

Ione Youth Group 'adopts' Burnside resident for Christmas

Ione Youth Group has been busy with follow up activities to their trip to Burnside in Portland in November. The group purchased Christmas gifts for a resident of the Burnside area. The gifts were a part of Outreach Ministry's Christmas Connection, where volunteers like Ione Youth Group "adopt" one of their 55 clients and buy them Christmas gifts.

This year the Ione group connected with Mike, a 41-year-old man who has lived in Portland for 12 years. He has been a part of the Outreach family since 1999. He does not have any family and lives in one of the single-room-occupancy hotels in the area. He requested clothes for Christmas, so the group bought him new jeans, a hooded sweatshirt, socks and coupons to Burger King.

Group members wrapped the gifts so they could be delivered to Outreach Ministry in time for their Christmas party on Dec. 20. This is the second year Ione Youth Group has participated in this project.

Youth group members are also

collecting hygiene products for the Macdonald Center, which serves the poor and isolated in the Burnside area. Members have been busy visiting local churches to speak about this project and leaving boxes for the collected items.

Youth speaking and churches involved in the collection of hygiene products are: Jeff Hunt-Ione United Church of Christ; Adam Neiffer, Paul Neiffer and Barbara Holland-Valby and Hope Lutheran churches; Mike Radie and Ashley Roberts-Boardman Community Church; Caitlin Orem and Natalie McElligott -St. William's Catholic Church; Kristina Powell-Westside Church of Christ; and Johnny Collin-Christian Life Center.

Anyone wanting to donate hygiene items may also drop them off at Ione High School. Donations could include soap, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, combs, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Ione Youth Group plans to collect items through January.



Natalie McElligott and Adam Neiffer help wrap gifts for a client of Outreach Ministry.



Emily Key, Caitlin Orem, and Salli McElligott collect hygiene products at HIS for the MacDonald Center.

Honorary diploma awarded to WWII veterans

"This is a program that will honor America's 'Greatest Generation' for the gift of freedom they gave to us. The life experiences gained by GIs during WWII could never be duplicated in a classroom. They learned geography by traveling to foreign lands they had never heard of or had only read about in textbooks. Biology was reality; it was a lesson learned at Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Normandy giving aid to their buddy. Map work, weapon projections, weight distribution, etc., taught math. In the area of history, they made history and today you and I enjoy the freedoms that were guaranteed by the history they wrote. For them, it can be said that 'Life was a hard teacher, because she gave the test first and the lesson afterwards.'"

"During the 1940s, thousands of young men and women across this country left high school and the comforts of home and hearth to serve gallantly in the United States Armed Forces during World War II. Their sacrifice ensured our freedom, built our country into a superpower, and shaped the future course of history throughout the world. After the war, many of these veterans were not able to finish high school for various reasons, but led productive lives and built our communities over their lifetime," said a news release.

In 1999, the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services, through a program called Operation Recognition for World War II veterans, began working with individual cities and towns in Massachusetts to award high school diplomas to qualifying World War II veterans. Since then, the program has grown nationwide. Other states offering the program have included

California, West Virginia, Minnesota and Nebraska.

Eligibility requirements are:

- Honorably discharged veteran must have served in the military between April 21, 1940 and December 31, 1946;

- Individual must have attended high school in Oregon between 1937-1946;

- This honorary diploma is only available to those who did not graduate;

- Diplomas will not be awarded posthumously.

World War II veterans who meet the eligibility requirements, can apply for an honorary high school diploma from the State of Oregon, by completing an Operation Recognition application.

Completed applications and a copy of discharge/separation paper(s) should be sent to: Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, 700 Summer Street, Suite 150, Salem, OR 97301-1289.

Applications are available at the Morrow County Veterans Services Office, 676-5667. Leave a message if the office is closed. Application must be received by Thursday, Jan. 10.

In addition to offering honorary diplomas, the Oregon Department of Education will implement, in tandem with Operation Recognition, a service-learning project called Honoring Oregon's Veterans, designed to connect students with veterans for the purpose of collecting, recording and preserving the history of Oregon's veterans. World War II veterans interested in participating in such a project can indicate their desire to do so on the Operation Recognition application.

CSEPP hires new public info officer

Casey Beard, Morrow County Emergency Management director, has announced the hiring of Maureen Roxbury as Morrow County's new public information officer (PIO) for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP).

Roxbury is a native east Oregonian and brings with her considerable familiarity with the communities served by CSEPP.

