

New faces come to Ione, Heppner schools

Heading the Ione Schools team is Bryn Browning, Ione's new superintendent/principal.

Browning, 29, and her husband, Josh, and two girls, Leslie, 4-½ and Morgan, 1-½, came to Ione from Vancouver, WA.

Browning has a bachelor's degree from Eastern Washington University and a master's of education from Washington State University-Vancouver.

While she loves teaching, Browning was also interested in following in the footsteps of many family members who work in school administration. She is the fourth superintendent in her family and there has been an administrator in every generation. Browning feels that being an administrator is a way she can make more of a difference in students' lives and she can help her teaching staff make a difference too.

The transition between teacher and administrator wasn't expected to come so soon, but after visiting Ione over Christmas break last year, Browning and her family fell in love with Ione and its people. The connection drew her to apply for the open position. She said waiting for the phone call from the school board on their decision was one of the most difficult moments, but,

once she got the call, was very excited.

Still loving to interact with the students, Browning says that she creates tasks that can get her in the classroom. Currently she reads a few hours a week with the elementary students. She also took the opportunity to go on the natural resources field trip with the high school. She said she enjoyed getting to know the students outside of school. "They are great kids, very respectful and fun."

Another bonus to working in Ione is that Browning is a lot closer now to her extended family. Her parents, George and Donna Murdock, live in Pendleton and her in-laws live in Kennewick.

Browning closed in saying that her staff is "great and all are here for the kids." She also appreciates how many different "hats" many staff members take on to benefit the children.

Michelle Stone

Michelle Stone, 28, is another of the new faces at Ione Schools.

She is teaching music to the elementary students (K-8), high school guitar and Title I math.

Stone, who lives in Heppner, with her husband Daye Stone, Heppner

Elementary School vice-principal, and three children, moved to Heppner from Milton-Freewater. Stone said she was looking forward to getting back to work after taking two years off from teaching. This is Stone's fifth year teaching; she taught for four years in Milton-Freewater.

Born in Montana, Stone received her bachelor's degree in elementary education with a music minor from Montana State University-Northern in Havre.

Stone said she is excited to be teaching in Ione because of the great kids and great families.

In her free time, Stone enjoys singing, playing the piano, writing music and playing with her children. She and her family also spend a lot of their time enjoying the outdoors with sports such as snowmobiling and dirt bike riding.

All in all, Stone says she is very happy to be living in Heppner and working in Ione, even though neither has a McDonald's.

Josh Browning

Joining the Heppner High School team is Josh Browning. Browning, 29, is teaching junior high language arts.

Browning, and his wife, Bryn, and their two children moved from Vancouver, WA, to Ione, where she is working as Ione's superintendent/principal and he found a niche in Heppner.

Browning, who grew up in Kennewick,

received his bachelor's degree in social studies at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA. He pursued his post-graduate work in English at Washington State University-Vancouver.

While in Vancouver, Browning taught for five years, teaching sixth grade and 10th grade history. He also coached football in Vancouver, skills he is sharing with Ione.

When not teaching or coaching, Browning is active with his children, as well as enjoying many outdoor activities.

A difference Browning is seeing in Heppner, as opposed to his teaching experience in Vancouver, is that most of the Heppner students have a similar knowledge base, having gone to school together. Also, most of the kids know each other really well.

Browning is also enjoying living in the area due to the fact that his family is a lot closer now.

Melissa Coiner

Melissa (McElligott) Coiner, a Morrow County native, has returned from California to teach in Heppner. Coiner, who graduated from Ione High School, came back to the

area after getting married to Josh Coiner and deciding that Morrow County was a better place to raise a family than California.

Coiner, who is teaching junior high math and physical education, received her bachelor of science degree in special education and elementary education from University of Nevada-Reno. She also coached the volleyball "B" team this year and will be coaching the basketball "A" team.

In California, Coiner had been teaching sixth grade in a year-round school. There has been some adjustments to teaching in Heppner, in that classes sizes are quite a bit smaller than the 33 students she has been used to teaching. Also, Coiner had less than a month between jobs, coming out of the year-round cycle. Teaching in Heppner is also nice for Coiner because she knows many of the families of her students.

In her free time, Coiner enjoys watching and playing a variety of sports, as well as scrapbooking.

Having bought a home in Heppner, Coiner says she enjoys being closer to her family in Ione.

Bobby Rice

Bobby Rice, 33, has come to Heppner, from Halfway, to teach K-4th grade general music, 5th and 6th grade band, junior high and high school band and junior high choir.

Rice, who has lived in Texas and West Virginia, graduated from Shepherd College (University) in Shepherdstown, W.V., with a bachelor of arts degree in secondary education specializing in music.

Wanting to be closer to his children, ages 4 and 5, who now live in Portland, Rice looked for a job in a town closer than Halfway. A job was available in Heppner and Rice decided it would work.

