

Zach Irons: Road to Recovery

By Brianna Snyder

The junior class of Ione High School had a fundraiser for classmate Zachary Irons at the last football game of the season. The concessions raised more than \$300.

On August 4, Zach was in an accident at Horn Rapids Motor Cross in Richland, WA. The ambulance took Zach to Kadlec Hospital, where the doctors discovered that he had bitten through his tongue, broken both his wrists, broken his L5 vertebrae, shattered his L4 vertebrae, and fractured his pelvis.

Doctors at Kadlec then decided Zach should be transferred to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Zach spent 13 days at Harborview; from August 5-12, he had several surgeries. Parents Mike and Donna both shared that they were thankful that nothing was ever life-threatening and that their older son Sam was at home taking care of the animals and the house while they were gone.

The day they were able to bring Zach home, he

sported a wheelchair, a back brace, and casts on both wrists. Donna took two months off work to help Zach heal and, boy, did he progress quickly. By Sept. 4 Zach was able to walk 12 feet in 10 minutes. That doesn't sound like much but, for Zach and his family, that meant a lot.

Zach has continued to progress and, today, he still has nerve damage in his left leg. The family says their faith kept them going, along with knowing that they had friends and family praying for Zack to come home and heal quickly. The most important thing to Zack is that he will be able to play baseball again his senior year.

Four days before Zach's accident, the family had renewed their Life Flight insurance; the flight for Zach's accident cost \$31,000 by itself. The family encourages other families to get Life Flight insurance.

Donations may be made to the Zach Irons Fund at a local Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Ione High School to hold elf auction

The Ione High School Associated Student Body will hold a silent auction at the Cardinals Basketball Bonanza on Dec. 6-7. The ASB students will be auctioning themselves off for Christmas labor to the highest bidder.

The "elves" will work a six-hour period on Sunday, Dec. 15. The elves can be used for various Christmas activities such as hanging lights and shoveling snow.

All proceeds will go toward school activities such as dances and projects such as recycling.

Ione students to sell Christmas trees, wreaths

The Ione school horticulture class will begin selling Christmas trees and wreaths during the week following Thanksgiving. Hours are Dec. 2-5 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. till noon; and Dec. 8 from 1-3 p.m.

Douglas Firs and Nobles will range in price from \$40-\$80, with wreaths starting at \$25. All trees and wreaths will be at the Ione school greenhouse. Some delivery is available. Contact Erin Heideman at 541-422-7131 or erin.heideman@ione.k12.or.us for more information.

'A Christmas Carol' to be held at Ione

A special theatrical presentation of "A Christmas Carol" will be held at the Ione Community School for students and the public on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 2:30 p.m.

The program will be presented by the nationally-acclaimed Traveling Lantern Theater Co. and is sponsored by the Ione Public Library and Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO).

For further information, see www.travelinglantern.com or contact Anne Morter at the Ione Public Library or Lyn Craig, leolibraries@gmail.com.

HES holds family night



Part of the group that gathered at the HES Family Literacy Night. Pictured are (counterclockwise from left): Caitlyn Scrivner, Cari Scrivner, Camryn Scrivner, Jared Wilson, Brynlie Wilson, Connor McKinney, Matthew Lovgren, Gina McKinney, Nikki Rodriguez, Sophie Rodriguez, Serenity Rodriguez, Aubriana Rodriguez, Maya Payne, Petra Payne, Isabel Payne, Keaton, Melissa Coiner, David Green, Claudia Guerra and Adan Guerra. -Contributed photo

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, the Heppner Elementary School library was bustling with families learning about programs offered to give students additional opportunities and support to progress and be successful in their education and in society.

Each year the educational bar is raised a bit higher, and each year students must work harder to pass their benchmark tests. If students are struggling, parents learned, there are many services such as Title I to help students reach that bar. Title I services are delivered during the regular school day, on Friday non-school days, after school and even during the summer.

Mrs. Pam Dowdy also explained the new Common Core Standards, because it will not only influence how

and what teachers teach, but will also impact students and parents. Additionally, she provided "Parent Roadmaps" for each grade level.

Mrs. Mary Ann Elguézabal talked about the English Language Learners (ELL) program and explained how students are identified and also how they become proficient in the English language.

Adan Guerra, a third grader in the ELL program, gave a speech about six different crops about which he had been studying. Later the group dined on some of the crops, such as sugarcane, sugar beets, wheat, potato products and cranberry products.

Students, teachers and parents finished the evening reading together and taking Accelerated Reader quizzes on Thanksgiving stories.

HHS officers to help elderly with holiday chores

The Heppner High School Associated Student Body officers will be available to hang up Christmas lights and split or stack firewood for senior citizens or anyone who is physically unable to do so for the upcoming holiday season. The ASB officers are available on weekdays from Monday, Dec. 9, through Friday, Dec. 20.

