

## Exchange a mixed bag, but worthwhile experience for Heppner kids



Heppner Junior High School eighth-grade Centennial exchange students (left to right): Blair Keithley, Shanna Rietmann, Josh Lankford, Robert McElligott, Jessica Wainwright, Kyle Huddleston.

If it were a movie, you might call it "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." But, whatever you call it, the "critics" keep coming back for more.

The "critics" in this instance are the Heppner Junior High School eighth graders who attended the annual exchange at Centennial Middle School in Portland. While not all had a rosy time, they all maintain that it was a worthwhile experience that they wouldn't have missed.

"It was fun," said Blair Keithley, 14, Heppner. "Everybody should do it. It was a good experience for us to see what it was like down there. The school is very big. I don't think I would want to go to school there, it's so big."

Blair, who is the daughter of Jay and Kelly Jo Keithley, admitted that she got a little homesick during her stay. While in Portland, Blair stayed with Alexandra Woods, her mother, Tracy, brothers, William and Dalton, and sister, Cydney.

Blair said that she went to the movies and played basketball after school with her host. Her favorite experience was the group trip on the sternwheeler.

Shanna Rietmann, 14, stayed with the Vance and Bonnie Breece family in Gresham. The family also included eighth grader Ahsley and her older sister Amanda.

While there, Shanna went to a basketball game and "hung out" with other kids. Her favorite experience was also the trip on the Sternwheeler.

The group also took a trip to a silicon wafer company. "The industry was kind of boring," said Shanna.

"I liked the school," she said. "It was big, but they split us up into teams, so it didn't seem like that much."

"The kids were the same, pretty much. They weren't crazy and they thought we were normal too," said Shanna.

"The sports program wasn't that good," added Shanna. "I didn't think it was as good as I expected and there track wasn't that good."

Shanna is the daughter of Mark and Tami Rietmann, Heppner.

Josh Lankford of Heppner had a pretty rough experience initially, but then he and another Heppner boy were

moved to stay with a different host family who were "cool."

"The worst part about it was the first family," said Josh. "But I'd recommend it. It's a good experience. It lets you find out how other people live."

"It's too bad you couldn't do it every year of school," added Josh.

During his stay in the Portland area, Josh hung out with other host families and went to the movies. He too liked the Sternwheeler trip best.

Josh, 14, is the son of Steve, and Susan Lankford, Lexington.

Jessica Wainwright, 14, said that the worst part about the whole trip was the silicon wafer tour. "It was boring," said Jessica. "The only fun part about it was that you got to play with the sticky mats that cleaned off your feet. If you stayed there a long time, you got stuck."

Jessica thought that the school was "cool." "I didn't like that you had to share lockers, though," she said. "It (the school) didn't seem as big as I thought it would be."

"The kids were about the same," added Jessica. "It was fun and I hope everyone else has fun that goes. I kind of did, but then my person started to get annoying."

Jessica, whose parents are Buz and Stacey Wainwright, stayed with Gary and Laurie Novak and their daughter, Katie, Gresham.

Robert McElligott, 13, said he "really liked" his experience in Portland, but didn't think the kids there were at all like Heppner kids.

"They were kind of different," said Robert. "They dress different. They dress more with baggy clothes, and everyone is like, nice."

"The teachers were okay," said Robert. "The math teacher was scary. He was really strict and serious. I don't think he laughed the whole time. He didn't even smile."

Robert said he was impressed by the size of the school. "In those little teams they had about as many kids as in our school, about 175 in each team and there were six teams, about 900 in the school."

"It was lots of fun. Oh, my gosh, it was like a vacation," added Robert. "They start school an hour later than us and two

hours later on Wednesday, so it was awesome."

Robert, whose parents are Laura and Tom McElligott, Heppner, also went to the movies and bowling with his host.

Kyle Huddleston's favorite part of the exchange was the visit to OMSI where they went to the OMSI Max theater. "It was a big dome and you were looking up. It was cool and the virtual ride on a glacier was cool."

The worst part, said Kyle, was having to go to school on Monday. "They had really long classes, like an hour and a half. The school was big. I couldn't believe how many kids there were."

Kyle felt that the kids in Heppner and Portland were pretty much the same. "I had a good, time," said Kyle. "I didn't want to come home."

Kyle, the son of Mark and Jan Huddleston, Heppner, stayed with the Brian and Kim West, their son, Nick, and daughter, Katelyn in Gresham.

## 4-H News

### The Barnyarders 4-H Club

By Heather Rill, Reporter

The Barnyarders held their fourth meeting of the year on April 23. The club talked about Kelwayne Haguewood's pig that he wanted to donate to the club to donate back to perhaps the Neighborhood Center or the St. Patrick's Senior Center. The club would pay for the slaughter, cut and wrap of the pig. Some club members were going to check to see who would be interested in some pork.

The club held their fifth meeting of they year on May 11 at Pat Schwartz' home.

The club got to see first-hand the slaughter of a hog. Some members were grossed out while others found it interesting.

The club donated some of the pork to the St. Patrick's Senior Center, Neighborhood Center and Stokes Landing Senior Center in Irrigon.

