

Local son serving in Iraq gives first-hand look at the situation



Fourth grade students from Arlington Elementary adopted Sgt. Jacob Taylor (center) and send letter and care packages to him in Iraq.

Jacob Taylor, 25, is the son of Roy and Carol Taylor of Ione. He is a sergeant with the Oregon National Guard and was sent to Iraq the first of April. He has been a part of the since his junior year in high school. He is expected to be in Iraq for about a year.

In an e-mail to friends and family, Taylor gave "the rest of the story" about a recent bomb attack on American soldiers. Following is that e-mail sent early last week:

"I am sure that by now you guys have heard on the news that we lost three guys the other day. These guys were not only from Oregon, but from my company, and I knew them well. Justin Eyerly, Justin Linden, and Eric McCrae.

"Here is what they probably did not report in the news. 4th Platoon, Delta Company was out running a routine mission when they heard an explosion near by, their Lt. Eric McCrae, decided to go check it out. As they neared the sight they reported that they saw a burning hummer. They pulled up and set security. Sgt. Eyerly and Spc. Linden grabbed their Combat Life Saver bags and rushed to the help out anybody that they could. While Lt. McCrae went to investigate so that he could report what had happened and get some back-up. As Eyerly and Linden neared the scene and started

to help with the wounded a second bomb went off killing both of them instantly. McCrae who was farther from the blast was wounded badly, his body armor and kevlar helmet helped protect him, and as he lay their struggling for life, he asked Sgt. Melton, who was taking care of his wounds "How are Eyerly and Linden?" 1st Platoon, Delta Company responded to 4th's call for help. Upon arrival they noticed it was our guys as well as some fellow soldiers from another unit. 1st loaded up McCrae and Melton and the other wounded and brought them back to our patrol base while a Medevac helicopter was inbound. The seriously wounded were flown out to a near by hospital where they were given the best treatment they could receive. As the rest of the company gathered to pay their last respects to Eyerly and Linden, it was announced that Lt. McCrae had died.

"These were men I considered friends. They will all be missed by everyone that their lives have touched. I would like for everybody who receives this to know what really happened and not just the CNN sterile version of what happened. To the families of these three men, I would like to say, these were some of the best guys I know and that I was proud to serve with them. It is because of guys like Justin Eyerly, Justin Linden, and Eric McCrae, that I put on this uniform and do what needs to be done."

(s) Sgt. Jacob Taylor
For those wishing to send letters or cards to Taylor, you can contact his parents in Ione.

Heppner Library begins Summer Reading 2004

The Oregon Trail Library District- Heppner Branch presents Summer Reading 2004. The "Discover New Trails, Read" program will begin Friday, June 18, and run thereafter on Wednesdays through July 28.

Children are encouraged to read a variety of books that match their interest. Preschoolers and early readers may count the books read to them by another person. If children read books to someone else, it counts too.

Book logs can be obtained at the library for all participants. Each time a book is finished, the title needs to be entered into the log and the child will receive a sticker.

Participants who reach a goal of 10 books will receive a separate certificate.

The schedule of events include:

Friday, June 18, 1:30 p.m.- Lewis and Clark Corp of Discovery. Children will be able to use a sextant, see a grizzly bear paw print or try on a uniform coat and hat.

Wednesday, June 23, 11:15 a.m.- Native American Indians. Children will be making medicine pouches.

Wednesday, June 30, 11:15 a.m.- Broadway Bound with presenter Jodi Chapa. Children will get a chance to do some acting.

Wednesday, July 7- There will be no story time this week.

Wednesday, July 14, 11:15 a.m.- True Tales of the Trail with presenter Jon Carlson.

Wednesday, July 21, 11:15 a.m.- End of the Trail.

Wednesday, July 28, 11:15 a.m.- Annual "Party in the Park."

The annual Party in the Park will end the summer reading program. Children will receive certificates of participation and prizes will be given out. All participants will have a chance to win something special in different drawings held throughout the day.

For more information contact the Heppner Library at 676-9964.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

Hope, Valby, All Saints Parish will host the senior meal on Wednesday, June 23. The menu for the day is spaghetti, meat sauce, green salad, apples and cheese, garlic bread, cookies and milk.

Ed Dick has returned to his apartment after a period of hospitalization and recuperation. Everyone is glad to see him well and happy to be among us. George Jeffries has moved from St. Patrick's Center to Willow Terrace Assisted Living.

The Board of Directors will hear a report from the second quarter's meeting of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee, which met in Irrigon, at the Stokes Landing Center, on Monday June 14. Tom Wilson, Grace Drake and Ed Baker attend from the Heppner Center.

The group eats lunch with the people of the host center and hears discussion of activities at each center. Each one has its own style of operating its center within the same guidelines. Quality of service is important; both praise and critique is offered by members of the committee. Monitoring reports from all centers has been received by committee members. If anyone wants information about how another center in our area works, they may contact Tom, Grace or Ed.

