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High school rodeo team members to go to nationals



Lexi Matteson (left), Annie Hisler, Justin Matteson, Angela Munkers and Tiffany Munkers

Five area high school rodeo club members have qualified for the National High School Rodeo Finals to be held in Pueblo, Colorado in July.

Justin and Lexi Matteson and Annie Hisler, all Heppner, and Angela and Tiffany Munkers, Lexington, each finished in the top four in their event at the 1996 Oregon State High School Rodeo Finals held in Prineville June 12-16.

"The state gives away 16 saddles," said Justin Matteson, "and Heppner High School won four of them. Each state champion is awarded a saddle."

Besides the Mattesons, the Munkers and Hisler, Katie McCoin from Condon and Mandi Duby, Pendleton, will also go to nationals.

The Intermountain girls' team, consisting of Lexi Matteson, Hisler and Duby, won the State Championship Girls Team title. The Columbia Basin girls' team, consisting of Tiffany and Angela Munkers and McCoin, won the Reserve State Championship Girls Team title.

Angela Munkers won the State Champion Rookie of the Year title. She also finished fourth in barrel racing and eighth in girls' cutting.

Justin Matteson was the state champion in both team roping and steer wrestling and took sixth in calf roping. Lexi Matteson was the state champion barrel racer and finished seventh in pole bending. Tiffany Munkers was the state champion in goat tying.

Annie Hisler was second in barrel racing and pole bending.

Duby was third in goat tying and fourth in girls' cutting and McCoin was fourth in pole bending, fifth in breakaway roping and sixth in barrel racing.

Other area winners include Ty Wilkins, Condon, eighth in

bull riding; Seth Hopper, Hermiston, fifth in calf roping, seventh in steer wrestling; Nate Filbin, Dufur, state champion in bareback riding; and Tyson Shoemaker, The Dalles, fifth in bareback riding.

The top 20 contestants in the

Two arrested in snack shack theft

Jason Bathurst, 25, and a 16 year old juvenile, both Heppner, were arrested June 11 in connection with the burglary of the Willow Creek Little League snack shack at George Waterland Memorial Field in Heppner, according to Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun.

Three churches plan Bible school

All Saints Episcopal Church, Heppner United Methodist Church and Hope Lutheran Church announce a joint vacation Bible school to be held the week of July 22-26.

Children will meet from 9 a.m.-12 noon each day for singing, arts and crafts, snacks and Bible lessons. Themes are "Friends in Jesus" and "Awesome Adventures with Jesus."

Classes for students in first through sixth grades will be offered. A fee of \$4 per child or \$10 for a family of three or more

Master Gardeners to offer workshop

The Blue Mountain Master Gardeners will sponsor a tree workshop for local homeowners on Wednesday, June 26 at 7 p.m. at the Morrow County Extension office in Heppner.

The program, presented by Joe Carl of the Oregon Department of Forestry, will focus on

state of Oregon in each event qualified for the state finals.

Justin Matteson won the State Finals Rodeo Average in steer wrestling; Lexi Matteson, in barrel racing; Annie Hisler, in cutting; Tiffany Munkers, in goat tying; and Seth Hopper in boys' cutting and calf roping.

Rathbun said that Bathurst and the juvenile were arrested on charges of burglary II, theft II and criminal trespass II.

Around \$600 in candy and cash were stolen from the snack shack.

Rathbun said that Bathurst had been transported to jail.

will be asked for participation in this program to provide enough materials and supplies. If this is a hardship, scholarship aid will be available, said the Reverend Stan Hoobing.

Pre-registration forms are available at each church and people are encouraged to register by July 1 so materials can be ordered. "Please register early," said the Reverend Hoobing.

For more information, call All Saints Episcopal, 676-9970, Heppner United Methodist, 676-9224, or Hope Lutheran, 676-9940.

"Planting and Caring of Trees for Homeowners." Carl will discuss proper tree care, tree pruning and how to save trees.

The public is welcome to attend. There is no charge for admission. Those planning to attend should call the Extension office, 676-9642 or 1-800-342-3664.

Til Tullis, Oregon's youngest ham operator, receives award



Til Tullis

When he was first licensed to operate an amateur two-way radio at age 10, Til Tullis of Lone became the youngest Emergency Service Radio operator in the state. One year later, Tullis has received a certificate of appreciation from the director of Oregon Emergency Management.

