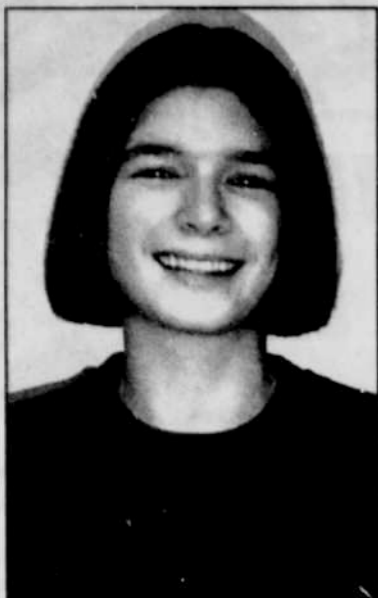


Swiss exchange student attends HHS



Maja Dietiker

When you live in Switzerland near the Alps, it would only make sense to have a ski vacation. Maja Dietiker, Swiss exchange student at Heppner High School, says that her school in Switzerland has a two-week ski holiday, much like Christmas break or spring vacation in the U.S. Dietiker adds that that's one of the things she will miss most about being away from home this year, of course besides her family and friends.

Dietiker, however, plans to take advantage of the HHS Outdoor Club ski trips this winter so she can snow board, a sport she loves. The 17-year old has snowboarded for the past four years and has skied since she was three years old. She adds that one of the P.E. classes offered in school is ice skating. Maja says that the students skate on a pond that is also used for ice hockey.

Another of Maja's passions is tennis. At home in Niederenz, a city of around 3,800 about 20 miles from Zurich (pop. 384,000), Maja plays tennis year round. While in Morrow County, she hopes to be able to join the tennis team at Lone High School. So far in Heppner, Maja has just finished volleyball season. She says that the rotations in American volleyball are different than in Switzerland, which was confusing at first. Sports in Switzerland outside P.E. classes are offered through community-sponsored clubs, rather than through the schools. Maja was a member of both a tennis and a volleyball club. Many of the Swiss boys play on soccer clubs, which is as popular as football is here. While students there play basketball in P.E., they don't have basketball clubs, she says.

Multilingual, Maja speaks Swiss-German at home, German at school and also has taken three years of English, five years of French and two years of Italian. Swiss speak German, French or Italian, depending on the area in which they live. English instruction is British English. Maja says when she speaks English now, she also thinks in English. "It would take too long to think in German and translate," she laughs.

Teens in Switzerland listen to music in English as well as German, but the music is a different style from music here. Maja says they definitely don't have country-western music. The musical tastes of Swiss teens tends more toward techno, which is computer-generated music, rap and also rock music.

Teenagers there, however, dress much like they do in the U.S. "We don't have such big malls, says Maja. "But we have a lot of stores in the city." The word Levi is universal, but young Swiss spend a little more for those jeans than we do here. Levis cost between \$60-\$70 in Switzerland, compared to around \$25-\$40 in Oregon.

Schools are quite a bit different between the two countries, says Maja. In Switzerland students attend nine years of mandatory school. For the first five years all

the students attend elementary school; then, depending on grades and testing, students attend one of three types of schools. Students who do not do as well in school attend "real" school or "sekundar" school where they prepare for the workplace. After completion of four years of this school, those students will go out into the workplace, at around 16 years of age.

Students who do better academically attend "Bezirks" school for four years. Then, depending on whether they pass an entrance exam, they may advance to four years of college and then, after college, two or more years at a university, depending on their goals. If a student wanted to become a teacher, for example, he or she would go to a teacher's school for two to three years after college, says Maja. If the student wanted to become a doctor, he or she would study at a university.

Maja says that school here is easier than back home. "We don't have multiple choice questions and we don't have true and false," she says. "We have essay questions." She adds that normally, students do not get a '6', which is equivalent to our 'A'. "It's almost impossible, except if you are really good," says Maja. She says that teachers in the U.S. are more open to their students and more interested in them. "At home we just have to sit in class and listen. Here we can talk."

While Swiss students go to school six days a week, the schedule varies from day to day. Mondays at her school students attend classes for nine hours, until 5:15; Tuesdays school is seven hours; Thursdays seven to eight hours; and Fridays around nine hours; but Wednesdays and Saturdays they attend only five hours and don't go to school in the afternoons. Breaks between classes are much longer, varying between five and 15 minutes.

