

## Big city kids take to country life



Morrow County Livestock Growers serve up a barbecue lunch to Centennial Middle School students.

The faces were just as fresh this year and the excitement just as high as Heppner Junior High eighth graders traded places with the Centennial Middle School eighth graders for the 17th year in a row from April 26 to May 3.

After a week full of activities, including tours of a wheat ranch, Kinzua, the Morrow County Museum, the Heppner Ranger District and North Morrow County, in addition to classes at Heppner High School, the Centennial students and their hosts ended their week with a hamburger barbecue put on by the Morrow County Livestock Association and a program on rodeo.

The kids watched rodeo videos; Butch Knowles spoke about rodeo and explained events; and Bob Mahoney spoke about the High School Rodeo Association. After the program, the students went outside for a demonstration by local high school rodeo club members and some hands-on activities. Sherree Mahoney answered questions from the kids and Mike Mahoney assisted in the arena. High school rodeo club members who helped out included

Annie Hisler, Lexi Matteson, Tiffanie and Angela Munkers, Emmett Evans, Brian Knowles and Katie McCain. Lacey Matteson also helped out with the demonstration.

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What do the Centennial students think about it all? Following are some of their observations.

Josh Weissert, 13, Boring, who stayed with the Doug and Carley Drake family, says, "It's a lot of fun. We rode four-wheelers and a go cart. I can't do it at home because it will tear up the ground." Josh, who says he likes the out-of-doors, says that he got to go up in a plane, flown by his host father, Doug. He says that he likes seeing familiar faces in Heppner. "At our school, you don't know half of the people. You can't leave anything out," says Josh.

Rhiannon Boettcher, 14, Portland, says that her experience has been "really fun". "Middle school here is more like high school at home. Our middle school has a system of three teams, but at high school you go to different classes." She says that she likes not having a lot of people around, but adds that it "takes so long to get everywhere." Rhiannon stayed with the Charlie and Marsha Anderson family.

Joe Cioeta, 13, Gresham, says that he enjoys the rural environment. "I like how there isn't so much pollution," says Joe. "It's nice because it's open and free and there are animals. I really like animals." Another positive aspect, says Joe, is that "Everyone's so darn nice out here. There is no crime whatsoever." The worst part, he adds, is the driving. "You have to drive a million miles to go shopping." He said that during his week in Morrow County, he became really close to his host family, Tim and Shannon Rust and their children.

Amber Holcombe, 14, Portland, said that she rode a horse for the first time at the Wrangler playday, her favorite activity during her stay. Her least favorite activity was the long bus rides to various activities around the county. Besides horseback riding, she went bowling and four-wheeling with her host family, Don and Judy Barber and children.

Jasmine Jones, 14, also went horseback riding and four-wheeling with her host family, Kay and Mike Proctor and children. She says that she liked the smaller school at Heppner. "The Heppner school



Emmett Evans (right) of Heppner High School shows Josh Weissert of Centennial Middle School how to tie a calf.

is a lot more personal because classes are smaller and block periods are longer," says Jasmine. "At Centennial they try to do that, but teachers have 200 kids they try to teach every day. It's better here." She says she also likes the familiarity that a small town has. "It's like a really big family community in Heppner," says Jasmine. "Not everyone gets along, but they respect each other. I don't even know my neighbor diagonal from me at home." Like many of the other urban kids,



(L-R): Jessica Westberg, Ms. Strange, Aaron Griffith, Carl Miller and Stefanie Hanson. Not pictured is Matt Young.

The Heppner Elementary School fifth and sixth-grade art class made the

Neighborhood Center a little more visible and definitely more decorative.

The class, with teacher Jean Strange, decorated a post at the center, which is located on Main Street in Heppner. The students started before St. Patrick's Day and, because of typical spring weather, were able to finish up last week. The post now has a western and St. Patrick's Day theme.

Students participating in the project include Jessica Westberg, Matt Young, Aaron Griffith, Stefanie Hanson and Carl Miller.

### Piano students compete

Four local piano students were among 36 students who participated in adjudications in Hermiston on April 18. The adjudications were sponsored by the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

Amy Jepsen performed 10 pieces and received a superior rating. She was declared a national winner and received a gold pin. Amy is the daughter of Bill and Nancy Jepsen of Heppner. She is taught by Sharon Jones of Hermiston.

Darren Van Cleave performed three pieces and received a superior rating with honors. Matthew and Nathan Van Cleave each performed three pieces and received superior minus ratings. All three boys were declared local winners and received bronze pins. They are the sons of Tim and Myrna Van Cleave of Heppner, and are taught by their mother.

The National Guild of Piano Teachers sponsors adjudications in 843 centers throughout the United States. Each student who successfully completes an adjudication is entitled to a one-year membership in the National Fraternity of Student Musicians.

### WCPD meeting date changed

The Wednesday, May 7, 1997 meeting of the Willow Creek

Park District has been changed to Tuesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. at the Heppner City Hall.

### Sullivan named as Girls State delegate



Jenny Sullivan

Jenny Sullivan, 17, Ione has been selected as a delegate to Oregon Girls State by the Ione American Legion Auxiliary Unit #95.

Jenny, the daughter of Brian and Lorie Sullivan of Ione, is a junior at Ione High School. She is a member of Honor Society, Drama Club, the Ione Youth Group and International Club. She plays volleyball and tennis and is the junior class vice-president. She was active in 4-H and was the sophomore class vice-president.

Girls State will be held June 15-21 at Linfield College at McMinnville. During her experience at Girls State, Jenny will participate, along with other girls sent by American Legion Auxiliary units, in a mock government. Each girl is assigned to a "county" and then the "counties" are organized into cities. The girls then name their cities and elect city officials—a mayor, council members and a city recorder. Then county elections begin and the girls elect county commissioners, a county clerk, a sheriff, district attorney, county recorder, district judge, environmental engineer, board of education member, labor commissioner, three party delegates, three alternate party delegates and two justice candidates.

After city and county elections are held, state elections begin, with a governor, secretary of state, attorney general, labor commissioner, superintendent of public instruction, six senators and 12 representatives.

Two candidates are then elected to represent their county for Girls Nation, the federal continuation of Girls State.

In addition to learning about government, girls also participate in athletics, have a barbecue, party conventions, a campaign rally and whistle stops for the two governor and secretary of state candidates.

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Performing at: St. Patrick's Senior Center, Heppner, OR  
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*This performance is free to the public*

This event is funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District

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