

### Three new catechists receive first communion



Mike Armato (far left) and Father Gerry Condon (far right), along with students from Armato's catechism class, (L-R) Chelsea Hamms, Austin Gutierrez and Andrea Collins, celebrate as students receive their first communion Saturday, April 26.

### Students voice thoughts on Heppner-Centennial exchange

By Debbie Harper

Nineteen Heppner eighth graders went to Centennial Middle School for a week this year. They attended classes with Centennial students, lived with host families, and went on tours and trips that highlighted agriculture, business and industry in the Portland area.

When they returned I talked with several and asked them what they'd enjoyed most, what had been the most unexpected, and why they felt this exchange program was of value to the students.

**What was the most fun?:**

Sarah Hickerson: Meeting the other kids, the jet boat ride on the Willamette River, the family she stayed with.

Mahaley Huddleston: Walking around downtown Portland, "we saw the oldest building in Portland." Old Town. Hiking around Multnomah Falls.

Aaron Allstott: Going to OMSI, seeing the IMAX movie 'Coral Reef'

Tony Haguewood: Going to other people's houses, other Heppner kids' host families' houses, the jet boat ride.

Regi Seitz: Seeing downtown Portland, seeing all the different variety of people.

**What was the most unexpected about the trip?:**

Sarah: The school was much stricter. "You couldn't eat, drink or chew gum in class." The class schedule was different every day and different period lengths.

Mahaley: The different class sections. "Not seeing all my classmates all the time, it killed me."

Aaron: How the classes are arranged. "They switch every day."

Tony: School rules, they're a lot stricter.

Regi: How green it was. How many people there were.

**Why do you think this exchange program is important, of value, to the students?:**

Sarah: "You get to see the lifestyles of other, different people."

Mahaley: Seeing how other people live, meeting a wide variety of people.

Aaron: Getting new experiences, staying with a different family for a week.

Tony: Learning how different people live, the climate, the number and variety of people.

Regi: Knowing how much different it is to live with a different family, how to act around a different family.

### Stage Race to be held this weekend

The Columbia Plateau Stage Race is once again coming to the area. The race will be held May 2-4.

The 85-mile race is made up of four stages and is comprised of four distinct groups of riders. These groups include: professional and categories one and two (advanced riders); categories three and four (less advanced riders); Masters Men 40+; and Women.

The race will begin with a road stage, May 2 and go from Heppner to Ione, with the first group starting at 1 p.m. The second stage (time trial)

will be held May 3, beginning at 9 a.m., in Ione. The third stage (another road stage) will begin at 1:40 p.m., and the races will travel from Ione to Fossil. The fourth and final stage will begin at 9 a.m., on May 4, with racers traveling from Fossil all the way back to Heppner.

For more information contact Mark Schwyhart, by phone, (503) 231-0236; e m a i l , columbiaplateau@attbi.com; or visit the Columbia Plateau Stage Race website at [www.obra.org/columbiaplateau/race.htm](http://www.obra.org/columbiaplateau/race.htm).

### Kindergarten students experience farm life



Jason Kendrick and Joe Schmidt bottle feed lambs, Daisy and Rosey.



Kindergarten class poses in front of the Case Quad-trac. Also pictured are Ken Grieb, Richard Schmidt, Sharon Morris and Patti Rill.

Mrs. Morris' kindergarten class from Heppner Elementary School took a field trip to the farm of Ken and Carri Grieb, of Lexington, on Thursday, April 24.

Despite rainy weather, the students enjoyed a day full of fun, which included horse rides, pony cart rides, seeing the farm equipment and a picnic lunch. There were also sheep, bunnies, ducks, cows, horses and a goat for the kids to see and pet.

### Ione Schools receive donation for track improvements



John Ripple (left), General Manager of Morrow County Grain Growers, presents check for \$1,000 from Land O' Lakes to Del LaRue (right), of the Ione Booster Club, to help with improvements to the Track and Field facilities at the Ione Schools.

As part of the commitment to the rural communities where Land O' Lakes, Inc. members, employees, and facilities are located, Land O' Lakes is pleased to match donations by member cooperatives which help to enhance the quality of life in their local communities.

Morrow County Grain Growers donates close to \$30,000 annually to the communities in its trade area. In accordance with their philosophy, Land O' Lakes, Inc. donated \$1000 to the Ione Booster Club to help with track and field improvements for the Ione Schools.

### Second session of Children's Art Classes to be held

A second series of Children's Art Classes will begin next week at Heppner Elementary School. The classes will be taught by Rosemary Southworth. Each class will meet once a week on its designated date from 3:45-5:15 p.m., and last for four weeks.

By the Sea Art is set to begin Monday, May 5. The class is designed for first through fourth graders and will cover various activities centered around sea life.

Students will draw sea life (such as fish, clams, crabs and starfish), make life-sized stuffed fish, do fish printmaking, make an under-the-sea puppet house and create a dioramas about sea life. Cost for the class is \$20, which includes a \$5 supply fee.