The Barnyarders will hold their next meeting in June.

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## Mustangs end regular season

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustangs finished the regular season with a convincing 15-2 win over the Weston-McEwen TigerScots at Athena on Tuesday, May 15. The Mustangs ended their Columbia Basin Conference season with a 13 and 2 record and 19-5-1 overall.

Chuy Elguezabal got the Mustangs going with a lead-off single and came home on Michael McCabe's home run. Brad Adams continued his hot hitting with a home run that brought home Kelly Paullus who had walked, to make the score 4-0 after one.

Elguezabal led off the second by striking out but reached first on an error by the catcher. Stefan Matheny walked, McCabe had an RBI double, Billy Gates had a two-RBI double, and Adams, an RBI single to make it 8-0.

The TigerScots scored two runs in the third, but Elguezabal came back with a solo home run in the fifth to make it 9-2.

The Mustangs put the game away in the sixth as Gates walked, Paullus singled, Adams had an RBI single, Travis Bellamy singled to load the bases and Kyle Nairns cleared the bases with a single. Koby Rea walked, Matheny singled and McCabe had a two-RBI single to make it 15-2.

Josh Winters pitched three innings to get the win, striking out four and allowing two hits and two walks. Brad Adams had two innings of no-hit pitching and Conor Kilkenny pitched the sixth.

Brad Adams went four for four with four RBIs and McCabe went three for five with five RBIs, and a double and a home run. Elguezabal went two for five with a home run and scored three runs. Donald Adams went two for three.

Statistics  
Heppner: 440 016 - 15 16 4  
Weston-McEwen: 002 000 - 2 2 1  
Josh Winters, Brad Adams (4), Conor Kilkenny (6) and Kelly Paullus; Jorgensen, Delph (3), McClouth (5) and McLouth, Kelly (3) W - Winters, L - Jorgensen, 2B - Michael McCabe, Billy Gates, 3B - none, HR - McCabe, B. Adams, Chuy Elguezabal.

## Ione Legion Post awarded grant

American Legion Post #95 in Ione was awarded an Employee Volunteer Grant by Portland General Electric Company at their headquarters in Portland on May 16.

The \$500 grant was obtained through the efforts of Gene Crowell of Ione, who is employed at the coal-fired generating plant near Boardman. PGE stated that they are very aware of employee efforts to assist with community projects and organizations. The Ione Legion has held that goal in the Ione area since its charter in 1921.

Crowell, who has been a Legionnaire for 26 years, is currently the post sergeant at arms. He has held various other positions, including commander and vice-commander.

When Crowell learned of the company grant program, he applied with the emphasis on the continued availability of the Ione Legion Hall, which has been a focal point in the community for many years. He was quick to point out, however, that all the members of the Ione Legion and Legion Ladies Auxiliary work together toward that goal. The fund from the grant will benefit the continued programs of the post and the auxiliary.

## All league players announced

By Rick Paullus

The Eastern Oregon Softball League named their All-League teams with the Heppner Mustangs getting three girls on the first team and four more on the honorable mention team. Senior San Juanita Elguezabal led the way by being of the year with Katie Smith of Wahtonka.

Senior Marissa McCabe was named to the first team infield and junior Shelley Rietmann was first team pitcher.

Seniors Jenni Patton and Charissa Gates were named honorable mention infielders, along with junior catcher Jesse Gutierrez and sophomore utility Jesse Kempas.

First Team: pitchers-Shelley Rietmann, Heppner, and Katie Smith, Wahtonka; catcher-Whitney Erickson, Nyssa; outfielders-San Juanita Elguezabal, Heppner, Alli Sexton, Nyssa, Lacey Seeley, Weston-McEwen; infielders-Marissa McCabe, Heppner, Sara Fehlman, Nyssa, Amanda Doherty, Pilot Rock, Brandi Denton, Pilot Rock; utility-Kendra Winn, Weston-McEwen, Selena Winks, Pilot Rock.

Player of the Year: San Juanita Elguezabal, Heppner, and Katie Smith, Wahtonka.

Coach of the Year: Rick Hoisington, Pilot Rock.

Honorable Mention Team: pitcher-Jennifer Sasser, Weston-McEwen; catchers-Jesse Gutierrez, Heppner, Becky Sparks, Weston-McEwen, Becca Perrine, Pilot Rock; outfielders-Kelli Morwood, Pine Eagle, Colbi Robertson, Union, Jodi Hungerford, Weston-McEwen; infielders-Charissa Gates, Heppner, Jenni Patton, Heppner, Becky Brito, Weston-McEwen, Laura Wheeler, Nyssa, Katie Hartley, Nyssa, Lacey Lick, Wahtonka; utility-Jesse Kempas, Heppner, Catherine Barkley, Pilot Rock.



San Juanita Elguezabal, player of the year, first team outfielder



Shelley Rietmann, first team pitcher



Marissa McCabe, first team infielder



Jesse Kempas, honorable mention utility



Charissa Gates, honorable mention infielder



Jenni Patton, honorable mention infielder

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