

## Language camp held in Ione for foreign exchange students

Cultures collided in a good way this summer in Ione when 21 exchange students came to town to get a jump start on learning the language and the culture before embarking on a year-long adventure. Cathy Halvorsen, local coordinator for ASSE, the sponsoring organization, found homes for the young adults from China, South Korea, Thailand and France. And that was only half of her job.

Halvorsen coordinated a four-week Language Camp for these worldly visitors. The language camp involved three days per week of classroom activities plus a weekly excursion. While Cathy noted that the camp was a lot of work, she noted that it was "a really positive experience" for all involved. Becky Wagenblast and Karen Holland were the teachers for the classroom portion of the camp.

Language camps have become increasingly popular with exchange organizations and exchange students. Last year, 300 kids participated in the World Heritage Language Camps last year and that number leapt to 900 this year. World Heritage is the parent company of ASSE.

The camps are popular for a couple reasons. One is the jump start they give the participants as they ready to start their academic year in a U.S. high school. Frequently they arrive with very limited English-speaking skills. Another is that students get a month-long initiation into life in the U.S.

Possibly the biggest motivator for the participants, though, is that language camp enrollees are guaranteed a placement in the U.S. Several of the students in the Ione camp left home not knowing where they would end up spending their year and in fact, several will start the school year in Ione waiting for a final placement. "We are waiting for phone calls daily," noted Cathy.



French, Chinese, South Korean and Thai students with their "Ione Cardinal USA" t-shirts. -Contributed Photo

Cathy received word two days prior to arrival that she would be receiving 21 students rather than the 15 originally in her plan. Apparently Halvorsen can be quite persuasive as she pulled off the impossible and found homes for the final six students in a nick of time. "I did some arm twisting," she admitted.

A short term stay with a family can be such a good fit that it turns into a long-term stay. That is the case for three students at the Ione camp who will be attending Ione High School starting September 2.

One of those is Gip, a sweet young lady who finds herself half way around the world from her home in Bangkok, Thailand. Gip's hosts are Earl and Rhonda Garrett, a couple of "empty nesters" who haven't had to deal with a teenager in the house for a few years.

"This was something we never intended to do," said Rhonda. When the desperate call came in with six more kids needing homes, Rhonda called her husband Earl and gave him the final say. Earl told her that "they can't very well send them back" so they said yes.

The relationship has been positive all the way around. Rhonda says that

Gip has been "very sweet and helpful" and she also noted that the Thai kids are both compassionate and innocent. "They are just good kids," she said. Gip has cooked for the Garretts, introducing them to hot and spicy Thai food. She has also discovered the game of UNO, which Rhonda reports is a hit with the whole group of Thai kids.

From a city of eight million wall-to-wall people to Ione, Gip has made a smooth transition. "I love Ione. Everyone is friendly and very kind. I don't want to go to a big city," she said.

Juliette arrived from Anney, France, a city of 100,000 and was surprised at Ione. "There is nobody here," she said. She did not think her spoken English had improved by leaps and bounds during her stay here "but I understand it better."

During her stay in Ione, she was treated to a visit to San Francisco with the Heagy family and a trip to the Oregon Coast with her host family, the Camarillos. "It was cold but beautiful," she said of the Oregon coast. Juliette had an ambitious year of language learning ahead. Her first host family will have her for five months in Mississippi before she moves on to finish her year

in Mexico.

Les and Kim Thompson hosted two girls, Nantana from Thailand and Minjun from China. "Figuring out the language was the most fun part" said Kim. She noted Minjun was very interested in the Olympics and was quite upset when she thought she would have to miss the opening ceremonies to take an excursion to the Umatilla County Fair. Thankfully there was a misunderstanding on the days so no one had to choose bucking broncs over home country pageantry.

Kim said that with no common language between the two visitors and the family, they frequently resorted to pantomime. At one time, she found herself acting out the balance beam to find out if her student was interested in gymnastics at the Olympics.

Joe and Linda Halvorsen hosted one of the youngest girls in the group at age 15 and she was quite homesick and quiet for the first few days. "She would hardly say anything at first but has really opened up," said Linda. Hyung really liked seeing competitors from her native Korea compete at the Olympics and kept track of Korea in the medal count. Possibly lost

in translation, she referred to the Olympic Stadium not as the "Bird's Nest" but the "Bird House."

Alan and Nancy Anderson opened their home to two boys, Tony from China and Florian from France. The Andersons were another pair who had not dealt with teenagers for a while but when Cathy Halvorsen "came to our house begging" they could not say no.

"They filled up our house and kept us organized," said Nancy. "It was definitely a big switch." She celebrated the end of language camp mainly because she would not have to pack lunches anymore, a chore she had gladly given up several years ago. Florian, a slightly built boy from France, was anxious to participate in Cardinal Football camp. Despite the sore muscles, "he loved it and never complained."

