

Large scale nativity scene on display once again



Nativity Scene made by Lois and Ernie Winchester

In the 1950s, Amanda Duval commissioned a 3/4-scale Nativity scene, each of the nativity scene figures were cut and painted by Lois and Ernie Winchester. Many pieces are signed and dated, with the oldest pieces being made in 1954. The most

recent additions to the set were completed in 1965.

The set was first displayed across the street from the Morrow County courthouse at the Duval residence. It was a holiday tradition for many of Heppner's residents to drive past the large nativity scene and

admire the artwork. Over the years the pieces were scattered throughout the community. Several years ago Mrs. Winchester gathered all the pieces together in order that they again might be displayed as intended. As the original site could no longer accommodate the scene, it was moved to its present location, 68970 Willow Creek Rd. Once again, the

community can enjoy this true example of great American folk art.

The nativity scene can be viewed on the hill to the right just before the Willow Creek Reservoir viewpoint on Willow Creek Rd. It will be lit from 5 p.m. to approximately 8:30 p.m. It's worth the drive and you can take in the lights at Lakeview Heights on your way.

No injuries; operations back to normal after vapor detected

The Umatilla Chemical Depot announced Monday, Dec. 8 that low readings of GB Sarin chemical agent vapor were detected outside a depot chemical storage structure during routine chemical agent operations.

The structure houses 750-pound bombs.

Following the detection, operations were immediately halted and employees at the Depot were instructed to mask and shelter in place. About 30 minutes after the detection, employees were cleared to unmask and return to work.

All readings since the initial detection outside the storage structure have indicated no further release. The incident was confined to a small portion of the Depot's nerve agent storage area.

Emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow Counties in Oregon, Benton County in Washington and the states of Washington and Oregon were notified. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality also were notified.

Christmas Piano Recital in Heppner on Dec. 15

Sixteen local piano students will be performing at a Christmas Piano Recital in Heppner on Monday night, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at the Christian Life Center Church. The students represent the studios of piano teachers Myrna VanCleave, Amy Jepsen, Kristine Peterson Lindner and Shirley Brendlinger. The students range in age from 5 to 16. Some are beginners and others have been playing for several years.

Performers at this year's program include: Tim Clay, Stacie Jo Halvorsen, Amy, Eric, and Rebecca Jepsen, Gus Peterson, Evan Rietmann, Devin Robinson, Stephanie Schuler, Lacey Thompson, Annah Unruh, Bethany, Daniel, Kristen, and Nathan VanCleave, and Mindy Wenberg.

The program is expected to be completed within an hour. There will be refreshments following the program. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Willow Valley Service Club announces 2003 donations

The Willow Valley Service Club made its annual selection of recipients for monetary donations at its Dec. 4 meeting at John's Place in Heppner.

The recipients are as follows: Ione- Creative Care Center \$250 and Library \$75; Lexington- Odd Fellows (remodeling) \$125 and Volunteer Fire Department \$125; Heppner- Heppner Day Care \$250, Library \$75, Volunteer Fire Department

\$250, HES Chess Mates (snacks for children) \$75 and SMART (books) \$50.

Members assisted with hosting at the two-day Christmas tree auction event and collected food for the Neighborhood Center as well.

WVSC will conclude its 2003 meetings on Dec. 11 with a reservation-only Holiday Party, upstairs at John's Place in Heppner. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Jan. 8, 2004.

Merchants' Scavenger Hunt still in progress

There is still time to enter in the Heppner Merchants' Scavenger Hunt. Reindeer clues are still circulating around town and entry forms can be picked up at Murray's Country Rose.

A drawing will be held from all the correct entries on Christmas Eve day, Dec. 24. You do not need to be present to win. The prize will be a \$150 gift certificate.

Try to find the reindeer at: Heppner Hardware, Les

Christmas giving tree up at Day Care

The Christmas tree at the Heppner Day Care is now up. The ornaments on the tree list items that are needed for the center.

People are invited to stop by the center, located on Gale Street, view the tree, pick up an ornament, purchase the item listed and return it to the center.

Schwab, John's Place Restaurant, Central Red Apple, Shamrock Lanes, Heppner Auto Parts, Willow Creek Diner and Bakery, Artisan Village, Holloman's/Willow Creek Realty, Peterson's Jewelers, Murray's Country Rose, Lott's Electric, Devin Oil- Chevron Station, Pettyjohn's Farm and Builders Supply, and Green Feed and Seed.

Library plans children's ornament workshop

The Oregon Trail Library District-Heppner Branch will be holding their second annual Children's Ornament Workshop. This free workshop will be held Friday, Dec. 12 from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come and design, glue, paste, cut and style ornaments of their own design.

Seventh grade Ponies split over weekend

By Larry Palmer

The seventh grade Ponies traveled to Pilot Rock to take on the Rockets, on Friday, Dec. 5. They will start tournament play on Saturday, Dec. 13 back at Pilot Rock.

