

Panda Bears 2.0 take the reading crown at Hermiston Book Brawl

ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Their battle would not be denied. When the 2022 Oregon Battle of the Books was canceled due to the ongoing pandemic, Hermiston educators and students chose to have their own event.

"We decided to do our own thing," Miranda Hunt, librarian, said.

She explained that, as a statewide program, Battle of the Books is a big deal that needed to continue. In the contest, students within a given age group read the same 16 books. Then, they form groups of three or four. Teams compete against one another answering questions about the books they read.

In a normal year, Hermiston teams would be competing against teams from around the state. This year was different.

"We had to modify the program," Hunt said.

Hunt and fellow librarian Alyxandra Rowe worked with students on this event for months, Hunt said. Students competed in five Hermiston elementary schools, and winners went head-to-head against one another to become the Hermiston School District Champions for the elementary division.

The final contest, the Book Brawl, was March 15. More than 50 students and supporters were at the contest, Hunt said.

Contestants read 16 books, a total 3,888 pages or 545,406 words. Students had to remember the title and author of each book, as well as basic information.

The librarian said a typical question was, "What color hair does Johnny have?" They might also have to answer, "How old is Suzie?" or "What is Brandon's favorite food?"

"The questions are detailed, very detailed," Hunt said. "They practiced, and practiced and practiced."

Here are the winners

First place went to Panda Bears 2.0 of Highland Hills Elementary School. The team is comprised of Amelia Foy, Samuel Godby, Zach Adair and Larry Corrales. Angie Cooke, teacher, coached the team.

The Pandas received medals for their victory. In addition, their school received a plaque with their names on it. This plaque will be hung in the Highland Hills library, Hunt said.

Novel Rebellion of Desert



Hermiston School District/Contributed Photo
From left, Amelia Foy, Samuel Godby, Zach Adair and Larry Corrales of the Panda Bears 2.0 of Highland Hills Elementary School, Hermiston, pose with their plaque for winning the Book Brawl on March 15, 2022.

View Elementary School took second. Team Scorpion of Rocky Heights Elementary School won third. The Fantastic Four were fourth place. And the Book Hunters scored fifth.

All of these teams were champions at their own schools. As such, they received certificates for their achievement. Also, they were given drawstring backpacks filled with prizes.

No real losers here

Hunt said there are no losers in the competition. The goal, she said, was to encourage reading. Since this is the case, everyone who took part in the contest at any level was a winner; each participant read something.

"It's a great opportunity to work on vocabulary, spend time with friends and get excited about books," Hunt said. "The books were a variety of books, from mystery to fantasy, realistic fiction, biography and graphic novels. They were exposed to different types of reading materials, and they had fun."

The 16 books

The books were "Astrid the Unstoppable" by Maria Parr; "The Bookwanderers" by Anna James; "The Care and Feeding of a Pet

Black Hole" by Michelle Cuevas; "Clean Getaway" by Nic Stone; "The Fourteenth Goldfish" by Jennifer L. Holm; "Guts" by Raina Telgemeier; "The Harlem Charade" by Tatasha Tarpely; "I Can Make this Promise" by Christine Day; "Lety Out Loud" by Angela Cervantes; "Lowriders in Space" by Cathy Camper and Raul the Third; "Sarah Journeys West" by Nikki Shannon Smith; "Save Me a Seat" by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan; "Some Places More than Others" by Renee Watson; "Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White" by Melissa Sweet; "Stay" by Bobbie Pyron; and "The Storm Keeper's Island" by Catherine Doyle.

These books remain available to students, Hunt said. Anyone who missed the contest still can read the books. She added that everyone is welcome to next year's contest, as preparation begins in September.

She said she is looking forward to a regular contest with play between regional and statewide matches.

"Though the Book Brawl was successful, and it was fun to have the kids and parents there in person, we can't wait to get back," she said.

14,000 steps — 17 paces at a time



SARAH HAUG

LIGHT OF UNITY

We went to Mexico and got COVID-19.

The people there were very nice about it, but my husband, son and I had to quarantine for five days in a space half the size of my living room at home, albeit with a balcony that allowed us to see the sun.

As the door to that room closed behind me, I honestly didn't know if I was going to be able to do it. I am an antsy person, always up and about, doing things all day long. That last day of quarantine, I walked more than 14,000 steps, 17 paces at a time, which was the distance from the door to the balcony. The fact that my husband and I still are married and our son continues to speak to us probably means we can put the end result in the win column.

That said, this week I wanted to share a few things I learned from the experience:

Detachment: Detachment means to "appreciate without attaching ourselves to the things of this world." It isn't that we don't care, but rather that we don't allow our material experience to control us, and we accept what can't be changed. Stuck in that room, unable to leave until 120 hours had passed, detachment was probably the most important thing we all had to achieve. We could complain, or we could get on with living those hours the best we could. Kind of like life.

Gratitude: As it turns out, we had a great deal to be grateful for, even in quarantine life: we weren't sick; we had plenty of food to eat and work to do, since we'd brought our laptops to Mexico; our friends, with whom we'd traveled but who did not test positive, played hearts over Zoom with us from their home in Minnesota; our children called to check in; we watched the sun set each

evening over the Pacific.

