

Ione band Fourth of July grand marshal

Band to lead parade in honor of Bob Baker

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By Andrea Di Salvo
 The Ione Community Band has been chosen as the collective grand marshal of this year's Red, White and Blues Fourth of July parade in Ione. In addition, a spokesperson of the Ione Fourth of July Committee says they made the selection in honor of late band supporter Robert "Bob" Baker.

"We look around and try to find people that we think contributed to the community, and they (the band) most certainly have in many ways, during the basketball season and representing Ione at other functions, as well," says long-time Fourth of July committee person Betty Gray.

The Ione Community Band has been around for 15-20 years, estimates current Ione Community School Music Director Jordan Bemrose. The band's very existence points to its importance in Ione; because of community support, the band remained even when the Ione school had to cut its music program.

"I know that the school used to have a music program that was very good and well-run, and I know that they had a pep band," says Bemrose. "A lot of the middle-aged people in town still play their instruments, so when the music program stopped, they kind of picked up the ball and kept it going."

The Ione music program was reinstated four years ago, when Bemrose was hired, but the non-student members still wanted to be involved. The band remained a truly community-based pep band that was comprised mostly of students but that also benefited from the talents of other dedicated community members. Bemrose says that the cross-generational nature of the band makes it far richer than a simple school band.

"It's great for the kids to see that music can last a lifetime. It's a way for them to be involved more deeply

in our community rather than just doing school stuff," she says. "It's wonderful also because some of those community members probably wouldn't come to some of the school events if it weren't for the pep band opportunity that they get to take advantage of."

Baker, in whose honor the band will serve as grand marshal, was one of three trombone players in the band.

"He was a long-time, active member of the community pep band. The kids knew him well. He was at every rehearsal and every game; he loved it," says Bemrose. "He was a long-time supporter of music education and the music program in Ione, and it was very hard to lose him."

Baker was tragically killed in a car accident in March, when a wrong-way driver on the interstate hit him nearly head-on.

"We found out about his death on our way to the state basketball tournament, while we were on the bus. I had spoken with him two days before that and he was supposed to meet us there," Bemrose recalls. "It was pretty emotional."

The band also played at Baker's graveside service. "That was very special, and he would have loved it," adds Bemrose. "He was just a very good man, kind and very generous; I don't think he had a mean bone in his body. He loved music and he loved to play the trombone and he loved the students. It's an honor for us to honor his life by playing in the parade."

The band felt his loss so strongly, Bemrose this year established the Robert Baker Pep Band Award, to be given to one student at the end of every year. This year's recipient was Jorge Aguilar.

Meanwhile, Bemrose says she can hardly express her gratitude for the community's support of the band and the Ione music program.

"This community is so awesome. They're cutting music programs all



L-R: Pep band members Dr. Stephan Gibson, the late Bob Baker and Kaitlin Garrett. —Contributed photo

over the state, and that's depressing for a music educator," she says, "but that this community not only brought music back and has given us grants to give that gift of music to kids, but to feel honored and valued and special for being able to share the gift of music..."

"We are very grateful to the Ione Education Foundation, Ione School Board, Ione Booster Club, Ione School staff, Ione Fourth of July Committee, the city of Ione and the Ione community for recognizing the music program. The dedication of these groups gives our students endless opportunities in many ways. We would be nothing without their support and generosity."

"We are very honored to be chosen the grand

marshals for the parade and to be able to honor Bob's life this way."

Ione pep band student members are: Chris Pryor, Oskar Peterson, Jorge Aguilar, Susie Teeman, Charlette Burghard, Alexis Garrett, Kaitlin Garrett, Lauren Garrett, Austin Morter, McKenzie Heideman, Jacob Heideman, Katelyn Bass, Cameron Crum (Bob Baker's Grandson), Hunter Padberg, Miranda Taylor, Logan Burright, Larisa Burright and Shaun Epperson.

Community members include: Robert "Bob" Baker, Yvonne Morter, Joel Peterson, Dr. Stephan Gibson, Erin Heideman, Donna Thompson, Judy Rea and Justin Estabrook.

Director: Ms. Jordan Bemrose.