It was a frigid first half for the visiting Ponies, managing only two points in the first quarter and one in the second.

The Ponies turned on the burners in the second half and came back to tie the game at the end of regulation play. They did have a chance to win it, but the last second shot bounced off the rim.

In overtime some clutch free throw shooting kept them in the game, but it wasn't enough for them to prevail.

The Ponies were short handed due to illnesses and injury so Taylor Hodges, Jason Houweling and Michael Wellman from the eighth grade team stepped in to help out. The team's scorers were Joe Pranger with two points, Dalton Wellman with eight,

Spencer Palmer with 15, Josh Shank with two and Michael Wellman with one.

Heppner 21 8 12 5-28
Pilot Rock 8 6 3 6 7-30

The seventh grade Ponies then made the long trek to Weston to take on the Panthers on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The Ponies came out flat in the first half, but still managed to be ahead and hold a 12 to 10 lead. In the fourth quarter, the Ponies finally came uncorked and took possession of the lead and held on for the win.

Once again the Ponies were short handed and Jason Houweling and Taylor Hodges joined the seventh graders on the roster. The scorers for the Ponies were Dalton Wellman with 11 points, Spencer Palmer with eight, Josh Shank with two, Taylor Hodges with two and Jason Houweling had four points.

Heppner 6 6 6 9-27
Athena-Weston 4 6 6 7-23

Eighth grade Ponies sweep weekend play

By Larry Palmer

The eighth grade Ponies used a balanced attack to diffuse the Rockets in Pilot Rock and take a 35-25 win on Dec. 5. They will travel to Athena-Weston on Saturday, Dec. 13 for tournament play.

The first half was played with the Ponies taking a 15 to 14 lead as neither team could establish themselves. By the third and fourth quarters the Ponies started to open the game up.

The scoring leaders included Lane Bailey with four points, Nacho Elguezabal with two, Andre Rauch with eight, Nathan VanCleave with seven, Matt McCabe with 12 and Michael Wellman with two points.

Heppner 9 6 12 8-35
Pilot Rock 4 10 8 3-25

The eighth grade Ponies made the long haul to

Weston to take on the Panthers in their house on Dec. 6. Scoring most of their points in the first and third, the Ponies pulled out a 27 to 18 win.

The Ponies jumped out to an 8 to 3 lead in the first. They then allowed the Panthers to claw their way back in the second by being outscored 6 to 9. After intermission, the Ponies stormed out to a nine-point lead, 25 to 14. However, neither team could do much in the fourth, as the Ponies managed only two points.

The box score showed Luke Basile with two points, Lane Bailey with three, Nacho Elguezabal with two, Andre Rauch with six, Nathan VanCleave with six, Matt McCabe with six and Michael Wellman with two points.

Heppner 8 6 11 2-27
Athena-Weston 3 9 2 4-18



Invitation for Christmas news articles

Once again, as the Christmas holiday approaches, we would like to extend an invitation to all area pastors who would like to include a Christmas article in the Dec. 17 edition of the Gazette.

Articles may be handwritten or typed, and need to be delivered to the Gazette by

Friday, Dec. 12, at 5 p.m. If possible please include a title with your submission. Items may be subject to editing.

Items may be emailed to david@heppner.net, faxed to (541) 676-9211; mailed to P.O. Box 337, Heppner, OR 97836; or dropped by the Gazette office located at 147 W. Willow St., Heppner.

HOODED SWEATSHIRTS STARTING AT \$40⁰⁰

Open Sunday, Dec. 14 and 21 from 1 - 4 p.m.

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RING IN THE NEW YEAR PARTY

- Wednesday, December 31st -

Dinner, D.J., Music, Dancing, Party Favors, Midnight Buffet (with finger foods); and that's just a start!

Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.

CHOICE OF: Prime Rib • Rib Eye Steak

Chicken Breast • Fish and Shrimp

and all the fixings!



\$50/couple • \$30/single

Reservations Requested for Dinner

Party Walk-ins Welcome! (call for cost)

Make it your resolution to join us and ring in 2004!

PLACE YOUR LOVED ONES IN OUR HANDS





Kaila and Chris Riter were doubly blessed in 2001 with the addition of twins Garritt and Shayne...and the two Air Life flights it took to bring them into the world safely. Ten weeks early, the twins were delivered via C-section at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend. Today, they're thriving in La Grande.

Thanks to the air/ground combo gift membership they got from Kaila's mother, Kaila and Chris saved nearly \$25,000 in medical transport costs between Air Life and ground emergency services.

This season, give the gift of life. Air Life's flight team, coordinating with local ground crews, is up and flying in moments. For only \$45 annually, gift memberships protect your loved ones from out-of-pocket costs in the event of medical emergency transport.

Give the gift of life!



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