Heppner students gather for prayer

Teens gather at HHS for prayer

Seventeen junior high and high school students gathered around the flagpole at Heppner High School for prayer on Wednesday, Sept. 17. The students were participating in the annual See You at the Pole (SYATP)-National Day of Student Prayer.

This was the first time Heppner teens have been involved. They were encouraged to participate this year by a group of Hermiston students who came over and helped organize the local event. Hermiston has been involved with SYAPT for several years and had 135 gathered around their pole last week, said a news release.

This year's national student organizers for SYATP chose "For Such a Time as This" as the theme, which refers to the story of the Jewish queen, Esther, who interceded for her people before the Persian king to save the Jews from destruction in 473 B.C. Students prayed not only for their schools, teachers and friends, but for their community and country, continued the release.

Next year's SYAPT has already been set for Sept. 15. For more information, visit their website at: www.syapt.com.

Irrigon sailor gives time, hope

Photo by Jim DeAngio
Anne Gilcrease

Story by Jason Emerson

Anne M. Gilcrease always knew that as an American, she had it pretty good. Then she spent a day among the poor and hungry of a nation where many children die before their fifth birthday. Now she understands that in some nations, survival is a daily struggle.

"We take our lives for granted, and seeing how these people live makes me realize how good we have it," said Gilcrease, describing a community relations project she volunteered for in the African nation of Eritrea.

Gilcrease is deployed aboard the warship USS Tarawa, which stopped in Eritrea on a scheduled visit.

Navy Petty Officer lst Class Gilcrease, the 33-year-old daughter-in-law of Fred and Dorothy Gilcrease of Irrigon, was glad to help in a country where the life expectancy is 46.

"This was a chance to go ashore in Africa and help out people who are less fortunate than we are," said Gilcrease, who is married to the Gilcrease's, son Jason.

Sailors and Marines often volunteer for community relation projects in foreign ports. Eritrea, which has the second lowest GNP per capita in the world, was one of many stops the Tarawa made during its routine six-month-long cruise.

Tarawa Sailors and Marines won't soon forget Eritrea. The country has struggled to rebuild its economy after a costly 30--year struggle for autonomy. Although it gained its independence from Ethiopia in 1993, today four out of five Eritreans rely on subsistence farming to survive.

In the Eritrean cities of Massawa and Asmara, U.S. military men and women repaired structures and distributed supplies donated by an organization called Operation Handclasp. Every Sailor and Marine who nailed a board, painted a wall or gave a book to a child came away with a feeling of accomplishment.

"It is a good feeling knowing that we did something positive for these people. We have so much technology and knowledge that these folks do not have. By them watching what we were doing and our explaining things, hopefully they learned some things that they can do on their own in the future," said Gilcrease, a 12-year Navy veteran.

The donations by Project Handclasp included medical supplies, toys, building materials and books. Gilcrease, who is a hull maintenance technician, and the other volunteers used their skills to repair buildings and equipment.

"Talking with a few of the staff doctors gave you the impression that they were really impressed with what was accomplished," Gilcrease said.

The Navy and Marine Corps encourage their troops to volunteer for projects like the one in Eritrea. People, and most importantly children, of impoverished nations benefit from these projects, and the U.S. military is able to promote goodwill and trust between nations.

"On behalf of the Asmara Home, I would really like to extend a heartfelt 'thank you,"' said Mike Junge, a Peace Corps worker who escorted the volunteers to the children's home. Nearly 250 children live there.

"I can say thank you a hundred times over, but the bottom line is that what you all did was special, and I could never thank you enough," Junge told the volunteers.

Seminar slated for businesses

A seminar entitled "Preparing for International Trade" for the businesses of Morrow and Umatilla counties is planned for this Friday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Center, 37 S.E. Dorion in Pendleton.

The seminar will discuss opportunities exporting offers to companies and the "how to" of getting products into the global marketplace.

