

Ione graduates seniors



The 1997 Ione High School graduating class

The motto, "Our greatest glory consists not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall", set the tone for the 1997 Ione High School commencement exercises on Friday, May 30, in the school gym.

LaRee Anderson delivered the valedictory address and Luke Swanson, the salutatory address. Long time teacher and coach, Del LaRue, who will retire this year, was guest speaker. Espiridion "Pete" Cantu lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Ione High School Principal Dick Allen, Morrow County School Superintendent Chuck Starr and school board member John Rietmann assisted in ceremony. The senior class gave a special slide show presentation.

Graduating seniors include: Steve Allen, LaRee Anderson, Joe Bacon, Dawn Boor, Kemmerly Burrignt, Espiridion Cantu, Jory Crowell, Camie Crum, Patrick Eberhard, Corey Ehrmantraut, Jon Garrett, Stephanie Haguewood, Suzanna Heideman, Brenda Holtz, Kelly Morgan, Ryan Nevala, Chuck Nolan, William Parm, Mindy Qualls, Randolph Scott, Dawn Sheirbon, Luke Swanson, Jacob

Taylor and Erick Walters.

Scholarships and special awards were presented by various organizations to the following students:

Steve Allen: Carl Troedson Scholarship, \$800; Ione Youth Group, \$150; Jason Halvorsen Memorial Scholarship, \$500.

LaRee Anderson: Elks Scholarship, \$200; Morrow County Education Association, \$150; Carl Troedson Scholarship, \$800; Ione Lions Club, \$100; Soroptimist International Club, \$400.

Kemmerly Burrignt: Pat Gillette Memorial Scholarship, \$250.

Jory Crowell: 4-H Leadership Council, \$300; American Legion Post #95.

Suzy Heideman: Carl Troedson Scholarship, \$800; Senior Athlete of the Year.

Brenda Holtz: Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) tuition waiver one year; Jason Halvorsen Memorial Scholarship, \$500.

Kelly Morgan: Ken Snider Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Ione Cardinal Club, \$300; Ione Youth Group, \$150; Jason Halvorsen Memorial

Scholarship, \$500; Carl Troedson Scholarship, \$800; Ione Lions Club, \$100; Ione Volunteer Fire Department, \$400; Mike Mathews Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.

Will Parm: Agri Comp Scholarship, \$500.

Mindy Qualls: Earl and Hazel Wilson Scholarship, \$250; BMCC tuition waiver one year.

Dawn Sheirbon: BMCC tuition waiver one year; Carl Troedson Scholarship, \$800; Ken Snider Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Jason Halvorsen Memorial Scholarship, \$500.

Luke Swanson: Oregon Laurels Scholarship, \$10,000; 4-H Leadership Council \$300; Cargill, Inc., \$200; George Martin-COSA Scholarship, \$1,000; Carl Troedson Scholarship, \$800; Ione Lions Club, \$100; Ken Snider Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Ione Youth Group, \$150; Jason Halvorsen Memorial Scholarship, \$500; Senior Athlete of the Year; Laurel Scholarship, \$10,000; Farm Credit Service Scholarship, \$100 (Pendleton).

HEPPNER



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LaRue to retire from teaching

Not too many coaches can honestly say, "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game."

Ione High School's long-time teacher and coach Del LaRue can get away with it--and mean it, whether it's the game of basketball or the game of life.

LaRue, 59, who has announced his retirement from teaching and coaching at the end of this school year, says that his goal has been to make good citizens of his students and athletes.

"I've never considered myself to be a great teacher," said LaRue, who has been teaching in Ione 26 years. "I want kids to leave my classroom with the subject matter, all right, but I want to give my kids something so they're good citizens and can go out into the world. How they end up as individuals is more important than the facts. I want them to be able to make good decisions."

LaRue says that understanding kids has been crucial to his career. "I think it (liking kids) is important. If you don't like kids, you're in the wrong profession. I think that some people don't understand kids. You kind of have to get into their minds."

LaRue said that when he first came to Ione, he had planned to stay only for a short while and then move on to a bigger school. But, after living in the Ione community for a while, he found he was able to get to know his students and their families better. "That's the neat thing about Ione," he said. "That's probably the reason we stayed. I realized I didn't want to be in a bigger classroom."

"Bigger isn't always better," continued LaRue. "I know our kids go to college, get good jobs and are as successful as kids from bigger schools. That's important."

Teaching and coaching are inseparable to LaRue, but coaching is his real love. "I've said, if I ever quit coaching, I'd quit teaching. I enjoy putting changes together and getting immediate results. It's more rewarding. In the classroom, you don't get those immediate results."

Over the years at Ione, LaRue has coached basketball (his favorite) and track and was assistant football coach for several years. Through it all he says he has remained relatively unscathed by parents, critics and fans, which is probably an amazing feat in itself.

