

Saying hello... and goodbye

Students will say hello to three new faces and say goodbye, at least temporarily, to one at south Morrow County schools.

Three teachers, Ron Neighorn, Heather Hacking and Ralph Werner, have been employed by the district and one teacher, Vicky Broden, will be out on maternity leave.



Ron Neighorn

Ron Neighorn, 24, has been hired in a temporary contract to teach music and Spanish at Heppner and lone schools for the balance of the school year. Neighorn grew up in Estacada, graduating from high school there. He attended Clackamas Community College and graduated from Central Washington University at Ellensburg, WA, with a degree in music education, both instrumental and vocal. He recently completed student teaching at White Swan, WA.

Neighorn's father, John, is employed with Bi-Mart and his mother, Itoko, who came to the U.S. from Japan as a young woman, works for a gun accessory company. His twin brother, Richard, who just got out of the Navy, is attending Mt Hood Community College, and another brother, Jimmy, is an engineer. Neighorn's sister, Laura Nelson, who works in retail, is expecting a baby soon.

Neighorn will teach third and fourth grade music, fifth and sixth grade band and seventh-12th grade choir in lone in the afternoon; an exploratory music class and two Spanish classes in Heppner in the morning.

"The community has been really supportive, as are the students and staff," said Neighorn. "I'm looking forward to living in Heppner."

Neighorn says that he loves country music and hopes to get together with other people in the community to play once he gets settled.



Heather Hacking

Heather Hacking, 22, has also been hired in a temporary contract to teach music and Spanish at Heppner schools for the rest of the school year. She will teach two Spanish three classes, a Spanish one and two mixed class at Heppner High School (HHS),

seventh-grade choir, high school choir, and fifth and sixth-grade choir. In addition, she has an extra duty contract as cheerleader advisor at HHS.

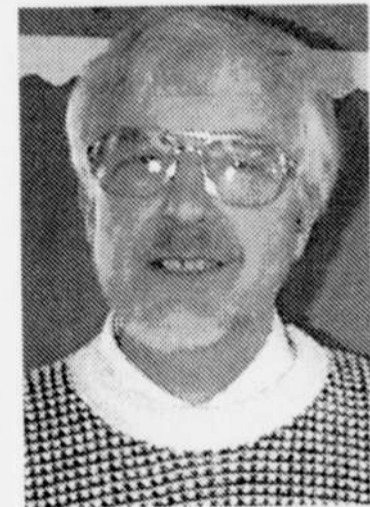
Hacking was born and raised in Twin Falls, Idaho, graduating from Twin Falls High School. She graduated from Linfield College with a bachelor of arts degree in music education in June and completed her student teaching at McMinnville and Newby Elementary. She has lived in Oregon for about four and a half years.

Hacking's father, Bill, owns a

machine shop in Twin Falls and her mother, Sandy, who works part time for the state of Idaho, recently got her real estate license. She has a brother, Chad, 15.

Hacking enjoys playing piano and had been a piano performance major before she was diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome, which causes pain and numbness in the wrists and hands. She also likes dancing, having performed modern dance, ballet, tap, jazz and character dancing (which could be described as theatrical dancing) since she was very young. She will put some of her expertise in jazz dancing to work as HHS cheerleader advisor. "It's been fun," said Hacking of the HHS cheerleaders "It's a good squad. They've been working really hard."

Hacking says she enjoys Heppner and is looking forward to meeting people in the community.



themselves."

In addition to teaching at Heppner, he also teaches band at Hermiston Junior Academy and has private students.

Growing up near Glacier Park, Werner loves the mountains and especially enjoys fishing. He says he plans to spend some time fishing at Willow Creek Lake. Newlyweds, Werner and his wife, Sandy, have been married about a year and a half. She is self employed as a Mary Kay director and drives a pink Grand Prix. Werner sometimes assists her with her business.



Vicky Broden

Vicky Broden, 36, Pendleton, Spanish teacher at HHS/HHS, is on maternity leave and is expecting the birth of a daughter, to be named Gabriela Christine (for both the baby's Ecuadorian and Norwegian ancestry).

Broden was born and graduated from high school in Quito, Ecuador. She attended school at the American School in Quito, which was bilingual, non-religious and one of the few coed schools at the time. Her parents had lived all over the world, in the U.S., South America and Africa, and the family spoke English as well as Spanish at home. "I'm hoping I can teach Spanish to my child," says Broden. Her parents now live in Venezuela, where her father, Juan Quevedo, is a general manager for Texaco and her mother, Monica, is a psychologist who has established her own practice.

