

Summer school celebrates international visitors



Axel, Viktor, Pia and Johan Lotgren, and Elin Edstrom (back row) paid a quick visit to the Heppner Elementary summer program during a stop in Heppner. —Contributed photo

Former Heppner High School exchange student from Sweden, Axel Lotgren, and his family were guests at the Heppner Elementary summer enhancement program.

Teacher Mary Ann Elguezabal said that Axel and his family gave a short talk about their country. Some interesting facts include: Sweden is on a peninsula; their favorite

colors. Other interesting facts about Sweden include: the singing group ABBA is from Sweden; the Swedish currency is the Kronor; and Sweden has a population of 10 million people.

Elguezabal said that the Swedish guests sang "Itsy Bitsy Spider" in Swedish.

"We didn't understand a word, but knew exactly what they were saying," she said. "We learned how to count (on our fingers) to five beginning with our thumbs rather than our index finger."

"Sweden (Sverige) is a beautiful place with wonderful people," continued Elguezabal. "We rewarded our visitors with some memorabilia: Heppner Elementary School T-shirts, USA flags and Thunder Eggs (the Oregon state rock). What a pleasure to have them in the classroom even if just for a brief segment of time. It certainly 'enhanced' our morning."

Local students qualify to compete at world's largest junior high rodeo

DENVER—Two local students have earned spots on the Oregon National Junior High Rodeo team and will be travelling with fellow teammates to Des Moines, IA June 22-28 to compete in the 10th annual National Junior High Finals Rodeo (NJHFR).

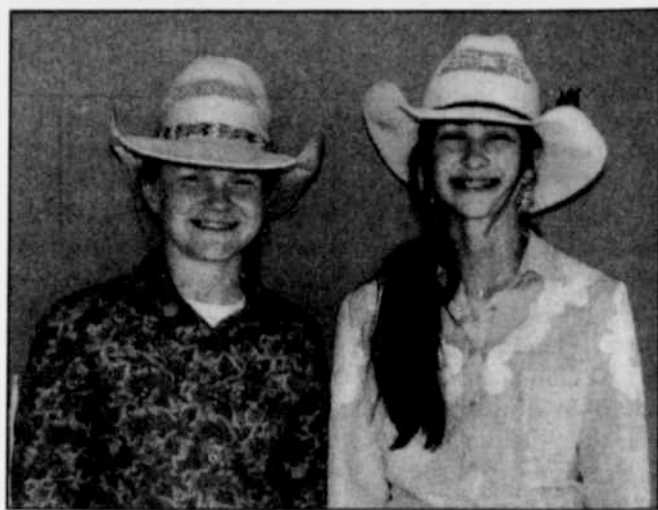
Jacee Currin, a seventh-grade student at Heppner Jr./Sr. High School, will compete in the barrel racing, ribbon roping, team roping and goat tying events.

Jaiden Mahoney, also a seventh grader at HHS, will compete in barrel racing.

The Oregon Junior High qualifying rodeos are all held in Prineville, OR. The girls' year-end state placings are as follows:

- Barrel Racing – Jaiden 3rd, Jacee 4/5th (tie)
- Pole Bending – Jacee 8th, Jaiden 10th
- Ribbon Roping – Jacee 2nd, Jaiden 9th
- Team Roping – Jacee 4th
- Goat Tying – Jacee 3rd, Jaiden 13th
- Breakaway Roping – Jacee 18th, Jaiden 19th
- Girls All-Around – Jacee 1st, Jaiden 13th

Featuring roughly 1,000 contestants from 42 states, five Canadian provinces and Australia,



Jacee Currin and Jaiden Mahoney will compete at the National Junior High Finals Rodeo in Des Moines later this month. —Contributed photo

the NJHFR is the world's largest junior high rodeo. In addition to competing for more than \$75,000 in prizes, NJHFR contestants will also be vying for more than \$100,000 in college scholarships and the chance to be named a National Junior High Finals Rodeo National Champion. To earn this title, contestants must finish in the top 20—based on their combined times/scores in the first two rounds—to advance to Saturday evening's final round. National champions will then be determined based on their three-round combined times/scores. Again, this year, the

Saturday championship performance will be televised nationally as a part of the Cinch Highschool Rodeo Tour telecast series on RFD-TV. Live broadcasts of each NJHFR performance will also air online at NHSRATV.com. Performance times are 7 p.m. on June 23 and 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day thereafter.

To follow your local favorites at the NJHFR, visit NHSRA.org daily for complete results. For ticket information and reservations, visit CatchDesMoines.com/rodeo.

Ione library kicks off summer reading

Ione Library District kicked off its summer reading program with a juggling performance and practice. Juggler Charlie Brown led the group through a fun-filled afternoon of juggling and other kinesthetic challenges.

Students and visitors were able to test their skills after his entertaining performance. Ice cream was served afterwards.

