

Champion bluegrass band to perform in Heppner



World Champion Blue Grass band String 'Em Up with Nolan Murray (far left) will perform at the Heppner Elks Club

Nolan Murray and String 'Em Up
It's not often the Heppner area has a chance to enjoy a concert by a world class bluegrass band. But, this Saturday, Dec. 13, music lovers will have the opportunity to listen to the world champion Bluegrass band right in their own neighborhood. Nolan Murray and his band, "String 'Em Up" will perform at the Heppner Elks Club from 8-10 p.m.

Advance tickets will be available at Murray Drugs or the Elks. Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$10 per person or \$15 for a couple.

Murray, who lives in LaGrande, said he is proud to live in eastern Oregon and wanted to perform in Heppner because of the ties he has to the Heppner-Lexington-Ione area. Murray's parents, Sherman and Iona Murray lived at Rhea Creek, where his dad had a saddlery, and his aunt and uncle, Rod and Meg Murray still live here. Murray says that he has fond memories of coming here as a child. "It's kind of nice to bring back a world title and bolster civic pride in Eastern Oregon," said Murray. "It's neat to come back as a world champion. It's a great honor."

Murray and fellow band members, David Mosher of Michigan and Jim Walker and

Peter James Priebe, both of British Columbia, had been playing together for about three months before they won the Pizza Hut International Bluegrass Showdown World Championship Oct. 12 in Waterbury, Conn. The band received a congratulatory letter from Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, which, says Murray, was "almost as good as winning the championship."

Murray, who says that family bluegrass and country music sessions paved the way to a 20-year country music career, vividly remembers the first bluegrass performance he saw, by Duane Boyer and the Blue Mountain Crested Wheat Band. A friendship evolved between the Murrays and the Boyers and Duane Boyer eventually taught Murray how to play the banjo.

Coincidentally, an Earl Scruggs-signed Gibson five-string banjo was one of the prizes String 'Em Up brought home from their championship performance. They also won a Bozeman edition flatiron mandolin, a three-album record

contract and all the endorsements, media attention and tour negotiations that accompany the notoriety. Their trip to the championships will be featured as a part of a satellite channel special movie about the bluegrass bands that competed.

String 'Em Up will fly back to Richmond immediately following the Heppner concert to begin recording their first album,

which they plan to release this spring. The album will feature cover tunes and original music by Murray. Some of the music was performed at the world championships and some was played at the International Bluegrass Music Association's showcase in Louisville, KY. The recording will also include special guest Jerry Smith, rhythm and lead guitar and vocals.

Local girl chosen for overseas tour

Last summer many junior high and high school students attended Northwest Basketball Camp (NBC) in LaGrande and Heppner High School freshman Marissa McCabe was one of them.

While attending camp Marissa tried out for the "Junior League World Tour Team". She received word in September that she was selected as a finalist and then in October the news came that she had made the team.

Selection for the tour team was not solely based on basketball skills. A large part of the process was a personal interview before a NBC panel.

The team leaves the U.S. in July 1998 and will be overseas for two weeks. They will tour Sheffield, Northampton and Plymouth England; Cardiff, South Wales; and Waterford, South Ireland, and end their tour at Birmingham University.

The team will play against some of the finest junior girls teams in Europe, said a spokesperson. Each team is guaranteed to play 10-12 games during the tour.

"This is a unique opportunity for Marissa to be an ambassador for the United States, and her hometown. It's an opportunity of a lifetime," said the spokesperson. Marissa, the daughter of John and Sonja McCabe of Heppner, is an honor student at HHS, where she participates in volleyball, basketball, Outdoor Club, is on the yearbook staff and plays



Marissa McCabe

softball.

On Saturday, December 20, friends of Marissa will host a fund raising taco feed at Heppner High School during the Morrow County basketball tournament. Dinner will be served from 3-7 p.m. The menu will include tacos with all the trimmings, juice or coffee and dessert. Cost will be \$4 for a two taco dinner; \$3 for a one taco dinner; and \$15 for a family.

Anyone interested in helping Marissa may donate a pie for the taco feed or make a financial contribution. An account has also been opened up at the Bank of Eastern Oregon or mail a check payable to: Marissa McCabe, P.O. Box 81, Heppner, OR 97836. The cost for each team member is \$2,995 which includes two training camps and 14 days overseas.

St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board

There were 76 present for the senior dinner Dec. 3 and 11 meals were home delivered. Members of the Seventh-day Adventist and Nazarene churches served. The Nutrition Site Committee met after the meal. Hearing aid assistance was given and blood pressures taken before the meal.

The menu for the Christmas dinner Dec. 17 will be turkey and dressing, potatoes and gravy, whole cranberry sauce, peas, rolls and pumpkin pie. Members of the Episcopal Church will serve. "The Sentimentalists", a group of very talented local ladies, will sing. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend.

Ron Neighorn and the Ione girls' choir were here to entertain at the senior breakfast Friday. The 27 seniors present enjoyed it very much. The girls sing so well and seem to enjoy it a lot.

Four meals were home delivered. The menu for breakfast Friday, Dec. 12, will be pancakes, bacon, fruit, hot and cold cereal, orange juice, milk and coffee. There will be no breakfast the day after Christmas.

One table of pinocle was in play Friday afternoon in the office, as the sitting room is too cold. Four seniors watched the movie, "Dark Horse" in the Struthers' apartment Sunday evening.

Saturday some Elves decorated the lobby and sitting room for Christmas. It makes them look so festive. We've been told that the "elves" were the family of Bernice Nash.

Connie Verstoppen has moved into apartment 305. The tenants welcome her to the St. Patrick's family and hope that she'll be very happy here.

The Red Cross will hold a blood drawing at the Senior Center the week after Christmas.

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Brenda Noel Olson-a daughter Brenda Noel was born to Cristela and Stanley Olson, Jr. of Irrigon on November 25, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz.

Tre Steven Cimmiyotti-a son Tre Steven was born to Tara and Jeremy Cimmiyotti of Heppner on November 28, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz.

Kai Albert Arbogast-a son Kai Albert was born to Chandra and Nathan Arbogast of Heppner on November 28, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz.

Taylor Elizabeth Evans-a daughter Taylor Elizabeth was born to Stephanie and Gibbon Evans of Irrigon on November 30, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz.

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