

**Engagements**

**Wolff, Blanchard announce engagement**



**Steven Blanchard and Ashley Wolff**

Thomas and Karen Wolff of Heppner and Paul and Kathy Blanchard of Springfield, OR, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Ashley Wolff and Steven Blanchard, both of Springfield, OR.

Ashley is a graduate of Heppner High School and Oregon State University and is employed by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines as a supervisor in their Springfield Call Center.

Steven graduated from Springfield High School and Lane Community College. He is employed as a customer service representative for Abcam in the medical supply field.

Ashley is the granddaughter of Marjorie Gorham, Heppner.

The couple plans to wed Aug. 24, 2018 at the Village Green Resort and Gardens in Cottage Grove, OR.

**Ione school kitchen and staff receive high marks**



**Kathy Bolin and Cheryl Taylor flank Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Specialist, Jessica Vilinski.** -Contributed photo.

After completing the school lunch program administrative audit in January,

Ione passed with high marks due to the efforts of Kathy Bolin and Cheryl

**Senior players and parents recognized**



Senior night, recognizing senior basketball players and their parents, was celebrated at the HHS basketball game last Friday night.

**Pictured (L-R):** Kevin Smith and his parents Rick and Melanie; Beau Wolters and his parents Kirk and Amy; Alex Lindsay and his parents Barney and Kimberly; Morgan Correa and her parents Mike and Christy; Sophie Grant and her parents Greg and Virginia; Kacie Gray and her parents Terry and Kellie; Coby Dougherty and his parents Cliff and Donna; Wyatt Steagall and his parents John and Jennifer. -Photo by Kirsti Cason.

**JV Mustangs finish season with 18 straight wins**

The Heppner Mustang boys' junior varsity basketball team wrapped up their season with an impressive 18-1 record. The JV Mustangs dropped their opening game of the season and then reeled off 18 straight wins in a row. The team outscored their opponents 1107 points to 578 on the

season. They were a perfect 8-0 against conference rivals and outscored those teams 481-226.

Leading the way in scoring for the Mustangs was Derek Howard with 170 points on the season. Mason Lehman was next with 144 points and Jayden Wilson poured in 136. Da-

kota Howard followed with 131 points while Kannon Wilkins had 98. Next was Logan Burrignt with 96 points and Reno Ferguson finished with 93. Cason Mitchell recorded 86 points on the season and Gavin Hanna Robinson had 69. Kellen Grant finished the year with 62 points and

Keegan Gibbs 22. Mustang JV coach Ken Grieb stated, "This was a great group of young men to work with every day and with what they achieved this season, the future of Heppner basketball certainly looks bright."

**Willow Creek Diner owners retiring**

**By Bobbi Gordon**

John and Kathy Marick have announced that they plan to close the Willow Creek Diner and retire on March 23. They noted that health issues are the main reason they have made the decision.

Kathy said that she moved to the area in 1999 and met John, who grew up on a farm near Ione, at church. After marrying and having one daughter, they decided to purchase the diner in 2003 since they both love to cook. John, a custodian for Morrow County School District for 30 years, retired in 2004 to help with the diner.

John must take medications for his health issues and those meds cause more issues, they said. They plan to put him on a detox regimen that will clear his system of the medications and also allow him to de-stress and spend more time in his garden. Kathy said, "I have seen many friends and family members lose their husbands recently and I don't want to

lose mine."

Kathy says she intends to continue baking for some of their clients until the end of the year.

When asked if they plan to sell, she said they just want to take time off and put their energy into John's health right now. They have attempted to sell the business in the past, but have not been successful, partly because their house and car wash are all attached to the restaurant and share the utilities and partly because it is difficult for a buyer to obtain financing.

Kathy stated, "I wear so many hats right now and need to retire a few hats and concentrate on my family." Their daughter, who is almost 16, is becoming involved in more activities and they have found it difficult to take the time off to support her in those activities.

John and Kathy said they want everyone to know how much they love and appreciate the community and have no



**John and Kathy Marick at the Willow Creek Diner.** -Photo by Bobbi Gordon

plans to leave. They intend to get more involved in their garden and hope to participate in the Farmer's Market this summer.

Taylor. There is a long list of requirements for the audit process, which was completed by Child Nutrition Specialist, Jessica Vilinski.

Vilinski stated, "The

food services staff provided a high level of customer service to students and interacted in a positive manner with students and staff. All staff were warm and welcoming to me and were willing to answer questions I asked. Your kitchen staff met all certification marks and everything was so well done and so organized. Thank you Ione for fueling Oregon's future!"

**Heppner FFA to hold food drive**

The Heppner FFA Chapter is holding a food drive Feb. 14-19. Bags for donations will be available at Murray's Drug, Bank of Eastern Oregon and Les Schwab Tire Center. Local FFA members will be gathering the bags of canned food beginning at 6 p.m. on

Monday, Feb. 19.

The Heppner FFA will be working with Les Schwab to collect as much food as possible to kick off FFA Week Feb. 19-23.

For additional information, contact Beth Dickenson at dickene@morrow.k12.or.us.

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