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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

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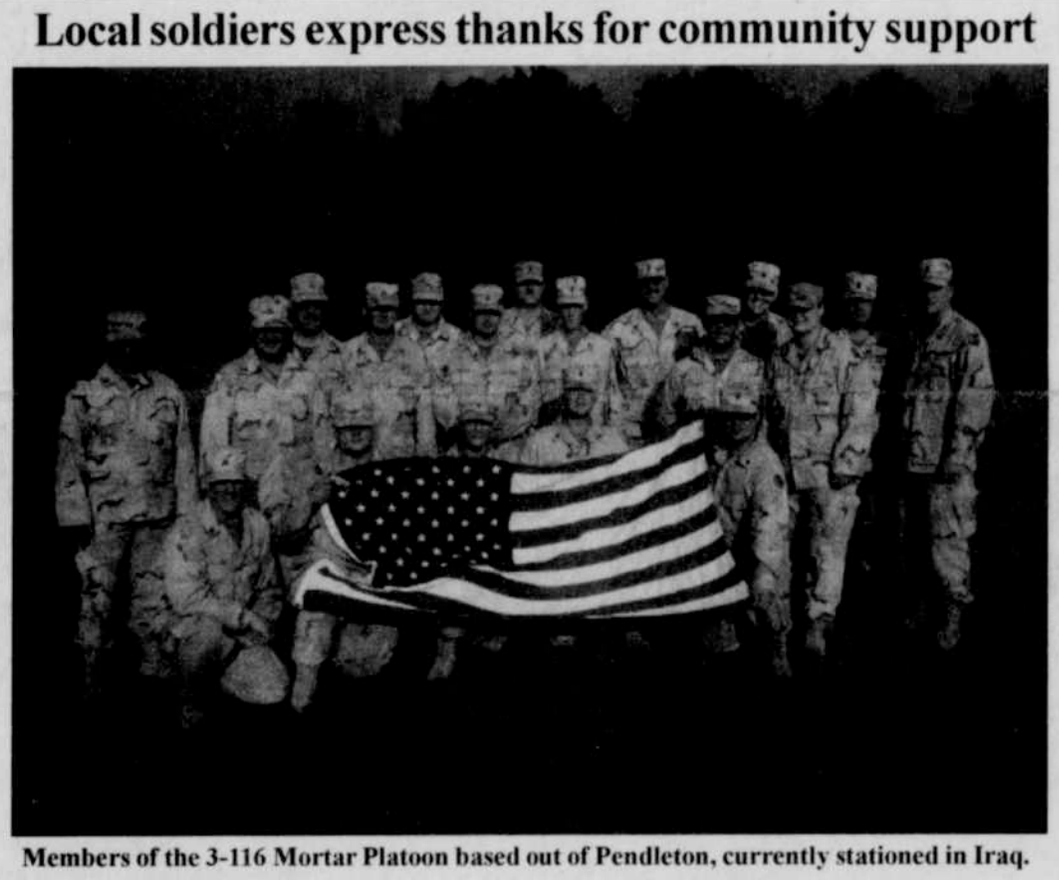
Local soldiers express thanks for community support



Members of the 3-116 Mortar Platoon based out of Pendleton, currently stationed in Iraq.

On behalf of all the 3-116 Mortar Platoon based out of Pendleton we would like to thank you all for the letters, boxes and prayers during our deployment. Special thanks to Support Our Troops, the Heppner Post Office and the employees at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. It is wonderful to know that so many care about us.

We have been over here since late November and we are (hopefully) halfway through our deployment in Iraq. We have been gone from our families for approximately a year and cannot wait to get back.

I hope the Memorial Day Celebration went well and you had a chance to see the wonderful slide show presentation that Sergeant Ron Bloker made of our deployment thus far. On this Memorial Day we would like to remember all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

1LT John Qualls
SSG Jon Mitchell
(Class of 1984 and 1995)
Mortar Platoon 3-116
CAV

Heppner Youth Sports Academy is just around the corner

The sports academy is going to be back again this June. The academy is designed to allow local students to access sports camps at a bargain rate. The academy is open to all students in Heppner Schools.

