppner through a program on the Cold War through the Oregon International Council. Heppner High School language arts teacher Linda Dutcher was selected to participate in the program and earlier attended a workshop on the Cold War. Kazakova and Silinsky were accompanied by Robert Willner, retired U.S. Foreign Service officer and executive director of the council.

Heppner students and teachers compiled a list of questions to ask during a question answer period at the school.

Kazakova started out by saying, "I think Russians are as friendly as you are and as helpful as you are." She spoke on the Russian education system, which, she says, has a stricter curriculum and fewer electives. She noted that our small school children don't seem to be as noisy and nervous as Russian school children. But, she added, that seems to reverse itself by high school when U.S. students seem noisier.

Kazakova remarked on the advantages of learning foreign languages and learning about a country "from the inside out". "I can read about things, but it's not the same," she said. She said that since she came to the U.S. last fall she has missed her son back home most of all, but can communicate with him by E-mail.

Kazakova said that previously Russia didn't have inflation, unemployment and a lot of crime, but now it has changed in much the same ways as the U.S. "Now that we're having these problems, it makes us (Russians and Americans) closer," she said. "I had a happy childhood," said Kazakova. "I could walk late at night. Now I worry when my son is out between 7-8 p.m."

Kazakova said that bread is cheaper in Russia, and cars, priced around 2 to 3 million rubles, cost about the same. One striking difference is the salaries between the two coun-

tries. Kazakova said that she earns around 250,000 rubles a month, which, at an exchange rate of 4,500 rubles to one American dollar, amounts to around \$55. "I cannot afford a car. Not everyone can afford them," she said. She said that many people do drive, however, and the majority drive Russian cars, because the Russian roads are "not as fancy" as ours and there is difficulty in getting parts and repairs for foreign cars.

Kazakova said that she enjoys being in the U.S. and since her arrival has learned to use an ATM machine and was able to travel to Washington, D.C., where she visited the White House and the Pentagon.

Silinsky commented that although the salaries in Russian seem extremely low to us, they live quite comfortably. He said that the public transportation system is good and that some of the subways are quite beautiful and ornate with glass, marble and crystal chandeliers and have become tourist attractions.

Silinsky said that the people's attitude toward former leader Josef Stalin varied greatly. Some, whose families suffered during Stalin's time in power, say he brought rigid authoritarianism and a reign of terror, causing the suffering and death of around 20 million people. But others, who benefitted during that time say that Stalin brought the country to victory over Nazi Germany and created a sense of nationalism, prosperity and stability.

Silinsky said that education in Russia is free, including college. However, he added, there are some commercial colleges being started with tuition around \$2,000 for two terms, much less expensive than at a four-year U.S. college.

Leisure activities in Russia are much the same, he says, including watching TV, walking around the city, going to museums, skating, fishing, hockey, soccer, volleyball, basketball and swimming. However, he said that the palaces are beautiful and many people like to visit them. Russians do not have American football or golf. Not too many people go out to eat, because it is very expensive, he said. Most of what we call restaurants in U.S. would be cafes in Russia, with the term restaurant reserved for fancy places with music and dancing.

While computers are cheaper than in the U.S., Silinsky says

not as many people have them and schools have few.

Silinsky says that since his arrival in the U.S. he watches a lot of American TV and movies to learn spoken language and slang, since he is a professor of linguistics. The music here, however, is much the same as in Russia, where the American top 20 are broadcast. In Russia, most of the English teachers are British or have been educated by British teachers, so consequently they speak British English, not American.

Food in Russia is much the same as here, he says, perhaps a little different. He said before he came to the U.S. he had never eaten raw mushrooms. "At first (when he was served raw mushrooms) I thought I'd die, but now I like them."

Silinsky said that racial problems are not so much an issue as ethnic problems in Russia. Their attitude toward lesbians and homosexuals is different, he said. "It is considered to be a private matter and not discussed so widely. It is your business and keep it to yourself."

Some things apparently do not have international boundaries. While men help out at home, he said, "it is normally the women who do the cooking and cleaning."

Willner also said that the Russian people are "very real, very likeable, like you'd find most everywhere." He said that the workforce is becoming more global and that learning language is increasingly important in today's world and stressed that it is important to the U.S. that other countries grow and succeed. Otherwise, he feels, there will be a flood of people wanting to come to the states. He added, however, that people around the world are still looking to the U.S. for leadership.

## Garden club plans plant exchange

A plant exchange is being hosted by the Heppner Garden Club on Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Senior Center.

The public is encouraged to bring plant starts and exchange them for ones that they may not have. There is no charge, and everyone is invited to participate. Refreshments will be served.

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**Prescription Medicines Now Approved Faster**

According to FAX-STAT on Drugs, a weekly publication of Facts and Comparisons, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in its own internal review, is giving itself high marks for its rate of new drug approvals for 1994. According to the report, the FDA has substantially increased the speed of new drug approvals. For example, the average time for approving 62 new drugs in 1994 was 19 months. This is about 20 percent less time than it took for drugs receiving approval in 1993. The FDA indicates that the new user-fee program required of manufacturers is the major reason for the reduction in time it now takes for new prescription medicines to be approved. Examples of new approvals in 1994 include:

Metformin (Glucophage): For non-insulin dependent diabetics who cannot be managed on diet alone.

Cysteamine (Cystagon): For children with a rare kidney disease.

Abciximab (ReoPro): For use in heart angioplasty procedures.

Salmeterol (Serevent): A long acting inhaler medicine for asthma.

Tacrolimus (Prograf): To prevent rejection after liver transplants.

Fluticasone (Flonase): A once-a-day nasal spray for rhinitis.

## Baptism planned at Valby

Julianne Elise Carlson, the daughter of Clint and Sarah Carlson, will be baptized on Sunday, May 7, at 9 a.m., at the Valby Lutheran Church. Sponsors for Julianne are Cheri Frey, Janet Knepfhoff, Dan Richardson and Pam Worden. At the service of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, Pastor Stan Hoobing will preach on the theme of "What's The Good News, Paul?" based on reading of Acts 13:15-33.

An adult Bible study on the Gospel of St. Luke will be held at 8:15 a.m. prior to the worship service. A home Bible

study will be held on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m., at the home of Don and Martha Peterson.

A service of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 7, at 11 a.m. at Hope Lutheran Church in Heppner. A children's message will be entitled, "Listen to His Voice," based on reading of John 10:22-30. Pastor Hoobing will deliver the morning sermon.

Adventures in Faith, a Friday school ministry of Hope Lutheran and All Saints Episcopal churches will be held this Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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