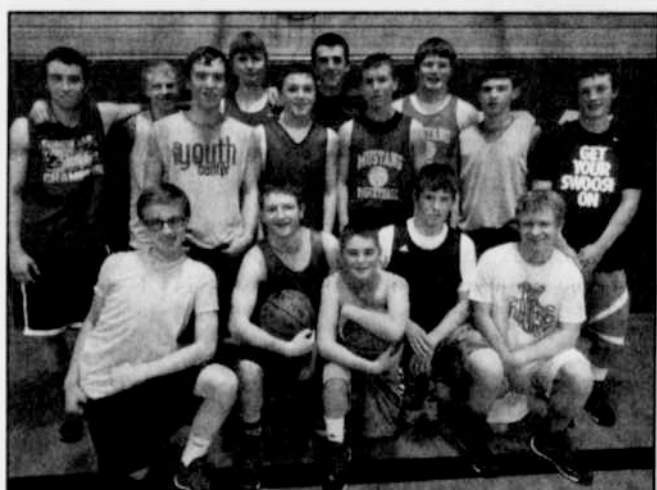
Anyone who would like them to come and set up Christmas lights or split and stack any firewood, contact J.C. Putman at 541-240-1768 or Petra Payne at 541-676-9138 to make an appointment.

Kindergartners learn 'What's a violin?'



When the kindergarten students in Mrs. Mary Ann Elguézabal's reading class read about Old King Cole and his violin, they asked, "What's a violin?" So the next day, Dillan Doyle brought his violin to school and played three songs for the students. Dillan told the students he had been playing the violin since he was five years old. Dillan has had two violin teachers, Julianne Carlson and his grandmother Gayle Arbogast. Picture (L-R) are: Dillan Doyle, Owen Guerra, Conner McKinney, Faith Holsinger, Paige Beebe, Sophie Rodriguez, and Mrs. Elguézabal. -Contributed photo

Second annual Blue & Gold community night planned



Part of the boys basketball program for this year that will be spotlighted in the Blue and Gold family night. Front Row (L-R): Ryan Cecil, CJ Kindle, Jake Lindsay, Kolby Currin, Kaden Corbin. Middle Row (L-R): Andrew Hatfield, Caden Hedman, Logan Grieb, Tate Gentry, Cade Arbogast. Back Row (R-L): Tyrel Walker, Jeremiah Petzoldt, Jeff Dowdy, Ross Cutsforth, Patrick Collins. -Contributed photo

Mustang supporters are invited to come and get an early look at the 2013-2014 Heppner High School boys and girls basketball teams next Monday, Dec. 2.

The event starts with dinner, a taco soup feed with all of the fixings, at 5:30 p.m.

The basketball entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m.; fans are invited to spend the evening watching the basketball events that will start with an introduction of HHS basketball boys and girls players. The evening will continue with some fun player competitions, such as a three-point contest, dribble contest and partner shoot off. The night will

wrap up with a scrimmage. The evening will also include some raffle items to support the Blue and Gold.

"The boys are all excited about the season getting underway, we have some good athletes ready to play," said Coach Jeremy Rosenbalm.

Girls Coach Jeremy Wilson praised his returning players for their hard work over the summer and said he is looking forward to the season.

Admission for dinner and the basketball event is \$7, basketball event only is \$2 at the door. Raffle items will be drawn throughout the evening and raffle tickets can be purchased at the door.

HHS to hold Greens Workshop

The Heppner High School Ag Department will be working hard the week of Dec. 9-12 to create the wreaths, swags, candy canes and centerpieces, and say they are now taking orders for the above-named creations.

The prices for the wreaths, swags and candy canes are \$20, just as in previous years, and the centerpieces are \$12.

Order forms are available at a number of businesses in town, or contact Beth Dickenson at HHS to get more information, 541-676-9138.

Wheat Growers elect 2014 officers



2014 Executive Team: (L-R) Eric Orem, Jerry Marguth, Walter Powell, and Tyler Hansell. -Contributed photo

The Wheat Growers League members present at the annual meeting in Spokane, WA on Thursday, Nov. 14, unanimously accepted the proposed slate of 2014 officers, as follows:

Jerry Marguth, Pres.; Eric Orem, VP; Tyler Hansell, Sec./Treas.; and Walter Powell, Imm. Past Pres..

President Walter Powell swore them in effective January 1, 2014.

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Route 74 Restaurant will be closed for Thanksgiving. We'd like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

We are taking reservations for your Personal/Company Christmas Parties.

Dates are filling up fast, so call now to book your holiday party with us. We offer many different meal options, homemade hors d'oeuvre, delicious desserts and bar service.

Call us today at 541-422-7160 and ask for Karen.