"We hope all parents and students take advantage of the opportunity to get top notch instruction at these camps," said Terri Gentry, Heppner Head volleyball coach.

"The local businesses have stepped forward to provide the coaches and players a great opportunity right here in Heppner," said boys basketball coach Forrest McKinnis. "This academy is an indication of the level of support we receive from our community, it is just outstanding."

Local businesses who are sponsoring the academy this year are: Ruggs

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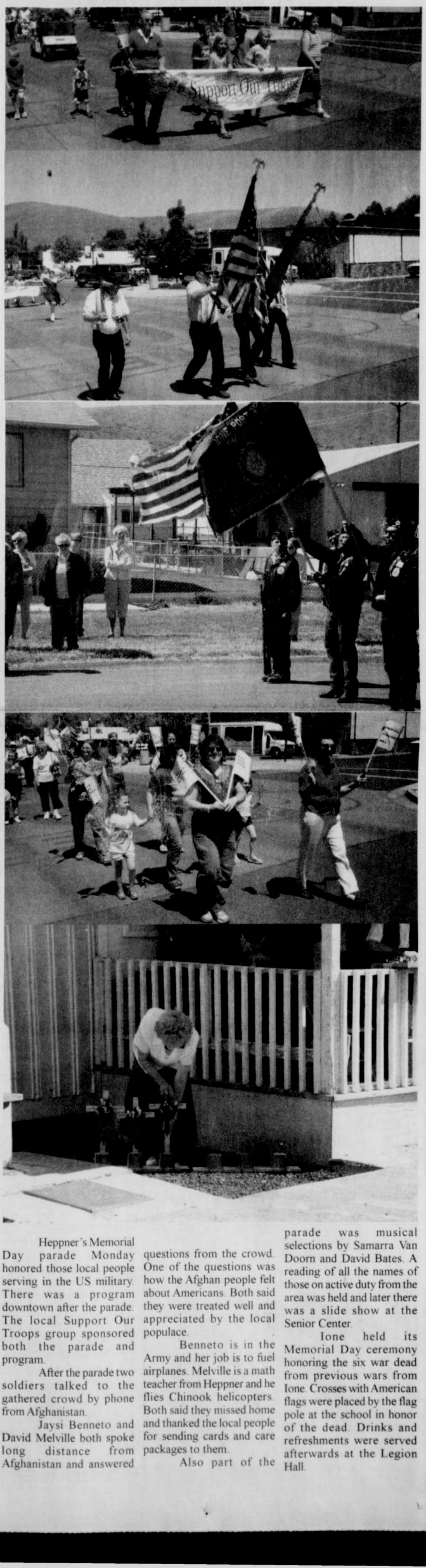
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK
TO THE HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL
AND IONE HIGH SCHOOL
CLASSES OF 2005!
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Heppner and Ione honor Veterans and active duty military



Heppner's Memorial Day parade Monday honored those local people serving in the US military. There was a program downtown after the parade. The local Support Our Troops group sponsored both the parade and program.

After the parade two soldiers talked to the gathered crowd by phone from Afghanistan.

Jaysi Benneto and David Melville both spoke long distance from Afghanistan and answered questions from the crowd. One of the questions was how the Afghan people felt about Americans. Both said they were treated well and appreciated by the local populace.

Benneto is in the Army and her job is to fuel airplanes. Melville is a math teacher from Heppner and he flies Chinook helicopters. Both said they missed home and thanked the local people for sending cards and care packages to them.

Also part of the parade was musical selections by Samarra Van Doorn and David Bates. A reading of all the names of those on active duty from the area was held and later there was a slide show at the Senior Center.

Ione held its Memorial Day ceremony honoring the six war dead from previous wars from Ione. Crosses with American flags were placed by the flag pole at the school in honor of the dead. Drinks and refreshments were served afterwards at the Legion Hall.