In addition to the Swiss two-week ski holiday, they have five

weeks vacation in the summer, two weeks in the fall, one to two weeks at Christmas and two weeks in spring. Sometimes on vacations, the Dietiker family travels to Germany, Italy, France or Austria.

Maja says that the Swiss don't eat as much fast food as we do in the U.S. The Swiss have many varieties of cheese, typically a part of a meal. Lunch is the big meal of the day there and lunch break at school is about an hour and a half.

When Maja first arrived, she spent two weeks at a language and culture camp at Yale University with around 1,200 students from all over. Since her arrival she has vacationed with her host family, Bob and Marianne Kahl and their daughter, Abby, in the San Juan Islands, and has traveled to Portland and many other places with the HHS volleyball team.

Maja won't be able to go home until June, but her parents, 15-year-old sister, Karin, and aunt will come to Heppner then. She recently learned that her father and grandfather plan a weekend to Portland in December to visit her.

Maja's father, Richard, is a medical doctor; her mother, Heidi, was a teacher, but now works in tandem with the schools, as a sort of troubleshooter, a job position we don't have in the U.S.

While in the U.S., Maja hopes to be able to get her driver's permit, partially because of the expense in Switzerland. There teens cannot get their license until they are 18 years old and are required to take at least 13 hours in driving lessons with a driving instructor—at a rate of about \$50 an hour.

PSU lists two local summer graduates

Portland State University (PSU) has released the names of the PSU students graduating summer 1997. Local graduates include Gretchen Berretta, formerly of Heppner, who received a BS in child and family studies, and Maria Rodriguez, Irrigon, who received a BA in sociology and a

Chicano/Latino studies certificate.

Obituaries

William L. "Bill" Cox

Funeral services for William L. "Bill" Cox, Heppner, will be held at the Masonic Temple in Heppner Saturday, November 23, 1997, at 11 a.m. A reception in his honor at the Heppner Elks Club is planned for friends and family following the services.

Mr. Cox, 84, died at St. Vincent Hospital in Portland on Sunday, November 16, 1997 following a short illness.

Born on May 24, 1913, Mr. Cox resided his entire life in Heppner. His parents, William "Claude" Cox and Clara Hampton Cox were early residents of Heppner, arriving in 1905.

Mr. Cox was married on October 3, 1936, to Winifred Thomson, with whom he had grown up and attended Heppner schools. They raised five sons, who were also born in Heppner and graduated from Heppner High School.

Mr. Cox owned and managed Morrow County Creamery, which his father began in the early 1900s. The creamery marketed products under the "Pride of Oregon" label throughout Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties.

An avid hunter and fisherman, he spent much of his free time hunting birds, deer and elk, and fishing for salmon and steelhead.

After retirement from the creamery business, Mr. Cox drove school bus for several years and was very active in Heppner community activities. He was a member of the Heppner Masonic and Elks lodges, as well as being a volunteer fireman, member of the Chamber of Commerce and planning commission. Bill always seemed to be available to help his fellow citizens.

Mr. Cox is survived by his wife Winifred; sons David, Gayle, William, John and Todd; numerous grandchildren; and his sister, Nancy Holden of Battleground, WA. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Clair H. Cox and Charles M. Cox.

The family suggests that contributions be made in his name to the Heppner Meal Site, where he could be found contributing a great deal of his time during his last few years.

Next week's Chamber program: Chris Brown, CSEPP. Thought for the week: The surest path to happiness is losing yourself in a cause greater than yourself.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon

CARD OF THANKS

Again, thanks to doctors and staff at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and to all the caring people who have inquired about my broken ankle.

Eleanor Gonty
11-19-1c

Whew! We made it through another one.

First we would like to thank the very talented Merry Brannon and crew for yet another terrific Haunted House. We really appreciate all your hard work and countless hours you put in to make the Haunted House such a thrilling success. It just keeps getting better every year.

Our decorating crew really came through for us again; without the talents of Stacey Wainwright, Patti Allstott, Bobbette Lovgren, Tami Rietmann, Shelley Rietmann, Meghan Bailey, Kelly Boyer, Kathi Britt and George Nairns, we'd probably still be decorating.

Also, to Maryanne Anthony for making all the cute number creatures for the cakewalk booth; they were the best.

Doug Dubuque, thanks for making the trip to Hermiston to get the goldfish—this was the first year all 200 survived!