In his free time, Rice enjoys studying astronomy and playing with the Willow Creek Symphony. In the symphony, he plays the tuba, which he has really not had a chance to play for eight years, but studied in college.

Rice, who would like to stay settled in one place, is hoping Heppner may be that town. He is also looking to start a master's program some time soon.

Also joining the Ione Schools is Blas Elguezabal. Elguezabal couldn't be contacted by publishing time and will be included in an article in next week's edition of the Gazette.



Bryn Browning



Josh Browning



Melissa Coiner



Bobby Rice



Michelle Stone

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HEPPNER MUSTANGS!



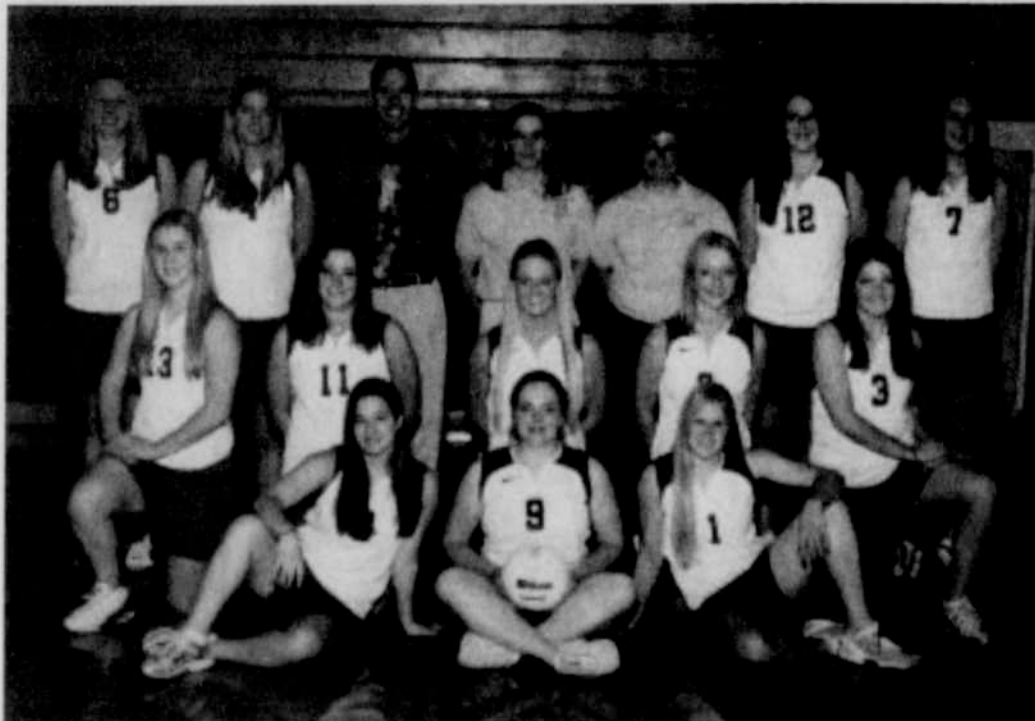
Heppner Mustangs Varsity Football Team: back row (L-R)-Nathan Van Cleave, Rory Kilkenny, Matt Kenny, Aaron Delveaux, Peter Geer, Kyle Carlson, Jode Coll, Kory Paullus, Mikel Britt, Brandon Seitz, Matt Van Cleave; second row-Noah Fleischer, Matt Garrett, Andre Rauch, Quinn Peck, Brendan McElligott, Jake Van Doorn, Aaron Allstott, Tony Haguewood, James Van Liew, Nacho Elguezabal; third row-Gus Torres, Sloan Keithley, Kody Lovgren, Justin Gregory, Caleb Maben, Justin Delveaux, Colton Hanson, Casey Maben, Robbie Smith, Tyler Boyer, Ben McCarl; front row-Taylor Hodges, Matt McCabe, Francisco Escalante, Assistant Coach Daye Stone, Head Coach Greg Grant, Assistant Coach Shane Matheny, Assistant Coach Les Payne, Rick Martin, Sean Murray, Travis Eubanks, Lane Bailey

Heppner Mustangs Football
Second Round State Playoffs:
Heppner Mustangs vs. Nyssa Bulldogs
Saturday, November 20th at 1 p.m.
at the MC Fairgrounds
GO MUSTANGS!

These businesses and individuals congratulate the Heppner Mustangs teams on their winning seasons and say Good Luck in State to Mustangs' Football!

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and Congratulations to the Heppner Volleyball Team: Fourth Place Finish in the Columbia Basin Conference



Heppner Mustangs Varsity Volleyball Team: back row (L-R)-Heather Rill, Chelsea Britt, Coach Dieter Waite, Head Coach Terri Gentry, Coach Molly Rhea, Linsey Mitchell, Chelsey Betsinger; middle-Laurie Murray, Blair Keithley, Madison Bailey, Megan Orr, Brittney Herbison; front-Katie Britt, Heather Yocom, Shanna Rietmann