

Heppner sailor shows true spirit of Christmas

By Jason Emerson,
Navy Public Affairs Center

Peace among men and the spirit of giving are key ideas to the meaning of Christmas. A Heppner sailor is giving six months away from home to make sure this Christmas stays peaceful.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Rodger J. Arntt II, the 29 year old son of Rodger and Sandra Arntt of Heppner, is deployed to the Arabian Gulf aboard the amphibious warfare ships USS Comstock. The Comstock is one of the

three ships that make up the Peleliu amphibious ready group (ARG). The ARG has patrolled waters in the Pacific and Indian oceans while on its way to the Arabian Gulf, where it is now enforcing U.S. and U.N. policies.

Arntt, a hospital corpsman, tends to the health care of the ship's crew. Although being half a world away from America can dampen holiday spirits, Arntt and others on the Comstock plan to make the most of Christmas.

"I'm going to enjoy Christmas with friends on board and remem-

ber that we'll be home in only a couple of months," Arntt said. "We'll also do some decorating and sing Christmas carols."

More than 3,500 American men and women are aboard the three ships in the Peleliu ARG. As with most of them, Arntt's thoughts will turn to family and friends at Christmas.

"I'd like to wish my family and friends Merry Christmas from halfway around the world. I miss being home for the holidays, but it will sure be nice to see the family after being gone for six months," said Arntt, an 11 year Navy veteran.

Arntt won't spend the holidays alone. The nearly 900 officers and enlisted Marines and sailors aboard the Comstock will be there to keep each other's spirits high. A ship's crew becomes a surrogate family for many crew members on the deployment.

"People on the ship are your co-workers, roommates and friends. You have to develop a second family with your shipmates because you're together for every day of six months," Arntt said.

The Comstock is scheduled to return to its San Diego homeport in February.

Plans for fair multi-purpose building underway



Donors with plaques (l-r): Fair Board chair Sam Bellamy, board member Kelwayne Haguewood with brand board, Virginia and Lyle Peck, plaque donors

By Merlyn Robinson

Plans to have a 125' x 225' clear-span building erected at the Morrow County Fairgrounds before the 1998 fair are underway. This multi-purpose building on the fairgrounds will accommodate the increasing numbers of all livestock fair exhibits and will also provide year-around facilities for community events.

The Morrow County Fair Board accepted a bid from Intermountain Steel Buildings, Inc. of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The total cost of this building, which includes

electrical service and site preparation, is \$175,500. Of this, the Fair Board has already secured \$112,827, covered by building reserve accounts, a tipage fees grant and a \$45,000 loan approved by the county court.

Fund raisers and private donations are anticipated to provide the additional \$62,673 for total financing. Donors will be recognized by wooden plaques permanently displayed inside the building. Those donating \$500 or more will have their name on a 16" x

32" plaque and donations of \$100 or more may have their brands placed on a 12" x 12" board. For \$2,500, an 8' x 12' banner will be hung in the building. A donation of \$30,000 or more will honor the donor by naming the building after the individual or their business. All donations are tax-deductible, said Morrow County Fair secretary LaRae Kindle.

For more information, call Sam Bellamy at 989-8567, or the Fair office at 676-9474.

Weddings Bedortha - Finley



Clint and Kimberly Finley

Kimberly Bedortha of Ione and Clint Finley of Boardman were married on October 4, 1997, in a double ring ceremony at the Valby Lutheran Church in Ione. The ceremony was officiated by the Reverend Lea Mathieu.

The bride's parents are Tom and Anne Bedortha of Ione. The groom's parents are John Finley of Hermiston and Eveline Donnelly of Idaho.

Kimberly was given in marriage by her father. The maid of honor was Kristine Bedortha of Okinawa, Japan. The bridesmaids were Mary Jane McCarthy of Echo, Jenny Maeston of Madras and Charleen Ammons of Crestview, Florida.

The best man was Tracy McClure of Boardman. The groomsmen were Mike Ammons of Crestview, Florida, Clay Finley of Hermiston and Jason Schaper of Idaho.

The candlelighters were the mothers of the bride and groom. The flower girl was Meghan Ammons of Crestview, Florida. Ring bearer was Casey McClure of Boardman.

The bride's gown was satin, short sleeved, with a sweetheart neckline, fitted bodice, tulle overlay skirt and sequined top. The veil, handmade by the bride's cousin, was a beaded bun wrap with pouff and zip off veil.

The bouquet was white and pink roses with greenery and wheat. Soloists were Ron Neighorn of Ione and Kristine Bedortha. Musicians were the Ron Neighorn band.

The reception was at the Ione Legion Hall. The couple's wedding trip was a cruise to the Mexican Riviera. Kimberly is a 1995 graduate of Ione High School and a 1997 graduate of BMCC. She is currently a librarian at Sam Boardman Elementary.

Clint is a 1992 graduate of Riverside High School.

Betts-Davis



Amy and Scott Davis

Amy J. Betts and Scott R. Davis were married November 1, 1997, at Reno, Nevada. Pastor William Eckroat officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Burr and Donna Betts, LaGrande. The groom's parents are Kenneth and Maureen Howard, Heppner, and the late Gaylord Davis.

The bride wore an ivory tea-length gown with a fitted skirt and accented with a sweetheart neckline.

A reception for the couple was held at the Heppner Elks Club on November 8. Assisting were Lynn Dee Ramos, Dawna Dougherty, DeRina Howard, Maureen Howard, Stormy Howard, Jeff Botefuhr and Bink Ramos.

The couple took a wedding trip to Reno and surrounding areas and plan on a honeymoon jet-boat trip up the Snake River in August.

The bride attends Blue Mountain Community College and anticipates graduation in June. She is employed at BMCC as a tutor and computer lab assistant.

The groom is employed with Les Schwab Tire Centers in Hermiston.

Governor's school scholarships open

The Morrow County Commission on Children and Families (MCCCF) is offering two scholarships to attend the Oregon Governor's School this summer. All Morrow County youth who will be sophomores, juniors or seniors during the 1998-99 school year can apply.

The school is a non-profit organization aimed at developing leadership and citizenship among young people. It provides youth with a year-long two-phase introduction to leadership development through a blend of practical skills training, civic education, community service, problem solving and adult mentoring, said Dar Merrill, director of MCCCF.

The commission is looking for mature students with natural leadership potential, who have a willingness to live and work with others and have a commitment to providing sustained service to their communities, said Merrill.

Applications for the school must be completed by March 10 and scholarships will be offered upon acceptance. For application materials and information on the scholarships, students are encouraged to contact their high school counselor or the MCCCF at 676-9675.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Pat Lovgren, 35, Heppner-Maintaining a Dog as a Nuisance, \$43 fine;

David Alon Budeau, 36, Monument-Taking Spike Elk Without a Valid Tag, \$172 fine;

Anthony W. Wood, 25, Oregon City-Failure to Validate Tag, \$57 fine;

Dewey Earl Leavitt, 43, Molalla-Shooting from Public Road, \$77 fine;

Douglas Lynn Litzenberg, 33-Taking Branched Antlered (3 pt) Bull during Closed Season, \$172 fine;

Jose Garcia Deleon, 43, Tangent-Failure to Properly Tag Elk, \$77 fine;









Ross James Hilton, 69, Redmond-Illegal Motorized Travel, \$172 fine;

John Edgar Keith, 63, Portland-Taking Cow Elk during Closed Season, \$172 fine.

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