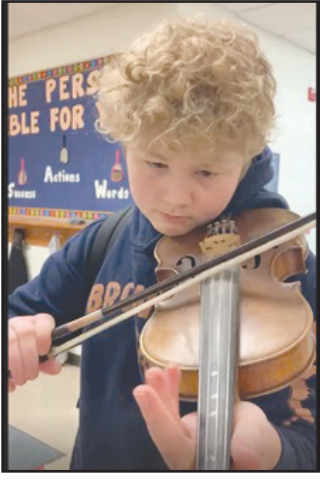


Artist in residence visits Ione Community School



Blake Vandever, grade eight. -Contributed photos.



Cooper Stefani and grades three and four.



Kyson Scoggins and kindergarten.



Kelly Thibodeaux with grades one and two.

Ione Community School hosted Artist in residence, Kelly Thibodeaux, February 7-18. Kelly Thibodeaux is a working musician with 40 years of professional experience as a fiddle player and over 15 years teaching K-12 students how to play the fiddle (violin).

Kelly's amazing string teaching program was designed for an entire school with the objective of students acquiring in a very short time, enough basic skills on the fiddle to be able to solo perform a three-chord fiddle tune with guitar accompaniment. The program was incorporated to teach basics such as rhythm, timing and dynamics.

Students learned the historical and cultural information on the fiddle as well as the cultural perspectives of music. Students, Blake Vandever and Alex Mudge

demonstrated their new found skills over announcements for the entire school.

Originally from the south, Kelly was born in New Orleans and raised on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He spent over thirty years in the Pacific northwest and currently lives in Oakridge,

OR. A spokesperson told the Gazette, "Students had so much fun learning how to play the fiddle and Kelly was very patient with students of all ages."

The Ione Education Foundation has funded artists in residence for the 2021-2022 school year.

Father Condon play to be presented March 11



Performing in the play previously were (L-R): Dan VanSchoiak, Jennifer Ashbeck, Bill Kuhn (behind), Brian Kollman, Irelynn Kollman and Madalyn Nichols. Fr. Condon is king. -Contributed photo.

"The Little Way of Saint Therese" written by Father Gerald Condon will be presented Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 3 p.m. at the lone Community School and on Friday evening, March 11, 2022, at 7 p.m. at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building in Heppner.

"The Little Way of Saint Therese" is the last play written by this beloved priest. He wrote at least 20 plays over the years with most of them being performed during the Wee Bit O' Ireland celebration. This particular play was felt to have significant meaning to Father Condon as St.

Therese was intricate to Father Condon's prayer life as well as his mother's.

Saint Therese was born in France in 1873 and was canonized by Pope Pius XI in May of 1925. She struggled with church authorities to be permitted to enter the Carmelite order Lisieux due to her age. Church law did not permit a person so young to make such a serious commitment. She was refused by the Mother Superior, went to the local Bishop, but was denied for entrance into the convent by both. With an exceptionally strong determination and a steel will she journeyed to request audience with the Pope. The rest is history. Her approach to daily life and holiness was the "Little Way of Spiritual Childhood". She was affectionately known as "The Little Flower."

Many of the cast members participating in this year's production have par-

ticipated in each of Father Condon's production from the very beginning.

"The Little Way of Saint Therese" has enjoyed one performance. This was on March 8, 2020, the day following the death of Father Condon. Hopefully, by representing this inspirational play, Father Condon's inspirational words will reach more community members and leave the audience with an understanding of God's love for "the little way".

Cast members include Brian Kollman, Jennifer Ashbeck, Irelynn Kollman, Madalyn Nichols, Janet Greenup, Joe Lindsay, Bill Kuhn, Dan VanSchoiack, Beth Dickenson, Kay Proctor, Maryann Elquezabal, Rita VanSchoiack, and Monika Elquezabal.

The Joe Lindsay Family will perform between acts and dessert will be provided. A free will donation may be offered but no actual admission fee is required.

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