

Ione School to hold performance with artist in residence



Mason Haguewood (left) and Zac Orem (right) watch as Okaidja Afroso demonstrates Ghanian drumming techniques.

By Kaylee Palmateer and Tori Heagy

This week Ione Community School has hosted artist in residence Okaidja Afroso. Afroso has been teaching African dancing and drums to the students. He has danced and drummed with groups in his native Ghana since he was a child and has performed throughout Africa, Europe and the U.S.

Students have been learning the basic techniques of Ghanian drumming as well as the culture and people of Ghana through dialogue relating to the music. The week will culminate with an all-school performance on Thursday, April 13. Community members are invited to attend this free performance at 2 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

Cardinal Booster Club news

The Cardinal Booster Club met Monday, April 3 at the school library. The club members learned that the new track and football storage unit is in place and ready to be used. Coach Del LaRue announced Ione once again has a pole vault practice area and athletes will be competing in the pole vault at track meets this spring.

Jim Raible thanked the club for concessions support throughout basketball season, particularly for providing pies for home games. The Cardinal Booster Club provides \$600 in scholarship money to graduating seniors from Ione High School. This year's committee is Ryan Rudolf, Del LaRue and Howard

Mullins. This year's graduation committee is Lisa Rietmann, Melissa LaRue and Anita Orem. Club members will look at 4th of July t-shirts and designs and discuss them at the next meeting. The next meeting of Cardinal Booster Club will be Monday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at the school library.

Bake Sale to benefit Megan Orr

A bake sale will be held Friday, April 14 at 10 a.m. in front of Heppner Family Foods. Donated baked goods are welcome. The fundraiser is for Megan Orr who wants to participate in the Australian Basketball Down Under Tour.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

"Get lost and discover Heppner." Maybe this should be our new slogan. The Chamber had a visitor today from Tri-Cities, who recently took a new job in Hermiston. In connection with her job, she decided to visit Heppner, which she thought was just 14 miles south. Some miles later she was very relieved to discover the gas station in Lexington and since she had made it that far, she came on into Heppner, had lunch and arrived at the Chamber of Commerce.

We had a great visit. She took a number of brochures, three phone books, and an Oregon map and after a visit about the area, I pointed her in the direction of the hospital and assisted living. A few minutes later she was back with some Kudo bars and a thank you. Obviously she could see I have a weakness for chocolate. Meeting new people (and chocolate) is one of the many perks of my job.

Trivia Night was a humbling experience, especially for some of us who started out at the top and rapidly dropped to winning the Trivia Crying Towel. Everyone seemed to have a good time and it will probably be repeated annually, but next time not so close to Casino Night, the MS Walk and Pheasants Forever. It has been suggested that the date be during winter solstice. In the meantime, put on those walking shoes, burn off some calories and then put them back on at the first ever Pheasants Forever Banquet. There's always something to do in Heppner.

Cycle Oregon

committees have been formed and many, many volunteers will be needed. Meetings will be scheduled soon for the retailers to put their heads together, since 2000 cyclists will arrive in Heppner before noon on Sunday, Sept. 10, looking for things to do and places to spend money. It sounds like the Main Stage will be set up right in the middle of downtown Heppner and the public will be welcome to attend all of the entertainment. There will be opportunities for organizations to set up booths and work in many areas; however, as the time draws closer we would like vendors to check in with the committee and get on the list. More information down the road.

Oregon's International Speedway. Do you have questions, concerns, and confusion? Are you excited to make it happen? Do you want to talk it over with those who have attended numerous meetings? Join the Chamber membership at St. Patrick's Senior Center on Thursday, April 13 at noon to hear Steve Brucker present. It's exciting. It means jobs. It means visitors, and as someone said, "They will help the economy and then go home." Come and learn with the Chamber.

Thought for the Week: "If you have an apple, and I have an apple and we exchange these apples, then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea, and I have an idea, and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas." - George Bernard Shaw.

Red Hats hold tea at Willow Creek Terrace



Red Hat Rowdy Jeanette Padberg visits with invited male guest and Willow Creek Terrace resident George Jefferies.

The Red Hat Rowdies, the local Red Hat group, held an afternoon tea at Willow Creek Terrace on April 5.

During the very festive atmosphere, the ladies, young and younger, and the invited males, took time out to sing "Happy Birthday" to Elmer Meligan on his 93rd birthday.

Myrna VanCleave provided background music for the well-attended tea.

DeSpain honored with 60-year Legion pin



(L-R): Conrad Tworek; Bob DeSpain; District Commander Ed Baker; and Ione Legion Commander Bob Baker.