"The state gave Til this award for his performance in the Emergency Operations Center. We conducted a Umatilla Army Depot disaster exercise this May," says Morrow County Emergency Management director Casey Beard. "Tullis was the liaison between ham radio operators and the staff at our Emergency Operations Center. He performed well under pressure and we know we can rely on him in an emergency to do the same."

At age 11, Tullis is still the youngest Emergency Service Radio operator and the youngest member of his ham radio group, the Umatilla/Morrow Emergency Service Radio Operators. The group's director, Gary Cooper, Hermiston, says, "Til is a motivator. Here he's 11 years old, ready to do



Til Tullis (left), receives certificate from Gary Cooper, director of Umatilla/Morrow Emergency Service Radio Operators

things, and he's kind of showing up the older members." Cooper says the average "ham" is 30-40 years old. Tullis is fully licensed to send voice and computer-generated messages on an amateur two-way radio.

These radio operators volunteer their time and talents to provide a communications link for local authorities during emergencies, says Beard. The phone lines could be quickly

overwhelmed in an emergency and the hams are expected to handle voice and data messages. "We're grateful for the life-saving service Til and the other operators provide and for their ongoing commitment to improving emergency preparedness in the area," says Beard.

Cooper says that anyone interested in becoming an amateur radio operator should call him in Hermiston at 567-3387.

Group seeks to restore music program

The music program in Heppner and Lone Schools seems to be dwindling away, but some community members are doing their best to reverse this trend.

The group, headed by Anne Murray of Heppner, brought signatures of over 255 people in support of a vital music program in south Morrow County to the Morrow County school board meeting held at Boardman June 10. Murray says that she has collected another 114 signatures since the board meeting.

Murray said that her group would like to see the school district restore three music teacher positions in south Morrow County, but were told that the numbers of students enrolling in music in Heppner and Lone don't justify that many teachers.

If the district is unable to employ three music teachers, Murray says that the parents would like to see at least one additional half time teacher.

"The north end has a very active music program," says Murray. "We just want to bring it back to Heppner."

As it stands now, one full-time music teacher travels back and forth between Lone and Heppner daily.

This past year, the music specialist spent the first period of the day at Heppner High School teaching music lab for grades seven through 12,

which included "both vocal and instrumental, which ranged from guitar, piano to anything," said music teacher Geneva Mathews, Heppner.

After music lab at HHS, Mathews went across town to Heppner Elementary, where she taught kindergarten through fourth grade vocal music one a hour a day (the children received one half hour of instruction twice a week) and combined fifth and sixth grade band. This past year HES fifth and sixth graders received vocal music instruction from classroom teacher Jannie Allen.

In the afternoon Mathews traveled to Lone where she taught combined third and fourth grade vocal music, along with instruction in recorders (a musical instrument), for one half hour a day; combined fifth and sixth grade vocal and band for 45 minutes a day; and then music lab for grades seven through 12 for one period a day. Music for kindergarten through second grade at Lone is with classroom teachers.

Mathews told the Gazette that she has given her verbal resignation to the district so that she could "find other employment and relocate." "I hope some positive changes come out of this," she added.

Mathews started out as a substitute teacher, but has taught full-time for 11 years. She taught music solely in Lone

for eight years. But, when Heppner instrumental music teacher Bob Isted resigned three years ago, the district, faced with serious budget issues (because of Ballot Measure 5 and reductions in state school funding), decided to eliminate that position. Mathews then began teaching both in Lone and Heppner. A vocal music teaching position at Heppner Elementary has since been eliminated and vocal music teacher Kitty Bredemeier transferred to a north end music position, leaving only one full-time equivalent position for south end schools. Mathews took leave the last part of the 1995-96 school year. Jean Brazell has acted as substitute music teacher.

Morrow County School District superintendent Chuck Starr says that the district plans to continue to have a licensed music teacher for Heppner and Lone schools. "We are encouraging it," he said, but added that the school board has said that the extent of the program depends on enrollment. Starr said the district plans to advertise for a music teacher. He confirmed that Mathews "is in the process of submitting her resignation".

An after-school instrumental music program, not affiliated with the schools, has been organized by Heppner musician Sharla Erich.

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