Joyces celebrate 50 years

Walter and Wanda Joyce celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 22.

The couple returned from Ireland last week to attend their granddaughter's wedding. (Mindy Malvick was wed to Travis Harp on 11-11-11.) Walter was born in Ireland and was able to reconnect with many family members during the trip.

Walter first met Wanda at a branding in Juntura, OR. It was love at first sight. They were married soon after in Burns, OR.

The couple ranched in Juntura for 15 years. They then sold the ranch and moved to Vale, OR so their daughter, Ellen, could attend high school. Walter worked for Simplot, while Wanda was employed at the Vale nursing home.

The Joyces moved to Heppner when they retired in April of 1993, in order to be closer to Ellen, son-in-law Steve, and granddaughters Mindy and Megan.

Walter and Wanda Joyce

Father Gerry Condon will bless Walter and Wanda's marriage at the end of the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick's Catholic Church on November 27. Cake and refreshments will be served afterward in the parish hall. The couple invites everyone to join them for Mass and well-wishes afterward. No gifts, please.

HES Authors in Autumn

Thirty-four students in grades three through six at Heppner Elementary decided to trade an afternoon away from school for an Authors in Autumn writing workshop on Friday, November 18. Each student was given a plain drawing of a turkey and directions to disguise the turkey in any way they chose to save him from being Thanksgiving dinner.

The disguise projects were done at home, and all budding artists and writers brought their creations to school Friday. The turkeys were transformed into hunters, clowns, Hawaiian dancers, Oregon Beaver fan, Oregon Duck football players, a singer, a peacock, cheerleaders and more. One turkey was even hidden as a lion, an elephant and a frog all in one. After sharing their designs, students wrote about their adventures of trying to save their turkeys.

Students at Heppner Elementary, shown here with their "Turkey in Disguise" drawings, traded a school-free afternoon for the chance to attend an Authors in Autumn workshop last Friday. *–Contributed photo*

In addition to the "Turkeys in Disguise" project, students made Thanksgiving thank-you cards for family and friends, and created acrostic poems. Each writer took home a packet to make a family holiday decoration showing all of the fun things they are thankful for this Thanksgiving season.

Pumpkin pie in a bag, hot chocolate and spiced cider were treats enjoyed by all. Drew Coe won the prize for the closest guess of how many cranberries were in the jar.

Two writers who attended Authors in Autumn were Hunter Nichols and Cason Mitchell, both fifth-grade students.

Cason said, "It was really a lot of fun, and a great experience. I hope we have another writing workshop."

"I never thought school on a Friday afternoon could be so much fun," Hunter added.

100+ shoe boxes delivered

Due to the generosity of Heppner and Ione residents, 110 gift-filled boxes were delivered to the Operation Christmas Child (OCC) relay station in Hermiston on November 21. Hermiston coordinator Barb Wattenburger said she was excited because the south Morrow County delivery put the relay station at more than 1,000 boxes.

OCC is a ministry of the Samaritan's Purse Organization. Last year, 8.1 million gifts were delivered to boys and girls in more than 100 countries around the world.

Rebecca, a senior at Ione High School, introduced the project at Willow Creek Baptist Church last year and collected 44 boxes in 2010. This year, as more community and school members got involved, the project multiplied. Willow Creek Baptist, All Saints Episcopal, Hope Lutheran, Heppner Methodist, the Heppner ASB officers, the Ione sophomore class, Christ Alone Church, Ione Community Church and employees at the courthouse all turned in boxes.

Rebecca Jepsen with some of the 110 shoe boxes gifts collected for Operation Christmas Child. *–Photo by Nancy Jepsen*

Those wanting to participate haven't missed their chance. Boxes can be mailed directly to the OCC program. More information can be had at samaritanspurse.org or by calling Rebecca at 541-676-5244.

Seminar & Ag forum planned

This year's Columbia Basin Cereal Seminar and Sustainable Ag Forum will be held December 14 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and OSU Extension Service are partnering to host the event. Registration is $10 and includes lunch.

Pesticide re-certification and certified crop advisor credits will be available. Pre-registration is requested and is available on the SWCD website at www.umatillacountyswcd.com or by phoning Shevon Hatcher at 541-278-5403.

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Design Our Parade Float!

The Winner Will Get Their Name On The Float And $100!

Float Design Contest is open to anyone.
The float will be featured in the December 15th holiday parade in downtown Heppner.
To enter, draw a picture of your float idea and a paragraph describing it, keeping in mind that there are just four people putting it together and that the cost of supplies should not exceed $200.
Turn your entry into the Heppner Branch of Community Bank by November 30th before 5:30 PM.
Winner will be selected by a judge outside of the bank.
Come join us for cookies and punch and the chance to win some door prizes at our Open House on December 1st from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM.
Parade Float Contest Winner will be announced at 5:30 PM.

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