Bob DeSpain has shown his dedication to his country and the Ione American Legion Post #95 for 60 years. After looking at the recruiting posters that said, "Uncle Sam Wants You!" and "Loose Lips Sink Ships" he decided he wanted to join the Navy. DeSpain joined in May 1943 and was stationed for basic training at Camp Farrgautt, ID. Basic was two months of intense training... marching, knot tying, marching, gun cleaning, more marching, cleaning and reassembling his 30-06, more knot tying and marching. After two months he was home on furlough and spent time with his parents and a girl named Aloha. He didn't miss Camp Farrgautt. He was proud to be in the navy a place he'd always dreamed of being a part of. He wanted to "see the action" and the rest of the world.

He was sent Treasure Island at Oakland, CA. He volunteered for the Armed Guard Duty and then wondered what he'd volunteered for. He was a gunner for Merchant ships. He learned how to dismantle and oil 45 automatic pistols, 30-06 rifles, 50 caliber machine guns, 20 mil cannons, 3-inch 50 cannons and 5-inch 38 cannons. They also had to identify US, German and Japanese aircraft. The first ship he was sent to was the "new" Liberty ship, the SS Josiah G. Holland. It was June 1943. They trained from San Francisco Bay, Treasure Island and up to San Pedro Bay. During the first trip out, it was under the Golden Gate Bridge and the water was rough. DeSpain and many other sailors were all sea sick. He never got sea sick again.

They loaded The Holland in 1-1/2 days with bunker fuel oil and other supplies and headed to Pearl Harbor- an eight-day trip. All oil tankers were a priority hit for German U boats and planes. He served on several ships including the "SS Atlantic Coast." He served as a 20 MM gunner. The

armament was an old 5 inch 51 on the stern, a 3 inch 50 on the bow and 8-20MM's. They went to Pearl Harbor several times and mainly hauled oil, guns and equipment. He loved his job and being able to see the action.

When officers found out that DeSpain could handle most situations, he was given the mail detail. He would go ashore to pick up the ships mail. He could see first hand the horror and destruction on Pearl Harbor. Watching other ships being sunk and planes bombed was a difficult for him, as well as all the other young men who fought for our country. Some were only kids looking for an adventure.

On Aug. 10, 1945, they heard that the Japanese had surrendered. They had heard something about a bomb, but didn't give all the details. On Aug. 12, 1945, they heard over the radio that the Japanese and Americans had stopped all hostilities and the war was over.

The total casualties of the US in all theaters just after the war was 1,076,245 with 405,399 killed. He still feels sorry for not only the American people that suffered, but for the Japanese as well.

Many of us will never know or understand all these men gave up to serve in Uncle Sam's military. We can only thank God we live in a free country and give thanks for the men and women who represent our country. The US Navy motto was: We aim to deliver and they did.

Ione School's greenhouse flourishing with activity

By Kylee Svetich

The Ione High School horticulture class has been hard at work this year preparing and maintaining the school's greenhouse. They now have a beautiful selection of flowers, plants and trees for sale. Sales will benefit the Ione greenhouse and the high school horticulture class and are available Monday-Thursday from 8-10 a.m.

Other projects going on in the greenhouse include a plant sale on Wednesday, April 19 to help raise money for Outdoor School at Tupper, elementary classes planting flowers for Mother's Day and donations of trees to the City of Ione, the Morrow County Fair Board and the Willow Creek Country Club.

Community members are invited to stop by the greenhouse from 8-10 a.m. to check out what the students have been doing.

★ Elect ★



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Morrow County Commissioner

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- Morrow County Wheat Growers' President 1999 & 2000
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- Morrow County Planning Commission 1997-Present
- Morrow County School District Advisory Committee 1999-2003
- Lobby wheat issues at State and National level
- SMART reading volunteer, Heppner Elementary School
- Oregon Wheat Foundation Board
- Ione Community Agri-Business Organization
- North Morrow Vector Control District
- National Association of Wheat Growers' Budget Committee
- Morrow County School District Ag Science Advisory Committee
- OSU Extension Advisory Committee
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Customer Appreciation Day!

Come into the bank on April 21, 2006, and get a free Car Wash Coupon - then take time to let the Heppner High School Football Team wash that grit and grime from your automobile! (BEO is making a \$500 donation to the team!)

(Here's your chance to watch them perform off the field!)

Time: Between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Car Wash Area: Drive Thru side of the Bank



"And every Friday in April, the bank will have free cookies and coffee, too!!"

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