Ione basketball players to play in All-Star tournament



Ione seniors Luke Jobs, Jaiin Conboy and Bailey Haguewood will show off their skills on the basketball court this weekend at the IA All-Star Tournament in Sisters, OR. The young men were selected to the IA Big Sky Conference First Team after the Ione boys team's stellar 2013-14 basketball season. The Big Sky players, coached by Jim Swanson and Dennis Stefani of Ione, will combine with the Portland-area Valley 10 team to pit their skills against one of four other all-star teams this weekend. The first game is slated to begin at 2 p.m. on Friday, with winners to play each other on Saturday. Swanson said he is glad to see the boys, all of whom graduated this year, be recognized this way. "This is a great group of kids that we're gonna miss," he said. Pictured are (L-R) Haguewood, Jobs and Conboy with their First Team certificates. —Photo by Paula Emmel

Ione library board to hold budget hearing

The Ione Library District Board of Directors will hold its monthly meeting and final budget hearing on Thursday, June 26, beginning at 2:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Ione Public Library, 385 W. 2nd Street, Ione. The public is welcome to attend.

Ione 4-H club plans harvest bake sale

The Ione Community 4-H Club is hosting its annual Harvest Bake Sale in front of the Ione Market on Wednesday, July 2, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Community members are invited to stop by and get all their baked goods stocked up before harvest hits.

All proceeds go to purchase show shirts for the 30 exhibitors in the club.

Ione summer reading hops to a great start

The Ione library's summer reading program got off to a great start Tuesday, June 17. Andrea Grigg, program director, led 17 children ages two to six in a frog-related program. They listened to frog stories, jumped on lily pads and studied tadpoles.

In the afternoon

session, 15 older children learned about life in a pond by looking through microscopes; they then created their own mini habitats to take home.

The summer program will run every Tuesday for six weeks. For more information, call the Ione library at 541-561-9828.



Top: Andrea Grigg reads to a collection of youngsters at the Ione library's "Fizz, boom, read!" summer reading program June 17.

Right: Duke and Nash Moore learn about frogs by creating a mini habitat during the program. —Contributed photos



Ione 4-H clubs tour the world of food, Hermiston style

The Ione 4-H food clubs had a busy day touring a variety of food-related businesses in Hermiston on Thursday, June 12.

The field trip started with a visit to Fiesta Foods. Manager Marcos Ramos took the group around to the different departments in the store. Highlights included a cake-decorating demonstration at the bakery and seeing a variety of foods ranging from baby octopus to samples of fresh tortillas. Then 4-H members paired up and completed a shopping quiz contest to practice consumer and food label skills.

The second stop was to see how french fries are made at the Lamb Weston ConAgra plant. Members also enjoyed sampling fries and other potato products

made there. Lamb Weston makes enough french fries every day to fill four million Happy Meals at McDonalds.

Next was the Walmart distribution center, which, according to their tour guide, is the second busiest in the nation. Counting truck drivers, the Hermiston plant employs some 1,100 workers and is the size of 24 football fields.

At Hermiston Foods, the group toured the plant, seeing how peas are processed, frozen and packaged in large boxes to be shipped for re-packaging for brands like Flavor-Pac or Santiam. After stopping for a snack at Yo Country Frozen Yogurt, the group concluded their day with swimming at the Hermiston Water Park.



Back (L-R): Jayne Simpson, Hailey Heideman, Marcos Ramos, MaLinda Morter, Katelyn Thompson, Eva Martin, Aaron Smythe and Matt Orem. Front (L-R): Madison Orem, Mackenzie Heideman, Haylie Peterson, Cecelia McElligott, Gary Walls and John McElligott. Not pictured: Leaders Claudia Smythe and Nancy Jepsen. —Contributed photo

Vendors sought for Ione craft fair

Vendors are being sought for Ione's annual craft fair during the Fourth of July Celebration.

The event will take place in the old Rietmann Building next to Bank of Eastern Oregon in Ione from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Vendor fee is \$15 per table; tables will be provided. All proceeds will go the Bank of Eastern Oregon's Relay for Life team.

Anyone interested in participating in the event, contact Tricia Rollins at 541-561-2186.



The Ione pep band at the state basketball tournament in Baker City, OR. The flowers were to honor friend and band member Bob Baker, who was killed in a car crash the night before the tournament. —Contributed photo



Earn While You Learn Program

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BURNING BAN

Effective June 26, 2014, the Fire Chief of the Town of Lexington is imposing a **CLOSED SEASON** for open burning based on local fire safety concerns. This burning ban is for the Town of Lexington. A reminder that open burning also includes a "burn barrel."

The closed season will remain in effect until further notice this fall as per ORS 478.960.

DINNER SHOW

JUNE 25 BUCKNUM'S

GRAHAM LINDSEY

BILLY COOK

DOG BITE HARRIS

JAKE ROY

SHOW STARTS AT 7 PM