Things definitely could have been worse.

Empathy: Millions of people, whole nations, in fact, have been made to quarantine for far longer and under far worse conditions than we experienced. In some countries, fourteen-day quarantines just for being exposed to someone with COVID-19 have been the norm. Most didn't have a room overlooking the ocean to do it in either. When our quarantine was over, we found it unexpectedly hard to leave our safe cocoon, to talk to people and navigate the world. Millions of people might be feeling the same way right about now.

Quarantining isn't something I ever want to do again, but I'm glad to know I have what it takes.

Fourteen thousand steps. Seventeen paces at a time.

Sarah Haug is a member of the Baha'i Faith and has called Pendleton home since 2002. You can find her most days walking on the Pendleton River Parkway with her husband, Dan.

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Annual tree giveaway held early

HERMISTON — Hermiston's annual Arbor Day free tree giveaway will be April 2, 9 a.m. in the parking lot at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395.

This will be a drive-thru event, so be sure to research the varieties you wish to pick up and have your choices prepared before arrival. People are permitted to have as many tree starts as they can immediately plant. The varieties include red maple, red-osier dogwood, green ash, golden chain tree,

tulip tree, Dolgo crabapple, European mountain ash and Colorado spruce.

Sponsored by the Hermiston Rotary Club and Hermiston Parks and Recreation, the tree giveaway has been held in Hermiston for more than 35 years. The event is being held nearly a month before National Arbor Day, which is April 29.

According to a press release from the parks department, they have found people are more successful in getting the tree starts to grow when they are planted the first part of April. For more information, call 541-667-5018.

Breakfast benefit for multicultural center project

IRRIGON — The Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center is hosting a fundraising breakfast.

The event is Saturday, March 26, 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon. The cost is \$5 per person.

A group of concerned citizens are dedicated to preserving Irrigon's 1921 school building and developing a regional art venue. For more information, call Peggy Price at 541-561-1737. —EO Media Group

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:

www.EastOregonian.com

George Wesley 'Wes' Cain

March 3, 1942 - February 17, 2022

George Wesley "Wes" Cain was born March 3, 1942, in Niangua, Missouri; he died Feb 17, 2022, in Richland, Washington, eight days after his wife, Jennie.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1962 and served on the USS Kearsarge CVS-33.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jennie; parents, George and Geneva Cain; brother, Larry Cain; sisters, Marlois Keeny and Glenda Phillips; and son, Joseph Bower.

He is survived by daughters, Tana Beck, Lauri Morgan and Renee Cain Talley; son, Merle Bower; grandkids, Danae Deal (Chris), Shaun Bower (Kristy), Tia Shepard (Jay); many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews; siblings, Jerry and Janice Cain, Janice and Al Smith, Susan and Bret Swearingen, Tim and Leslie Cain, Randell and Sue Cain, and Cindy and Mark Hobbs.

He worked for the State of Oregon on the bridge crew for 20 years. He loved helping others working with his hands working on wood projects and being outdoors doing anything, especially with his love, Jennie.

Services are March 25, 2022, at noon at Burns Mortuary of Pendleton with graveside military service after at Skyview Memorial Park, Pendleton.

Jennie Clarice Cain

March 29, 1941 - February 9, 2022

Jennie Clarice Cain was born on March 29, 1941, and was raised in Burney, California. She attended Fall River High School in this beautiful mountain community.

She was preceded in death by parents, Dr. Joseph and Jerry Churney; brothers, Joseph Churney III, Daniel Nelson and Cameron Nelson; and son, Joseph Bower. She is survived by brothers, LeRoy Nelson and Michael Churney (Karen) of Burney, California; her daughters, Tana Beck and Renee Talley, both of Pendleton, and Lauri Morgan of Portugal; son, Merle Bower of Nampa, Idaho; grandchildren, Danae Deal (Chris), Shaun Bower (Kristy), Tia Shepard (Jay), and many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Her husband, Wes, died eight days after her on Feb 17, 2022.

She graduated from Blue Mountain Community College in 1986 and worked for Pendleton Ready Mix for many years as their concrete field technician. She loved all crafts but crocheting and making cards were her favorite. Spending time outdoors in the woods with her husband she loved most.

Services are March 25, 2022, at noon at Burns Mortuary of Pendleton and Skyview Memorial Park; arrangements are handled by Burns Mortuary of Pendleton.



DRIVE WITH MEYER LOGISTICS

\$113,500/Yr. Average Pay Per Driver
\$7,500 Sign-On Bonus



\$0.77 - \$0.88
CPM



Average
\$113,500
annual pay
per driver



Dedicated
runs/great
home time



No Forced
Dispatch

BENEFITS

- Average \$113,500 annual per driver
- \$0.77 - \$0.88 CPM
- \$7,500 Sign-on bonus
- Paid orientation and training
- Paid vacation
- Paid holidays
- Paid personal days
- Quarterly safety bonus
- Clean DOT inspection bonus
- Medical, dental, vision, disability, life insurance
- 401K with company match
- Health savings account
- Direct deposit
- Company pays all other trucking expenses - fuel, repairs, DEF, scales, tolls, hotel stay if needed, & more!

(877) 859-0479

www.meyerlogisticsjobs.com



APPLY NOW