The seminar is sponsored by BMCC Small Business Development Center, Oregon Economic Development Department, Small Business International Trade Program, the U.S. Department of Commerce, The Commercial Service, the U.S. Small Business Administration and Japan External Trade Organization..

The seminar is free to the public.

Call Jill Pursel at the BMCC Small Business Development Center, 276-6233 or 1-888-441-7232.

Rural health forum slated

Medical practitioners, health care administrators, elected officials, political candidates and others involved in rural health issues are invited to attend an open forum on Wednesday, September 30, from 5:30-7 p.m. at the St. Anthony Hospital auditorium, 1601 S.E. Court Ave. Pendleton.

This is the last of several forums around the state sponsored by the Oregon Rural Health Association. Representatives of the association will explain current rural health issues such as tax credits, hospital reimbursement, new opportunities for health insurance coverage and changes in Medicare.

There will also be an open forum during which participants will be invited to discuss local needs and legislative ideas that can help meet those needs.

The Oregon Rural Health Association is a nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to improve the health and health care systems of rural Oregonians and to provide leadership on rural issues through advocacy, communication, education and research, said a news release.

Ranger District plans Skookum fire

Fire management officials at the Heppner Ranger District planned to ignite the Skookum prescribed fire on September 22.

A helicopter was to be used to ignite 1,600 acres of Umatilla National Forest land in the Skookum Creek area, 20 miles southeast of Heppner. The burn is expected to last for three days.

"We're burning now, at a time and under conditions that we feel will meet our goals better than trying to fight a wildland fire later," said Deb Roy, fire management officer in charge of the burning operations. "Our goals are to return the area to an open ponderosa pine forest by removing bug-killed trees and to thin out competing small firs," she added.

Preparations for the burn included analyzing conditions and environmental effects, developing a prescription, and waiting for proper weather and fuel conditions.

For questions or concerns about the Skookum Prescribed Fire, contact Roy at the Heppner Ranger District, 676-2136.

Feves gallery opens

The Betty Feves Memorial Gallery opens the 1998-1999 season with the oil and wax paintings of Laura Nugent. The show begins Sunday, September 27, with a reception in Pioneer Hall Room 148 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Nugent's works will be on display through October 30.

Originally from the Washington, D.C., area, Nugent now hails from Portland. Her most recent exhibits include: the Central Oregon Arts Association Mirror Pond Gallery, Bend; "Summer Art", The Columbia Arts Center at Grant House, Vancouver, WA; Caffe Fresco, Portland; Judith M. Gallery, Gearhart; a juried art exhibition for Cannon Beach Arts Association, Cannon Beach; Torrefazione Italia, Portland; HIP Designs, permanent installation, Portland. Nugent received the judge's choice award at the Gresham City Hall Visual Arts Gallery.

Nugent's educational background includes: a bachelor in fine arts from Maryland Institute, College of Art; participation in an independent painting program at the Studio Art Centers International in Florence, Italy; and continuing education via The New School for Social Research in New York.

The Betty Feves Memorial Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m.; and Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m.

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G-T FOOTBALL PICKS CONTEST

Each week through football season, the below football "experts" will match their gridiron knowledge by picking winners of games in both the pros and college.

PICK THE WINNER! Bold-Pro *Italics-College*	Chris Sykes	Greg Grant	Butch Laughlin	Larry Mills	George Koffler	Molly Rhea	Dennis Stefani	Les Payne	Kim Gutierrez	Rick Paullus	Stef Jensen
Arizona	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐
@ St. Louis	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑	☑
Jacksonville	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐	☑	☑	☑	☑
@ Tennessee	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐
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@ Pittsburgh	☐	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑
Minnesota	☐	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
@ Chicago	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Atlanta	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
@ San Francisco	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Cincinnati	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐
@ Baltimore	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☑	☑	☑
UCLA	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
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Houston	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
@ Tennessee	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
WEEK'S SCORE **RIGHT WRONG**											
TOTAL SCORE **RIGHT WRONG**											