Formal excursions took the students to the Pendleton Underground and other sights in Pendleton, the Farm City Pro Rodeo and Umatilla County Fair, the PGE Coal Fire Plant and a famous Duane Neiffer-led field trip to the John Day Fossil beds. Informally, the students experienced American football at the Cardinal football camp, wheat harvest, horseback riding, shopping trips, helping their host families with animals at the Morrow County Fair, killing rattlesnakes and other experiences unique to life in the country.

After four weeks of book learning and soaking up the culture, 14 of the 21 students departed to their more permanent host families last week, spreading out all over the country to Oklahoma, Ohio, Texas, North Dakota, Mississippi, Wyoming and Wisconsin. The closest placement was a French boy going to Boardman. "It's sad to see them leave" said Cathy. "It's only been a month but it is amazing how attached you get."

## Willow Creek Terrace plans ice cream social

Throughout the year, many volunteers contribute time and energy to the Willow Creek Terrace. As a "Thank You" to these individuals, the residents will host an ice cream social on Sunday, September 21, at 3 p.m.

The Terrace Board and residents have agreed that continuing to say "Thank you" to these kind-hearted persons is an important way of expressing gratitude. But they also agree that sharing ice cream treats and conversation is another way to impress upon them just how grateful the Terrace Community is for their kindnesses. "And this is another great reason to have a party," one member reports.

The Terrace will serve ice cream and toppings, drinks, and brownies. All volunteers are invited to attend the sweet-treats event.

## Boyce joins Farmers Ins. Agency

Jim Boyce has joined Farmers Insurance Agency in Heppner.

Boyce began his insurance career in 1979 as a claims adjuster with North Pacific Insurance Company. After serving 20 years in that capacity in offices throughout the Northwest, Boyce changed course and began working in sales for Bisnett Insurance in Pendleton. In the fall of 2000 he relocated to Hood River and managed the office there until the fall of 2007.

Boyce grew up in Ione and Heppner where his father owned an insurance agency. He is a 1976 graduate of Heppner High School and a 1979 graduate of Lane Community College's Insurance Claims Program.

## Community Youth Group begins Sept. 18

The Community Youth Group will officially get underway for the school year on Thursday night, September 18, at Willow Creek Baptist Church at 8 p.m. All area teens are welcome to attend.

In addition, there is a new Sunday School class for teens at the church entitled "In the Dust of the Rabbi." It uses a popular video series by Bible scholar Ray Vander Laan. That class meets from 9:30 -10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.


Willow Creek Baptist is located at 560 North Minor Street, just off Water Street. For more information call Pastor Keith Price at 676-5552.

## Morrow County OTPR Court tryouts to be held

Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court tryouts will be held Sunday, October 12, at 1 p.m. at the Morrow County Fair Grounds.

Applications can be obtained at the fair office or by calling 676-9474. The application deadline is Friday, September 26, at 11 a.m. Application must be sent by the deadline to: MC Fair, P.O. Box 464, Heppner, OR 97836.

For more information call the MC Fair Office at 676-9474.



### Real Estate


By DAVID SYKES  
REALTOR

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## Boardman interchange area management plan moves forward

The Boardman City Council has scheduled a workshop to review funding alternatives for the Boardman Interchange Area Management Plan (IAMP).

Last fall, after hearings on the IAMP, Mayor Ed Glenn appointed a committee to work with state officials to re-write the proposed plan. The goal of the plan is to develop an IAMP for the interchange at Interstate 84

and Main Street that establishes corrective measures which would ensure safe and efficient traffic movement of the interchange area over a 20-year period. Also, with an IAMP in place, the city will establish greater eligibility for state funding of future street projects.

Boardman Community Development Director, Barry Beyeler gave an overview of the IAMP

## 6th Annual Ione Education Foundation Fund Raising Dinner

### AUCTION and RAFFLE ITEMS

**Saturday, September 27th**  
**Social hour at 6 p.m. / Dinner at 7 p.m.**  
**at the Ione American Legion Hall**

Menu: Prime Rib, Crab, Shrimp, Salad, Baked Potato, Bread, Dessert. Two drinks included with meal (choose from beer, wine and soft drinks).

**Ticket Prices:**  
**Adults - \$25.00**  
**Children 7 - 12 - \$10.00**  
**6 and under - free**  
**Tickets available at Bank of Eastern Oregon, Ione**



**Come enjoy a fun evening and help support the Ione School.**

The Ione Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.  
*Ad sponsored by Wheatland Insurance, Ione*

draft during Tuesday's city council meeting. The plan is incomplete until the funding alternatives are outlined.

The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, at 8 a.m. in the Boardman City Hall Council Chambers. This is a workshop session, and there may be limited opportunity for public input.

In other city news, the Mayor appointed a committee to prepare an evaluation procedure for the city manager's annual review at the next council meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Boardman City Council is Tuesday, September 16, at 7 p.m. at Boardman City Hall.

## Brock and Lanegan graduate from basic training

Army National Guard Spec. Jennifer B. Brock and Army Pvt. Stacy L. Lanegan have graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldiers studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Brock is the daughter of Penny Jurney of Boardman. She graduated in 1987 from Riverside High School and received a bachelor's degree in 2007 from Portland State University.

Lanegan is the daughter of Kathy Seimer of Hermiston.