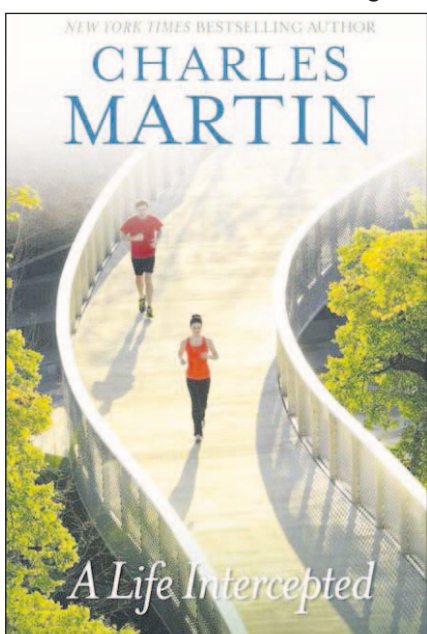


HERMISTON

One Book One Community novel available

Part sports novel, romance and mystery, 'A Life Intercepted' chosen as this year's title

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian



"A Life Intercepted" by Charles Martin

Rainy days are a perfect time to curl up with a good book, and the Hermiston Altrusa Literacy Committee has just the one.

The committee has chosen "A Life Intercepted" by Charles Martin for this year's One Book One Community read and is encouraging everyone in Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo to grab a free copy and participate in the community's annual book club.

"The reason we chose this book is because the writing is very strong and Charles is a very dynamic speaker," Karen Spears Zacharias of Altrusa said. "We want books that get people talking and this is one of those books."

The book cuts across genres — part sports novel, part romance, part mystery. It follows Matthew Rising, whose career as one of the winningest quarterbacks in college football history came to a sudden stop after a fateful night that ended in a rape allegation. Thirteen years later, out of prison determined to reconnect with his wife, he risks going back to jail in order to secretly help her

coach a talented young football player.

Spears Zacharias said the committee chose the book last August, before sexual abuse accusations against Bill Cosby and other celebrities were making headlines. Now, she said, the book is a timely examination of the issue while also touching on a number of timeless themes.

"The bigger story is a story of forgiveness," she said. "That's the overar-

"We want books that get people talking and this is one of those books."

— **Karen Spears Zacharias,**
Altrusa member

ching message."

She said this year Altrusa decided to focus more on just getting people to read a well-written book and not so much on holding panels and other educational events about a specific theme like child abuse or immigration.

Martin will visit Hermiston on April 22 to conduct student workshops at Hermiston High School and will give a community presentation about his book at 7 p.m. at the Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center.

Spears Zacharias encouraged people to read the book beforehand, then pass on the free book they picked up to a friend or neighbor. A total of 700 hardback books are available, thanks to a grant from the Wildhorse Foundation, and can be picked up for free from Hermiston Drug, KOHU, Cottage Flowers, Banner Bank and the Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo libraries.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

PENDLETON

Stay-cation activities require registration

East Oregonian

Pendleton Parks & Recreation is providing lots of activities for youths during the upcoming school break.

The spring break stay-cation offerings have limited spaces available and require registration.

An ultimate trampoline experience awaits youth during a pair of field trips to the Get Air Trampoline Park in Kennewick. Those from ages 7-11 are invited Tuesday, March 24 and youth ages 12-15 are scheduled for Wednesday, March 25. The bus will depart both days at 12:30 p.m. from the Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., and the estimated return time is 5:30 p.m.

The \$20 registration fee includes transportation, admission and chaperones. Those interested in attending need to register by Friday.

A spring nump off is planned with bubble bump soccer. Divisions are available for ages 12-18 years. Be sure to sign-up (\$7 registration fee) for a bumpin' good time. The spring bump off is Thursday, March 26

from 10 a.m. to noon at the recreation center.

Although space is limited, the gymnastics camp is free of charge. Participants will learn techniques for the bar, beam, floor and vault exercises. The preview times provide an opportunity for kids to check out the activity before upcoming sessions begin.