The job of the PIO is to educate citizens about the threat posed by the chemical weapons stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot and how to protect themselves if they are ever released, said Beard. Roxbury will provide information and education using various delivery methods. By attending outreach events, handing out informational brochures and posters, Wally Wise Guy appearances, and keeping the media informed of activities offered by CSEPP, the PIO hopes to reach as many citizens as possible. Keeping the public informed and updated is what Roxbury intends to do, says Beard.

Roxbury has extensive experience with community event planning, media relations and public speaking through her many years of volunteer activities, previous employment,

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

- MCSO deputy cited Jesus Agular for Violation of the Basic Rule, 83 mph in a 55 mph zone.

- MCSO received a report of a saddle stolen in Irrigon.

- MCSO, Irrigon Fire Dept. received a report from a caller in Irrigon of a large fire. A person was adding more fuel to the fire and sparks were getting into the caller's trees.

- MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. received a request for officer contact. The caller said a woman claimed the caller's husband hit her car.

- MCSO deputy cited Eric Mendoza for No Operator's License.

- MCSO deputy cited Kara Connor for Violation of the Basic Rule, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone.

- Oregon State Police received a report from a caller from Idaho that his girlfriend left him at the Nomad in Boardman; she went westbound on I-84.

- Boardman Police Dept. officer cited Raul Vazquez Hernandez for DUII, Open Container and No Operator's License. Luis Olguin Martinez was cited for Open Container.

- Boardman Police Dept. received a 911 call from a female subject in Boardman requesting an officer then hanging up. On call back the subject said her six-year-old brother was playing with the phone.

- Boardman Police Dept. received a report of a vehicle blocking the caller's driveway in Boardman.

- Heppner Police Dept. received a report of a possible DUII on Highway 74 between Lexington and Heppner. It was determined not to be a DUII.

- MCSO received a report from Polk County Jail that Stanley Bruce Jones, 25, was arrested on Morrow County warrants for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving while License Suspended, Failure to Pay Fine/Endangering a Minor, and on local charges. He was lodged at the Polk County Jail.

- MCSO deputy cited Gregory Logan for Violation of the Basic Rule, 71 mph in a 55 mph zone.

- Nov. 18:** MCSO received a report of a vehicle all over the road on Highway 730 westbound at the edge of Irrigon.

- Heppner Police Dept. received a report from a caller in Heppner that two male juveniles were shooting a .22 or BB gun at her kids in her back yard. They were also throwing glass and cut one on the hand. It was confirmed no ambulance was needed.

- MCSO deputies cited Omar Lopez Perez, 20, for DUII (BAC .00) and No Operator's License. A UA test was issued. The vehicle was impounded.

- Boardman Police Dept. officer cited Emilio Martinez Rameriz for Driving while License Suspended and No Insurance. The vehicle was impounded.

- Boardman Police Dept. officer cited a juvenile for DUII (BAC .08). The vehicle was impounded.

Ione lighting contest winners

Winners of the City of Ione Christmas Lighting Contest have been announced:

First place-Bubba and Debbie Burns, \$50; second place-Dustin and Karen Padberg, \$35; third place-James and Dina Ruiz, \$15.

The prizes for the city winners were donated by Ione Community Agriculture and Business Organization (ICABO) and the city of Ione.

Columbia Basin Electric provided prizes for the following:

Residential-best use of lighting, Del and Linda LaRue; most original set, Dorothy Stefani; and judges' favorite, Earl and Rhonda Garrett;

Commercial-best use of lighting, Woolery House; most original set, Office Cafe; and judges' favorite, Woolery House.

"The Willow Creek Valley looked extremely pretty with all the festive Christmas lights. It was a treat to see Heppner, Lexington and Ione so decorated. It made the Christmas season more meaningful to each of us," said Ione Mayor Betty Gray. "We appreciate everyone who participated."

Sample issue of Gazette-Times now on-line

If you're out of town and just can't live without your Heppner Gazette-Times, the paper is now available for viewing on the Internet, says publisher David Sykes.

The online issue is about one week behind the current issue, and at this time there are no archival issues, but it will give someone who wants to see what the paper looks like the opportunity, says publisher David Sykes.

The Internet site is an exact replica, or page shot, of each page of the paper. There is also a feature that allows you to sign up to be emailed each time a new issue of the paper is posted.

The posting is being handled by a web company called smalltownpapers.com and also includes other newspapers from around the country.

The on-line Gazette-Times may be viewed at www.smalltownpapers.com/listHGT.htm.

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