Students are encouraged to sign up for the library reading program to earn prizes for reading minutes. Summer reading at the library begins Tuesday, June 17, at 10:30 a.m. Students and adults are also invited to "like" the Ione library on Facebook, too.

Top right: Seven-year-old Liam Heideman works on his skills flipping the Diabolo, a rubber juggling prop shaped something like a yo-yo and manipulated by a string whose ends are tied to hand sticks. Above: Kristi Crowell and Nancy Anderson serve ice cream to Sam Grigg and his mom Andrea during the event. —Photos by Erin Heideman



Ione FFA chapter elects first officers

By Morgan Orem

The Ione FFA chapter elected their first-ever officer team on Thursday, June 5.

The 2014-2015 officers are President, Daniel Holtz; Vice President, Joe Doherty; Secretary, Brianna Snyder; Treasurer, Sam Gilbert;

Reporter, Morgan Orem; Sentinel, Miranda Taylor; Historian, Emily Taylor; and Parliamentarian, Babali Peterson. They held their first officer meeting on Tuesday, June 10.

The group plans on participating in local events this summer and during

the next school year. The first FFA chapter meeting will be held the first week that school returns. Special appreciation goes out to Loyal Burns, Brian Rust and Sarah Crane-Simpson for serving as the officer interview committee.

WOMAN ARRESTED FOR CRASH

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Chrysler 300 four-door driven by Robert Henry Baker, 66, from Ione. After impact, the Cadillac came to rest in the center median and the Chrysler came to rest on the eastbound shoulder.

Baker was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Breckheimer was extricated by firefighters and initially transported by Hermiston Ambulance to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston. She was later flown by

LifeFlight to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland where she was treated and subsequently released.

Court appearance is pending; Umatilla County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

TARGET AMERICA

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he wrapped up shooting on the American Sniper movie last week. The movie, about Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle, was spearheaded by Bradley Cooper, who also starred in Kyle's role. The film was directed by Hollywood icon Clint Eastwood.

McEwen says that, now that filming is finished, he's very optimistic about the final result.

"I felt like the filming was really compelling. I felt like the storyline and the points that were getting into the scenes were amazingly well done. I'm not a pro at this by any means, but the scenes felt very, very compelling to me," he says. "I'm thinking the movie will be seriously considered for several academy awards, in my prediction."

In his role as consultant, McEwen said he got to hang around the set "as much as I wanted," which meant he got to spend time with the Hollywood heavy-hitters involved in the filming. McEwen appeared to take it in stride, but did say he appreciated the time getting to know them.

"Getting to know Clint Eastwood better, it was a really fun experience," he says. "The guy really

reminded me of my dad in some ways...soft-spoken, honest, a very straightforward American. Just that whole patriotic, no need to say a whole lot of things to get my point across, kind of guy."

McEwen also said he was impressed by Cooper, both his personal behavior and his dedication to the movie.

"Bradley Cooper became Chris Kyle. It was truly amazing. At times we would just sit and talk around the set, he would be so much in character, he would slip into the Chris Kyle accent from Texas. You would almost think you were sitting there speaking to Chris."

"I was also allowed to bring some SEAL team guys and injured soldiers onto the set, and Bradley Cooper and Clint Eastwood really bent over backwards, really listened to their stories," he adds.

With the film now in editing, there's been no glimpse of a finished project yet. However, McEwen did say he had some additional input on that front.

"I do have a couple of songs I've requested, so we'll see if that works, for the score," says McEwen.

"I don't know if they're going to take them but I do know what these guys (Navy SEALs) listen to. I tried to make it as real to that as I could."

The bittersweet note to the movie's milestone is that the main character, Chris Kyle, isn't around to see it. Kyle, 38, and his friend Chad Littlefield, 35, were killed when they were shot multiple times at a gun range in Texas last February. While McEwen says he thinks Kyle would like the film, he also says the SEAL wouldn't be taking himself too seriously.

"I think he'd laugh at himself...smile, to actually see someone (play him in a movie)," says McEwen. "I think he'd take it with a grain of humor because he was a very nonegotistical guy."

The movie has no release date set, but McEwen said the studio is hopeful of a release later in 2014.

Meanwhile, he's not sitting still; McEwen says the third Sniper Elite novel is nearly done, and he continues to work with Ridley Scott and Scott Free Productions on converting the first Sniper Elite novel to the big screen.

Ione scout troop enjoys outing



The Ione Cub Scout Troop enjoyed a hosted evening at the home of John and Linda Bristow this past week. Scouts took a trailer ride, practiced flower identification, learned how to start (and put out) a fire, roasted hot dogs and marshmallows, learned the Boy Scout pledge, and were given books on bugs and butterflies. The scouts and their parents said they appreciated the Bristows for their support and generosity. Pictured are scouts (L-R) Liam Heideman, Martin Medina, Mason Orem and Finn Simpson. Not pictured is Corey Rice. —Photo by Erin Heideman

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