Drawing and Painting will begin on Thursday, May 8. This class is designed for third through sixth grade students. Students will have the opportunity to use a variety of mediums including pencil, tempera, charcoal and pastels. Cost for the class is \$20, which includes a \$5 supply fee.

Call Anne Morter, BMCC Coordinator, at 422-7040 for more information.

### Answers to the Mysteries of Education

By Dr. Jack Crippen, Superintendent

It seems that time speeds up during Spring, I know that it doesn't, but it feels that way. It's as though we just finished the first semester and here we are with only 22 days of school remaining this year for students. I hope you all took the time to read what is going on in the schools in our district by reading the District newsletter mailed out last week.

### Why is there such a concern about athletic schedules?

There are several reasons why the board is looking at the scheduling of athletic contests.

Several years ago, when the district discussed going to a four-day week, one of the major considerations was holding athletic contests on Friday, Saturday and Thursday. Contests were to be minimized Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This fall we discovered that over a third of our contests were scheduled on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The Board's concern is two fold; first, is the time out of school for the competitors and the disruption to the rest of the school when they leave. Both events impact student learning.

The second is the impact on the athletes when they participate in mid-week contests. Our athletes work hard at their sport and expend a lot of physical energy and they also expend a lot of emotional energy as well. On the day of the contest, their focus is on the contest. The closer the time to participate, the less thought goes into the classroom. When they return late in the evening and need to get up early in the morning it can make them emotionally as well as physically tired. This may impact their schoolwork for that day.

Because we are on a four-day week, each day is worth a 125 percent of a traditional school day, which makes the impact even greater.

There are not any simple answers, however the Board does feel that it needs to tighten up the scheduling process. The Board also understands the complexity of doing that for three different middle school and high school programs in three different leagues. With everyone's help, the Board will find a way to create quality time for classroom learning that also leaves our athletes the quality time to compete.

### How many employees were cut in the 2003-2004 budget?

The Budget Committee met April 25, 2003 and approved the budget to go to a hearing of the Board on June 9, 2003. Sadly, eleven teaching positions were cut; one administrative position, and 57.5 hours per day of classified positions were cut. These have been very difficult decisions for the principals and me to reach. Decisions that affect the livelihood of fellow community members are not taken lightly and are painful for all of us to make. The committee allowed the budget to be modified and increased from what was published on April 14 to allow for keeping four additional positions. This was possible by an increase in cash carryover and a perceived increase in money from the legislature. The board and the Committee are making a sincere effort to hang on to as many employees as we can. The large number of teacher retirements this year has meant that we will not have to let any teachers go. We are moving some around, but we have found positions for all who have not retired or moved on. That will not be the case for the classified positions. We have been filling 22.5 hours per day with substitutes. The remaining 35 hours per day will still unfortunately impact eleven people who work from 2 to 7.5 hours a day.

Please let Senator Dave Nelson and Representative Greg Smith know how you feel about this situation and what should be done about it.

### What is happening with the Ione secession?

The process is moving ahead. The Senate Education Committee on April 10 gave the Ione committee and a committee of the school board a week to reach a written agreement. The two groups put in many hours that week and were on hand in Salem when the committee voted Senate Bill 372-A out of committee to the full Senate. Because of the quickness of the process both groups are not sure that all of their agreements made it into the amended bill. It may still need to be amended some during committee approval in the House Education Committee.

### Reminder

Don't forget to vote in the May School Board elections. Ballots will be coming out in early May. This is an important election, with fifteen people running for the five positions. We need five people who are knowledgeable about Morrow County and can demonstrate that they have the whole district as their agenda.

If you have questions about items in this article or desire an explanation of items concerning education, please write or E-mail me in care of this newspaper or to the Morrow County School District office at P.O. Box 368 Lexington, Or 97839.

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Heppner Gazette-Times

### Marriage Licenses

**April 8:** Blas R. Zapata, 25, Boardman and Areli P. Alvarez, 30, Boardman; Carlos Barragan, 59, Hermiston and Ester Mendoza, 49, Hermiston.

**April 11:** Gary Dean Buchanan, 30, Hermiston and Kristina Michelle Gray, 25, Hermiston.

**April 25:** Ruben Tamayo Moreno, 26, Hermiston and Chantell Leone Lynn Michaels, 21, Hermiston.

**Tom Wilson and Faye Seitz**  
invite Family and Friends  
to help them celebrate their marriage  
at St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
on Saturday, May 10, at 11 a.m.  
A reception will follow at the  
Wayne and Lori Seitz residence  
on Baseline Lane.  
No gifts, please.

### Mother's Day Special!

**SPA DAY AT HAIR EXPRESSIONS**  
May 9th and 10th

Treat your Mom with something special!  
Choice of Manicure, Pedicure, Massage or Facial.

Cost:  
One for \$25 -- Two for \$45 -- Four for \$85

Beverages and snacks will be provided.

Make appointments in advance (limited spots available)  
Phone 676-5271 ~ Hair Expressions, Heppner