"The thing is to try to handle the kids and be as fair as you can," he said. "Some parents understand what's going on. In



Teacher Del LaRue goes over home work with freshman Brandi Brantley (left) and Liz Allen.

the 26 years I've been coaching here, I've had a few parents complain. But, it's been pretty good, I haven't had too many problems." He says that he suggests that parents who have complaints should come to practice. "You need to come to practice and you need to find out what's going on. Game time isn't the whole thing."

LaRue says that his ability to block everything out except the game has really helped him. "I go into the gym and concentrate on the game. I couldn't tell you if the other team had cheerleaders or not. It (yelling from the fans) doesn't bother me, because I don't hear it."

LaRue has had only three technicals to his credit throughout his career. "I had two one night, and the other one, I kind of begged for, because he (the ref) was doing such a bad job." The first two were at Fossil his first year of coaching at Ione--after leaving a teaching and coaching job at Fossil.

"It just depends on your philosophy," said LaRue. "I've always figured that if I got a technical and we ended up losing, then I considered it to be my fault. I've tried to convey to my kids that their conduct on the floor could influence the ball game."

LaRue is reluctant to go on about his successes, but he has coached his Ione teams to around

412 victories on the basketball court. "There have been so many high spots," he said. "I don't think I could single out one."

One thing he is especially proud of, in addition to his wins, is his contribution to the Oregon High School Basketball Association 1-A All State Game. Feeling that the 1-A students needed a 1-A game, LaRue went to the OHBA and asked what it would require. They told him that it would require a show of interest. So, he went back home, wrote to all the 1-A coaches and then returned to the OHBA. They pretty much told him, fine, now you can organize it. And so he did. LaRue has organized the East team for all of the five years the 1-A teams have participated.

LaRue says that after he retires, he and his wife, Linda, are not planning to go anywhere else and she will continue to work as chief operations officer at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner. "I'm going to take care of the yard and probably the house and I've got a 1960 Thunderbird convertible that I want to rebuild," he said. "I probably won't try to find something else to do until fall. It (retirement) probably won't set in until fall when school starts. Linda is concerned about what I'm going to do. I'm not the kind of person who can sit around."

Continued page 2

IUCC Auction Saturday in Ione

The 35th annual Ione United Church of Christ Auction and Barbecue will get underway this Saturday, June 7, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Willows Grange Hall in Ione.

The auction will feature a country store, opening at 10 a.m. with foods, crafts and other goodies; a silent auction beginning at 10:15 a.m.; and the auction beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Bids will open at 1 p.m. for the auction which includes furniture and antiques, tools, services and more. Auctioneers will be Frank and Gary Bettencourt, Triad Auctioneers.

The pit-barbecued beef dinner will be served starting at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children six-12 years and preschool children will be admitted free of charge.

Heppner holds graduation



Nicole Van Etta receives her diploma from School Board member Russ Morgan. Waiting to shake her hand is Morrow County School Superintendent Chuck Starr.

Thirty-four seniors received diplomas at the 1997 Heppner High School graduation held Saturday, May 31, in the gym.

Honor speakers were Brian Koffler, Toni Kemp and Traci Dickenson. Honored guests were their former teachers, Jannie Allen, Mark Dowdy and Dave Gunderson, teacher Walter Pilgrim, library tech Ginger Bowman and custodian Stub Lewis.

Principal Ron Anthony presented awards, Morrow County School Superintendent Chuck Starr affirmed the

graduation and Anthony and school board member Russ Morgan presented diplomas.

The following members of the junior class assisted in the ceremony: grand marshals-Josie Proctor and Travis Wilhelm; candlelighters-Lexi Matteson and Chris Anthony; programs-Jessica VanWinkle and Annie Hisler; ushers-Brian Burnside, Adam Doherty, Miles Hill, Tyson Palmateer, Josh Roy and Cam Sweeney; and gifts-Katie Nichols and Lindsey Ropp.

Graduating seniors include: John Blake, Matt Browning, Sarah Cimmiyotti, Josh Coiner,

Jennifer Cox, Traci Dickenson, David Gray, Brent Gunderson, Mandi Gutierrez, Stormy Howard, Chris Jones, Toni Kemp, Brian Koffler, Stacy Lauritsen, Brandi Marshall, Frank Martin, Amy Mathews, Justin Matteson, David Michael, Lori Moeller, Tiffanie Munkers, Jerid Ployhar, Lonnie Rill, Jim Schlaich, Eric Schonbachler, Robby Schultz, Phillip Tellechea, Nicole Van Etta, Rebecca Ward, Lindsey Waterland, Jeff Watkins, Damien Wilhelm, Jeff Wilson and Rick Worden.

Continued page 2



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