Heppner Library offers reading program for teens

The Oregon Trail Library District- Heppner Branch is hosting the "Teen Scene" Summer Reading program to help teens explore what else can be done at the library besides reading.

Following is the schedule of activities:

Wednesday, June 23, 7 p.m.- Bird Watching. Steve Brownfield will present the

how, when and where to watch birds and identify them.

Wednesday, July 7, 6 p.m.- Photography. Jennifer Jennings will present how to visually record birds and tell how to take outstanding photographs of people, places and wildlife.

Wednesday, July 21, 7 p.m.- What do the Experts Say? Over the centuries, people have searched desperately for the key to human behavior. Teens will get a chance to explore some of the methods used for understanding including: phrenology, numerology and handwriting analysis.

Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2 p.m.- Journaling. Teens will learn how to put it all together by journaling their thoughts, sights and feeling to remember when.

For more information contact the Heppner Library at 676-9964.

Births

Jasmin Lopez Gonzalez- a daughter, Jasmin, was born May 29, 2004, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Ruth F. and Juan A. Lopez of Boardman.

Zander Michael Lee Fisher- a son, Zander Michael Lee, was born May 31, 2004, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Rita Jean Glover and Jesse Lee Fisher of Heppner.

William Hunter Freeman- a son, William Hunter, was born June 2, 2004, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Gaynor Anne and Kevin Stuart Freeman of Boardman.

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CHAMBER CHATTER

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

Heppner was in the news Monday, on radio, television, and in newspapers, remembering the 101st Anniversary of the 1903 Flood. It was interesting to note in the Days Gone By segment in the East Oregonian, written on June 12, 1904 that "the day was to be observed regularly thereafter on June 14 of each year" and "committees on arrangements have been appointed to have charge of the memorial exercises and special requests will be sent out to different cities for flowers for the memorial services." Until some archive research is done, it is hard to say if this committee, appointed 100 years ago, was active or passive. Appropriately, on this day in 2004 the sign at the lake commemorating the flood and building of the dam was dedicated, and last year the memorial was finally in place. Some things just take longer than others. Drive up and take a peek.

Welcome to our newest Chamber member Pinnell Inc. Todd Quigley from Kennewick sells and services office equipment. More information is online at www.Heppner.net/chamber in the business directory.

Dual Sport Riders experienced Heppner this past weekend as they made a 100-mile ride to the OHV Park and back. Each rider who had a great experience in our town and at the park will pass it on to at least ten other people. It's all about customer service and sharing our wealth.

The Baker-Morrow Regional Partnership has announced new grant opportunities for projects that promote healthy communities through job creation and job retention activities. Both public and private projects that promote jobs, leverage outside funds and successfully demonstrate the ability to complete the project will be considered. GEODC manages the project. For more information, contact Karen Kendall at (541) 276-6745.

The Heppner Chamber Directory will soon be completed. Businesses who wish to join Chamber or who have not renewed should contact the office within the week to be included.

Next week, Chamber's guest speaker will be Leslie Carnes, Executive Director of the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce and President of the Eastern Oregon Visitor Association. Come meet Leslie and learn about marketing Eastern Oregon and the regional organization.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Women and cats will do as they please and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea."

Murdock Talk at Heritage Station features Oregon school legacy

Heritage Station Museum is offering an armchair tour of the state's rural schools, past and present, Saturday, June 19. George Murdock, Superintendent of Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District, will speak about their historical significance to Oregon's development and share interesting facts and photographs.

The program begins at 1 p.m., and is open to the public and is free of charge. Heritage Station is located at 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton.

Murdock recently published a book, "Reflections on a Legacy," which covers 170 years of rural education in Oregon. The books are available in the Heritage Station Museum store and he will sign the books during the social hour following the program.

All of Oregon was once considered rural and the State's educational roots in every community have been modest. In all areas, schools have played significant social

and economical roles in the fabric of the communities they serve.

"Reflections on a Legacy" documents research conducted throughout the state. The book is organized by geographic area and also includes sections on high school athletics, Indian education, and transportation. Also included is a chronological listing of interesting and significant milestones in Oregon school history, dating from the first school in Oregon Country at Ft. Vancouver, opened in 1832.

FHL organize Sweek Memorial

The Friends of the Heppner Library have begun a Marcia Sweek Memorial Fund. All donations to this fund should be made to Friends of the Heppner Library, not the library itself.

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Sunday, June 20th Annual Elks Father's Day Picnic

The Heppner Elks Lodge will host the annual Father's Day Picnic at Cutsforth Park for all current Elks members and their families on Sunday, June 20 starting at 11 a.m. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided by the Elks. Salads and desserts are potluck. Games including coins in the straw, egg toss, football accuracy competition, softball and horseshoe pitching will be held. Enjoy a day in the mountains with the family and friends!



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