Ages 3-4 will meet Tuesday, March 24 from 6:30-7:15 p.m.; ages 5-7 participate Wednesday, March 25 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.; and ages 8 and over gather Thursday, March 26 from 6:30-7:45 p.m. All of the gymnastics camps are in the gymnastics studio at the recreation center.

Also, special no-school youth open gyms provide activities Monday, March 30. Giant volleyball is planned for ages 7-11 from 9 a.m. to noon. Bouncy houses and trampoline fun is available for 5-6 year olds from noon to 2 p.m. The \$5 registration fee is due by Thursday, March 26.

To register for any of the activities, visit www.pendletonparksandrec.com or stop by the parks office, 865 Tuuilla Road. For more information, call 541-276-8100.

PENDLETON

McKay Creek students win regional book battle

East Oregonian

A team of students from McKay Creek Elementary School won the Region 6 tournament of the Oregon Battle of the Books.

Team members Reilly Lovercheck, Melinda Cramp, Kendall Moore and Kelsey Lovercheck placed first in the event, which included teams from throughout the area March 7 at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton. The team received a selection of books for next year's competition and an opportunity to compete at the state level in April in Salem.

Oregon Battle of the Books is a reading motivation and comprehension program sponsored by the Oregon Association of School Libraries. Students are exposed to quality literature representing a variety of styles and viewpoints.

The goal is to encourage reading, as well as broaden reading interests, increase reading comprehension and promote cooperative learning and teamwork among students.



Photo contributed by Karen Moore

Reilly Lovercheck, Melinda Cramp, Kendall Moore and Kelsey Lovercheck of the McKay School Battle of the Books team took first place in the regional tournament held at Blue Mountain Community College. They are eligible to compete at the state level in April in Salem.

DROUGHT: Projected forecasts in Lake and Malheur counties look bleak

Continued from 1A

ment of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service wrote in a March basin report for Oregon. "Rainfall over the next couple months may help improve reservoir storage and increase streamflows during the storm events, but it will not help with streamflow this summer."

Brown's signature of the drought declaration Monday came after Washington Gov. Jay Inslee issued a drought declaration Friday for three regions of that state: the Olympic Peninsula, the east

side of the central Cascade Mountains including Yakima and Wenatchee, and the Walla Walla region.

In Oregon, Lake and Malheur county commissioners had requested the drought declaration. Officials in three other counties — Crook, Harney and Klamath — are considering whether to ask the state to include them in the drought designation, said Racquel Rancier, senior policy coordinator for the Oregon Water Resources Department. Requests from counties are reviewed by the state drought council, which in

turn issues recommendations to the governor.

Brown said in a press release Tuesday that projected forecasts in Lake and Malheur counties "look bleak."

"In addition to creating an increased wildfire risk, this drought presents hardships to crops, agriculture, communities, recreation, and wildlife, all of which rely on Oregon's water resources," Brown said. "I will continue working with federal, state, and local partners to help Oregonians in this part of the state through this challenging situation."

The drought declaration

allows state water managers to use additional tools to help farmers and other people who face water shortages. Options include speeding up decisions on water permits and issuing emergency temporary permits for people who cannot access water using their permanent rights due to the drought. For example, someone who usually diverts water from a stream that ran dry could apply for a temporary groundwater permit, Rancier said.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

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PENDLETON

United Way seeks help for short-term project

East Oregonian

The United Way of Umatilla and Morrow Counties is seeking volunteers to assist with this year's community investment process.

About 15 people are needed to help by making a commitment of approximately 15 hours over a five-week

period of time between April 2 and May 7. Duties include reviewing applications for funding, visiting applicant organizations and working within a committee to recommend funding decisions to the United Way board.

For more information, contact 541-276-2661 or unitedwayumco@eoni.com.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Katie Schroeder
WESTON-McEWEN HIGH SCHOOL

Katie is a senior at Weston-McEwen High School. She is a current member and President of the National Honor Society, ASB President, and also maintains a 4.29 GPA. Katie is a member of our Band, Pep Band and Pipes and Drums. She also participates in volleyball and softball. She volunteers much of her time to help with with Special Olympics. After graduation, she plans on attending college and majoring in Pre Medicine with an emphasis in Pediatrics.

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