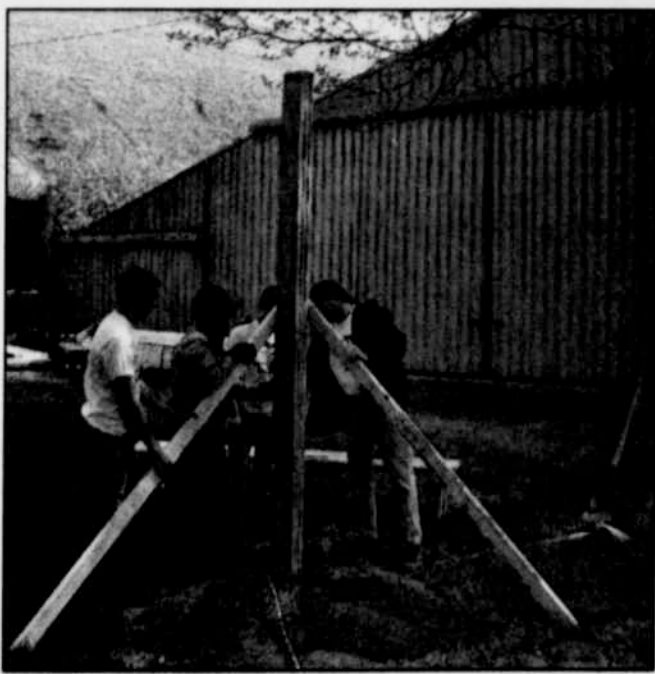


Ford Leadership project starts from the ground up

This past week was a busy one for the Ford Leadership team and other volunteers as the parts for the covered picnic shelter were delivered, the holes for the posts were dug, the posts set up and the picnic shelter begun, one board at a time.

Although the building itself isn't completely

finished yet, much was accomplished during the work days. Once the shelter is done, a cement floor and electrical wiring will be added. The Ford Leadership team and many volunteers are excited about completion of this project; check for further updates on a "groundbreaking" ceremony and celebration.



Above: Volunteers Ross Cutsforth, Greg Close, Kai Arbogast and John Flaherty help erect some of the first posts for the new picnic shelter. Left: Thanks to the hard work of the Ford Leadership team and many other volunteers, the new picnic shelter at the fairgrounds is starting to show a more finished look. —Contributed photos



Hardman Cemetery work party held

On a recent, balmy Sunday afternoon, several members of the Heppner Odd Fellows Lodge held a work party at the historic Hardman Cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day weekend.

Lawn mowers, weed eaters and tractors with bush-hog mowers moved in and, in short order, had the cemetery looking shipshape. Volunteers donating their time, equipment

and fuel were Frank Osmin, Butch Laughlin, Al Riney, Randall Peterson, Corey Sweeney, Wayne Rollis, Bob Jepsen and Tom Wolff.

The Hardman Cemetery is under the care and maintenance of Heppner Willow Lodge #66 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has graves dating from 1892 to the present. Several century-old grave stones have very



Some Odd Fellows hard at work during their recent work day at the Hardman Cemetery, cleaning the grounds in preparation for Memorial Day. —Contributed photo

decorative and unusual pioneer families interred there.

Get to know our exchange students

As a continuation of last week's feature on local exchange students, here are a few more.

Katharina Bahl

Katharina Bahl, or "Katie," is a 16-year-old student in the junior class at Heppner High School. She is from Fremdingen, Germany and is being hosted by Melba Folckomer.



Katharina Bahl (Katie)

What do you think of Heppner?

"Small but great. People here are so nice, and everybody knows everybody. Everybody says hello, when you want to cross the street, cars stop for you. It was not too hard; my town is only this big, too."

How has the experience been for you?

"Great; I love the American lifestyle because you have so much opportunity. The people are more open than in Germany. I love the food, my (host) family, America."

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"The most difficult thing is to leave here. I don't want to go."

What did you like best?

"Food. School, because it's like the movies. People, lifestyle, everything. It's great to have a chance to get these relationships. It's the best time I ever had."

Shan Shan Chen

Shan Shan Chen, or "Kama," is another of Melba Folckomer's family of exchange students. The 17-year-old is also in the junior class at HHS, but comes from Cheng Z h o u , H e n a n province, C h i n a . While she



Shan Shan Chen (Kama)

likes the food, she isn't as enthusiastic about American food as Katie is. "I would open a Chinese restaurant here," she says.

What do you think of Heppner?

"Small. My city is not super big, but even in my school we have 6,000 people."

How has the experience been for you?

"Great. It's completely different. People are so friendly. Everyone will help you if you have a problem, even if they don't know you. The weather is so good. The air is fresh; you can see blue sky."

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"The language. My English was so terrible when I came here, but it is getting better."

What did you like best?

"The weather and the lifestyle schedule. In my high school we need to go to school 6-1/2 days. Here I get more time to do the things I like. Here is more relaxed. We have an awesome time with our family."

