

Ione High School holds its Winter Sports Dessert



(L-R): Varsity girls award winners Tracy Griffith, Natalie McElligott, Diana McElligott, Eva Chitty and Barbara Holland.



(L-R): JV boys award winners Dan Satterly, Brian Bunch and Nathan Rea.



(L-R): Varsity boys award winners Tyler Brown, Mike Radie, Cayle Krebs, Nick Christman, Andrew Rietmann, Kelly Thompson and Curtis Thompson.

Ione High School held its Winter Sports Dessert on March 4. Virgil Morgan and Karl Christman were thanked for running the clock throughout the season, and Charity McElligott and Helen Heideman for keeping the books.

Jim Swanson, junior varsity boys' coach, expressed appreciation to his team for their hard work. Although they finished with a 5-15 season record, Swanson commended them for their "vast improvement down the stretch." Awards went to Nathan Rea- Most Improved, Brian Bunch- Most Inspirational and Dan Satterly- Mr. Hustle.

The varsity boys were awarded pins for placing first among 1A schools in the Dairy Farmers of Oregon academic competition with a GPA of 3.67. Coach Dennis Stefani noted it had been a pretty interesting year for the Cardinals. He praised the seniors for doing everything asked of them, and the freshmen for providing good leadership when their teammates got in foul trouble. Team leaders were Tyler Brown in scoring (317 points), steals (53) and assists (132); Andrew Rietmann in rebounds (169) and blocked shots (14); and Curtis Thompson in field goal percentage (59.1 percent). Awards went to Cayle Krebs- Taking the Charge, Kelly Thompson- Mr. Hustle, Andrew Rietmann- Mr. Defense, Mike Radie- Most Inspirational, Curtis

Thompson- Most Improved and Tyler Brown- Most Valuable Player. The Cardinal Heart Award for being coachable and working extra hard with a positive attitude went to Cayle Krebs.

Kari Morgan, girls' junior varsity coach, stated the girls each brought something unique to the team. They finished with a 14-6 season record. The Most Improved Player Award went to Alyssa Rietmann.

Coach Dana Heideman praised the girls' varsity team for their play early in the season, winning the Ione Basketball Bonanza. They finished with a 9-3 season record. Natalie McElligott led the team in scoring, breaking the school record for three-pointers for the year (44), and received the most votes in the Big Sky All Star balloting. Diana McElligott led the team in steals (112) and assists (62). Barbara Holland led in rebounds (180) and blocked shots (31). Other awards went to Diana McElligott- Most Inspirational, Natalie McElligott- Miss Defense, Tracy Griffith- Miss Hustle and Eva Chitty- Most Improved.

Births

Breanna Kaylie Sue Simpson- a daughter, Breanna Kaylie Sue, was born Feb. 26, 2003, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Lorena Mae and Brian Douglas Simpson of Irrigon.

Cardinal Booster Club holds meeting

Cardinal Booster Club met Monday, March 3 at the high school library. Eleven members were present. Harold Rietmann submitted a sketch for an Oregonian Cup sign to fit with the state championship signs on the edge of town. Members approved the plan, with the addition of OSAA, so the sign will read "OSAA Oregonian Cup," with the years Ione High School won listed below.

The drinking fountain in the hallway will be moved over spring vacation, with the middle school paying the expenses. The high school student body voted to purchase a protective pad to cover the gym floor during programs. The cost is approximately \$1500.

The Wildhorse gambling trip date has been set for Sunday, April 6. The bus will leave at 11:30 a.m. and return at approximately 6 p.m.

Cost is \$15 per person, with a \$10 meal voucher included. Individuals interested in making the trip may pay and sign up at Wheatland Insurance. People purchasing tickets will get their names put in a drawing for a free overnight stay at the Oxford Inn in Hermiston.

Members agreed to put forming a new community band on the fall agenda. Hopefully the band will be ready to play for the regular basketball season.

The boys' basketball team placed first and the girls fourth in the Dairy Farmers of Oregon Academic competition for 1A schools.

There will be a small schools rally at Salem in April. A Fourth of July meeting will take place at City Hall on Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m.

The next meeting of Cardinal Booster Club will be Monday, April 3 at 7 p.m. at the high school library.

Baker-Morrow Regional Partnership Board announces fund grant

The Baker-Morrow Regional Partnership (BMRP) Board is accepting applications from all non-profit organizations, municipalities and other qualified organizations in Baker and Morrow counties, for a 'Capacity Building' grant fund. The grant will aid organizations needing assistance in writing grants for projects that emphasize building strong communities through job creation and retention. (Individuals, for-profits organizations and privately owned businesses are ineligible.)

The grant is being offered in keeping with BMRP's diversified approach with a series of eleven initiatives to rejuvenate the region's economic and community wellness including: Business

Retention, Expansion, Develop and Recruitment.

To be considered for the 'Capacity Building' grant, applications must be received by 5 p.m., May 9, 2003, at the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation, 2016 Airport Road, P.O. Box 1041, Pendleton, OR 97801

The Baker-Morrow Regional Partnership's purpose is to preserve, protect and enhance the built, human and natural environments of our communities. The BMRP Board will consider all qualifying applications, up to \$8,000. For more information on the grant and grant process or to request an application, please contact one of your BMRP Board Members for your county or Karen Kendall at GEODC, (541) 276-6745.