Upon graduation from high school, Broden earned a full ride scholarship to the University of Idaho, which was the third top school in forestry in the U.S. She received a bachelor of science degree in forest resources and also met her husband Bob there. She worked two years in forestry, but jobs at that time were scarce and she decided to go back to school.

Bob, who was from Montana, got a job in Bozeman and she enrolled at Montana State University there. She earned bachelor's degrees in social studies and Spanish and became certified to teach both subjects. She taught at Bozeman Junior High for four years before he got a job at Lewiston, Idaho. After they moved to Lewiston, she taught school at Moscow Junior High. As a part of her husband's job working for a tree nursery, he traveled to Heppner to sell trees to Kinzua Corporation. Kinzua offered him a job and, fortunately, the summer the Brodens moved to Heppner, there was an opening for a part time social studies teacher at Heppner Junior High. She began teaching Spanish at HHS when the school needed an elective and then moved to the high school building when the seventh and eighth grades were relocated there. She now teaches Spanish in grades seven-12 and Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) prep for seventh graders. "I feel very comfortable and confident in what I'm doing (in education)," said Broden. "I have a very clear vision of what I want to do." Broden goes beyond the call of duty, keeping her room open so kids have a place to go during their lunch break.

Bob is now natural resource manager for Kinzua Resources for both Pilot Rock and Heppner and the couple recently moved to Pendleton. "I miss Heppner continued next page

HEPPNER



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Wheat seminar planned in lone

The 1997 OSU Columbia Basin Wheat Seminar will be held on Wednesday, January 22, at the lone Grange from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some of the topics included are: small grain nitrogen management; diseases in dryland areas; Karnal Bunt; and a chance to meet the new OSU staff members.

The \$15 charge for the seminar includes lunch. There will be four pesticide credits available for recertification. Preregistration is required.

For more information call the Morrow County Extension Service, 541-6769642 or 1-800-342-3664.

Regional strategies meeting planned

A board meeting of the North Central Oregon Regional Strategies will be held on Thursday, Jan. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Grover Hall (senior center) in Fossil.

State representative Chuck Norris honored



Representative Chuck Norris receives an award from the Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D for his outstanding leadership in the legislature. From L - R: Betty Lou Norris, Representative Chuck Norris and Ray French, RC&D council chairman.

Photo by Gina Kerzman, Natural Resources Conservation Service

State representative Chuck Norris was recently honored by the Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) for outstanding leadership while serving in the Oregon Legislature. Norris and his wife, Betty Lou, were the guests of honor at a steak dinner during the RC&D quarterly meeting on December 17 in Heppner. Ray French, chairman of the RC&D council, presented Norris with a motivational portrait of a soaring bald eagle. The words "Leaders are like eagles. They don't flock. You find them one at a time," appear at the bottom of the frame.

An extension of the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, the RC&D helps people care for and protect natural resources while improving the area's economy, environment and living standards. A diverse group of 13 local volunteers serve on the RC&D council that covers

Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler and Grant counties, with the main office in Pendleton.

Among other projects, the RC&D has been instrumental in installing dry hydrants to protect rural communities. As a result, fire insurance costs are reduced. The RC&D has also facilitated the use of canola as an alternative crop for farmers. Canola provides an alternative to the standard fallow/wheat/fallow rotation by replacing one fallow rotation. Instead of exposing the cropland to water and soil erosion by leaving it uncovered, farmers are using the canola to protect the cropland and improving water quality by reducing the amount of sedimentation in the waterways. It also provides an economic return to the farmer.

Norris attended RC&D council meetings and sat on committees, giving input on the needs of the communities that he represented. Norris was instrumental in creating legislation for state recog-

nition of watershed councils. Due to the legislation, the Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District was able to initiate the formation of the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council. The RC&D facilitated the formation of the council, and supports them in implementing projects to restore and protect the Umatilla Basin Watershed. "Chuck has gone beyond the call of duty to help with water resource needs. You see him everywhere," says Karl Niederwerfer, RC&D coordinator. "He has been willing to attend meetings and functions in order to keep himself informed and help with the needs of the communities."

In addition to many other commitments, Norris is an associate director of the Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District. Norris is retiring from the legislature after 10 years of service. He did not seek reelection and has been succeeded by Bob Jensen of Pendleton.

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