Patricia Nagy

Patricia Nagy, or "Patti," is a 17-year-old from Eger, Hungary. She is hosted by Alvin and Linda Liu, and studies in the junior class at HHS.



Patricia Nagy (Patti)

What do you think of Heppner?

"Small, but I love it because it is like a farm. My grandpa has a farm; I spent my childhood in a small town. I love horses, and here there are a lot of horses. The people are so friendly."

How has the experience been for you?

"Great, a dream come true. I'm glad I'm here. I don't want to go home."

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"The language. Also, in Alvin's house, there is both American and Chinese culture. It's good to experience both, I think."

What did you like best?

"Everything. The prom. It's like the movies. The food. It's so good, I can't stop eating."

"I want to thank Alvin and the Liu family for everything. It was an amazing experience and I love them so much. They are going to be in my heart always."

Next week's edition will wrap up our exchange student features with conversations with Hyun Jun Kim (Jake), Dominika Senkerikova and Jorge Gomez Perrusquia.

CRYSTAL APPLE

—Continued from PAGE ONE

Each year, the IMESD, along with local school districts, honors teachers and other education staff for their dedication and commitment to students, as well as their abilities to go above and beyond the call of duty in their schools. Nominations are submitted over a two-month period by administrators, coworkers, parents, students and community members. Winners are selected from these nominees by school district office administration. The Crystal Apple honorees will receive their apples during a special ceremony May 23 at the Pendleton Red Lion Ballroom.

Awards are a way for the IMESD and our local school districts to show their appreciation for staff who have shined over the past year," said Casey White, director of the Crystal Apple Awards program. "We often take for granted the work our education employees do each day, so it's nice to take time to really recognize those special people who really make a difference in our schools."

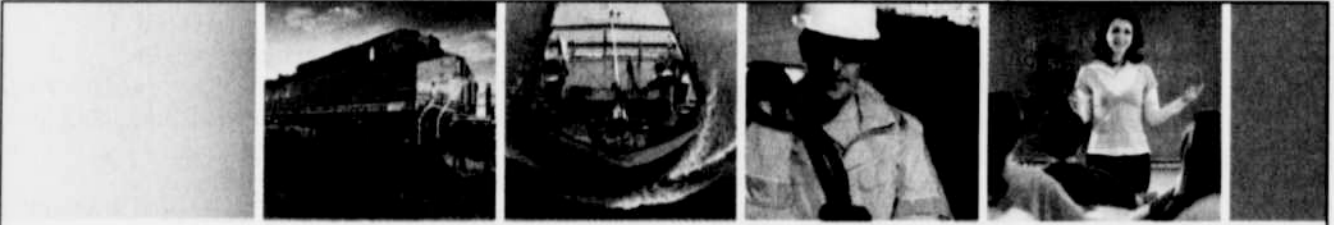
The Crystal Apple Awards are sponsored by the IMESD, Mid Columbia Bus Company, Bank of Eastern Oregon, KUMA and KWRL radio, First Community Credit Union, Red Lion Hotel, Rotary Club of Pendleton and St. Anthony Hospital.

Ione library district to meet

The Ione Library District will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 24, at 2 p.m. at the Ione Public Library (385 W. Second Street).

Agenda items include: Passage of permanent tax levy, appointment of budget committee members, budget preparation for 2012-13, interim financing for the district and regular business of the district.

The public is welcome to attend the meeting.



A pathway to jobs. An investment in rural counties.

the
Morrow Pacific
project

Working for jobs and the environment.

As the Morrow Pacific project continues to move forward through the approval process, we continue to hold to our commitment to doing business the Oregon way. That includes supporting the economy and the environment.

Creating New Jobs

A recent study by ECONorthwest, a highly regarded independent firm, concluded that the Morrow Pacific project will create more than 2,100 construction jobs and more than 1,000 permanent jobs — including workers directly employed by Morrow Pacific, jobs created at other companies and jobs in other sectors created by the infusion of new wages in the economy. These jobs will make an important difference to Oregon, especially in Morrow and Columbia counties.

Taking Care of the Environment

Safeguarding the environment is equally important. The Morrow Pacific project has been designed to meet all environmental standards — for example, by relying on covered barges to move coal downriver and by eliminating or minimizing coal dust at every stage.

Currently, the Army Corps of Engineers is coordinating an enhanced environmental assessment to ensure the project meets all air and water quality standards while protecting fish and wildlife habitat. Over the past several months, thousands of Oregonians submitted written comments to the Corps supporting the Morrow Pacific project for the fundamental reason that the project creates jobs while protecting the environment.

Thank You for Your Support

We thank all of those who have already expressed their support. We encourage you to learn more — and to continue to show your support for jobs and the environment at www.morrowpacific.com. ■

Morrow Pacific Project Fact:

The Morrow Pacific project represents a \$246 million investment in Oregon. The project will pay property taxes and port fees in Morrow County and has not asked for any kind of tax breaks.

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