Ready to Read grant awarded to the Oregon Trail Library District

The Oregon Trail Library District has received a \$2,306 grant to improve public library services to children. The Ready to Read grant program was established by the 1993 Oregon Legislature and is administered by the Oregon State Library.

Since 1993, the Ready to Read Grant has been used across Oregon to purchase children's library materials, hire staff to provide programs, bring library services and materials to at-risk children, and to provide children's computer equipment in libraries. The Ready to Read Grant was established to assist local libraries in helping to achieve the Oregon Benchmarks for childhood

learning and development.

State Librarian, Jim Schepke, noted that since the Ready to Read Grant program began in 1993, library services to children have increased by 80 percent. "This program is really helping children develop early literacy skills, begin school ready to learn, and develop a lifelong love of reading."

Marsha Richmond, Oregon Trail Library District director, states that plans for the grant include the purchase of materials to enhance story times and Summer Reading programs at all branches and the purchase of Leap Pad technology to enhance collections for early literacy and reading development for a variety of learning styles.

Minor baseball tryouts rescheduled

Due to inclement weather last Saturday, minor baseball and T-Ball tryouts were cancelled. Tryouts for minor baseball have been rescheduled for Thursday, March 13, at 4 p.m., at the Shad Hisler Field. T-Ball will be rescheduled and announced at a later date.

For more information, please contact Dave Pranger at 676-9767.

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Employees learn they are the frontline of a business



Nancy Gochnauer speaks to a group of Customer Service training attendees.

Over 100 people, mostly employees of local businesses, attended a Customer Service training session sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. The session was held four times, to accommodate as many people as possible, March 5 and 6, and were led by Claudia Hughes, Heppner Chamber; Nancy Gochnauer, local business owner; and Nancy Snider of VanMarter and Kahl. The sessions emphasized how employees are the frontline of a business. In many cases, business owners are not on-site and it is the attitude of the employees, whether they greet customers with a smile or a scowl, which leaves an impression.

A 30-minute video was shown to illustrate the point that attitudes really matter; and how that a customer who starts his/her day off in a good mood can either be helped or hindered in keeping that good mood. The video also showed that employees could and should keep a good attitude even while having a difficult day themselves.

After the video, the group discussed both good

and bad customer service experiences they have had and how that affected whether or not they continued to do business with that particular store. Many said they stopped frequenting a place, simply because they were treated rudely.

Leaders of the session also wanted to instill a "team" concept among employees of the various businesses. Employees throughout Heppner and the Willow Creek Valley were encouraged to share and help each other's businesses out, by being knowledgeable about not only their own stores but others as well.

Creating a knowledge of the activities that can be done in the area was also an important facet of the sessions. A list of 101 things that could be done was presented and everyone was reminded that there are things here in Heppner and the area to do, rather than sending people to Hermiston.

"It was a very positive and worthwhile event," said Snider. She also said that according to evaluations filled out at the sessions many people said they would like to see future sessions and provided numerous discussion ideas.

St. Pat's Senior Center- a community within our community

The St. Patrick's Senior Center Apartment Complex (second and third floors plus one unit on the ground floor) is one more example of the many facets of services offered to the Heppner community by St. Patrick's Senior Center. At the present time, all of the apartments are occupied and a waiting list is kept on file. Most of the apartments are occupied by single persons; however, in its 15-year history, two couples have had residence there. Barbara Struthers and her late husband, Ralph were among the first residents. Ellis and Kathryn McRoberts occupy the first floor apartment, at present. The apartments are available to persons 54 years of age, and up, who are able to care for themselves.

Marian Murchison, as apartment manager, and a resident, oversees the smooth, day-to-day operation of the business and arranges some of the activities which take place in the common room. She rents the apartments, maintains the waiting list and is the contact person for utility and other problems that may occur. She is the liaison to the Heppner Housing Authority (overseer all of the upkeep of the building, legal affairs, its safety and avenues of usage). Murchison is a member of the City Council and also keeps the council aware of the status of apartment and resident needs. Her co-manager, Doug Gunderson, attends all City Council and Housing Authority Board of Directors meetings, as well. They work together and have a division of responsibilities for many of the everyday needs. Gunderson is a general look-out person for purchasing and replacing light bulbs; keeping towel dispensers full, locking the building, breaking down and disposing of cardboard boxes (card board plugs the disposal chute), and other general maintenance concerns such as scratches on the walls and normal wear and tear.

The building, itself (formerly the Heppner Hotel), is owned by the City of Heppner who provides the maintenance. The Heppner Housing Authority and its Board of Directors oversees the total usage of the building. CAPECO, in turn, rents the kitchen and dining room where the Wednesday meals are served. The St. Patrick's Senior Center Board of Directors oversees the services offered (transportation, etc.), money raising projects and other activities of interest to the community.

Many people and several corporate entities work together to make St. Patrick's a true community center.

SPRING CROP INSURANCE UPDATE MEETING

Thursday, March 13th
Ione Grange Hall at 7 p.m.

Pie and Coffee will be served

St. Patrick's Day

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