This was the first attempt at having a book fair at the carnival and it really worked out well. Rita and Hal Bergstrom, Robin Jones and Sandi Matthews, thank you so much for running the book fair—you did a great job.

We would also like to thank the SOAR kids from the 5-6th grades for selling the raffle tickets on the scarecrow. This is a great group of kids who really worked hard selling the tickets. They raised almost \$500 from ticket sales. You

Chamber Chatter

by Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

People call the Chamber office for many reasons, most often for lodging and information about visiting or relocating, but sometimes for unique reasons. This past year, these questions come to mind. "Do you know who has tractor, will travel?" "Where can I find a supply of pheasant feathers?" "I need two good horses to rent and if they don't know how to pack, I'll train them in two days..." "I sold a lady in Heppner two left English riding boots and don't know her name." And the best one of all... "Can you tell me what my address is?" Keeps life interesting in the office and so far all the callers have been satisfied.

We're hearing wonderful comments about the Main Street project. It's all coming together and beginning to feel more like home everyday. Don't forget to give some pats on the back to many of our local people, including our city manager and mayor. They've spent many days walking the streets.

It's great not to have to drive long distances to have fun. November 22 offers the Artifactory, Murray's Hallmark Open House and an evening of fine music.

Our local businesses have been busy meeting every Monday to make plans for an extra special Christmas event Thursday, December 4. Mark your calendars to be in Heppner from 2 p.m. on through the evening. Make the Christmas stroll up and down Main, enjoy open house at the businesses, see Santa, bring an ornament for the Chamber Christmas tree, do your holiday shopping, find out who the lucky winner is in the Chamber Vacation Give-Away, enjoy music and participate in the first ever Christmas Light Parade. It's Heppner's Happy Holidays.

Monday, December 8, the Northwestern Motel will be hosting the Chamber Business After Hours at 6 p.m. New and exciting changes have been made at the motel. We look forward to a tour, refreshments and a doorprize.

Next week's Chamber program: Chris Brown, CSEPP. Thought for the week: The surest path to happiness is losing yourself in a cause greater than yourself.

are an awesome group! Your teachers are pretty good themselves, we appreciated them taking on the huge task of running the concessions the entire night. Congratulations to Marsha Sweek. She was the winner of the scarecrow. The winning ticket was sold by Brian Smith.

Also thanks to all the very generous cooks who donated pies for concessions and all the great cakewalk items. We are very fortunate to have so many creative people.

Bringing Bingo back seemed to be a big hit and all the donated gift items were very generous. Thanks to all who donated these items. Be thinking about "white elephants" for next year! Good job Mrs. Osmin and Mrs. Dubuque.

We have another person we need to thank and that would be Herman Winters. Herman grew and donated the pumpkins and cornstalks for the carnival. We really appreciate all of Herman's help this year.

Once again, Green Feed and Seed donated the use of the straw bales. We really appreciate being able to "borrow" these from them—Mike and Kay are very generous.

Finally, we need to thank all the teachers, aides and staff at the school for putting up with us and interrupting with all our trips up and down and in and out. Having everyone at our disposal is such a huge help. Thanks for all your help and support. All the positive comments really help keep us going.

We both had a great time again this year and it was so fun to see all the great costumes and smiling faces from the kids and parents from Heppner, Lexington and Ione.

We hope we haven't overlooked anyone—please forgive us if we have.

We're looking forward to carnival 1998.
Kaedene and Darcy
11-19-1c

BMCC to close

The holidays are upon us and Blue Mountain Community College announces its closures for November.

The college will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28, for the Thanksgiving holiday. The closure includes all special services areas such as the library and computer lab, as well as outlying centers.

BMCC also reminds college students to listen to their local radio stations for information on class closures due to inclement weather.

Decisions on class schedules are made by 6 a.m. and the following radio stations are called: KOHU/KQFM in Hermiston; KUMA, KTIX/KWHT in Pendleton; KJ in Walla Walla; KLBM in La Grande; and KIOK in the Tri-Cities.

Decisions on evening class closures in Pendleton, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater and Morrow County are made by the local coordinator. The coordinators try to contact local radio stations by 3 p.m. with these announcements, said a BMCC news release.

Have your own
WEB PAGE
Heppner Gazette
676-9228

Come Share With Us At
Willow Creek Baptist Church
Worship Service at 3 p.m.
Meeting in the 7th-day Adventist Church
560 North Minor

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