

# Ione students prepare for LEGO League tournament

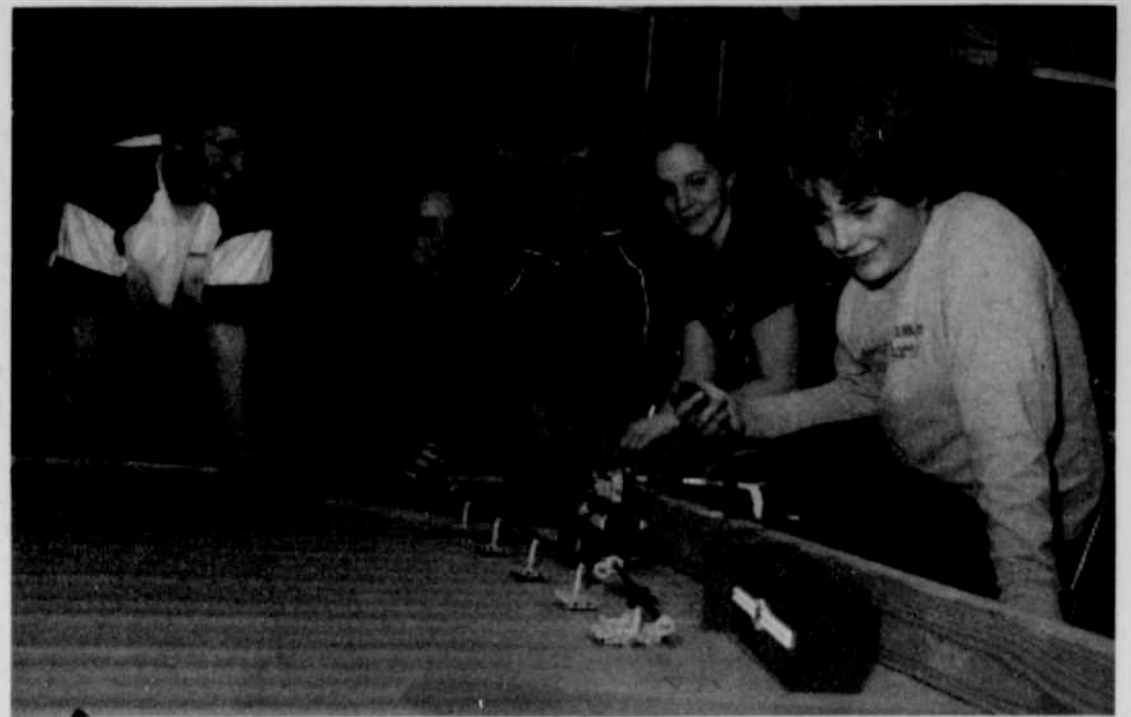
By Tiana Camarillo

A team of middle schoolers from Ione is preparing for their second consecutive Intel Oregon First Lego League (FLL) Regional Tournament. FLL is an international program for kids nine-14. Teams are made up of up to 10 students and the teams are given eight weeks during which they design, build, program, and test an autonomous robot. Last year Ione received a grant from the Ione Education Foundation to fund the initial expenses for the program. Every September a new challenge is revealed to the FLL teams. Last year was a learning year for the Ione team. They went into the program without much knowledge of robots. Only

a limited number of the team members had worked with the program before. This year, the Ione team hopes to walk into the tournament with much more experience. This year's theme for the tournament is "Ocean Odyssey." The FLL also requires that the students prepare a research project/presentation to go along with their robot missions. This year the students are to think of an "innovative" solution to help experts improve the use of an ocean resource or activity that is currently posing a challenge. At the tournament, each team gets three Robot Performance rounds on the challenge tables where they complete missions assigned to them by the FLL. Along with that, each team has two

10-minute interviews with a panel of judges about their research project. At the end of the tournament a closing ceremony is held and seven different awards are handed out to teams and directors. Certificates to advance to the state tournament are handed out to about 20% of the teams from each local tournament.

The Ione team consists of just seven students: Zac Orem, Thomas Holland, Beth Morter, Mikey Raible, Sarah Stillman, RJ Ramos and Steven Holland. Dean Robinson serves as the team's advisor and will be taking the team to the tournament, which will be held December 4 at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande.



Tom Holland Beth Morter Mikey Raible Sarah Stillman and Zac Orem watch as their robot successfully retrieves the crate.

## Heppner/Lexington CEC meets

Members of the Community Education Committee met at the Heppner Elementary School on Nov. 21.

Mark Burrows related that the target for the district this year is the identification of practices to improve student achievement and teacher performance. Wellness is the focus of a school district committee to look at all aspects of wellness for our students. The committee consists of school administrators, staff and students.

HES Principal Jack Thompson gave a report on the events of the elementary school. Dec. 6 will be the winter program. The fifth and sixth graders will be taking part in Basketball Reading a program with snacks and prizes. They will raffle off a Swiss Army Watch.

A timer for the lights at the tennis court is to be installed soon. Community donations from the Heppner Elementary Parent Teacher Club, Booster Club and various community members donated the funds for this project.

A project has been undertaken to have a sign constructed for the elementary school. Visitors cannot see the small metal letters on the side of the brick building. This sign would be placed on the lawn next to the street. Plans are being made to include a metal and wood construction to reflect our community.

Heppner High School Principal Daye Stone

reported that the high school has begun a one hour-long study hall after school for those students needing extra help. The student council has been working on a project to raise school spirit. James Montgomery of Gresham has been contacted to create a metal sculpture for the gym and downstairs area. Stone says students and staff are very excited about this project. The sculpture would be paid for through a special grant.

The initial meeting for parents of students who are interested in wrestling was well attended. Over 35 students are interested in the program. This sport would not be funded through the sports program; therefore fund raising will be necessary.

A question was brought up concerning the pay to play issue in sports. Daye said, "The community has been very generous," there has been no problem finding funding for anyone who was eligible and wanted to participate in sports.

The committee members would like to focus on a project for the schools. The following are some suggestions:

- grandstands, hurdles and other equipment for the track at the high school.

- science tables at the high school.
- computer training for parents. Currently available only through BMCC and the Oregon Trail Library.

- expanding the computer lab to include more technical instruction.

-providing those children who are not involved in sports with viable alternatives.

The next meeting will be January 24. These meetings are open to the public.

## BMCC registration underway for winter term

Registration for Blue Mountain Community College's Winter Term is underway for both credit and non-credit classes. A complete schedule of classes has been mailed to postal patrons in Morrow County and is available on the website, [www.bluecc.edu](http://www.bluecc.edu).

Students are encouraged to register online and as soon as possible for best results.

Over 60 courses are being offered via distance education, either on-line or in the form of a video course. Locally a selection of non-credit courses will be available ranging from pottery to computers to a "Getting a Grant" workshop.

For more information or assistance with on-line registration, contact Anne Morter, BMCC Coordinator at 422-7040.

## Holly Rebekah Lodge card party set for Dec. 3

An evening of cards, sandwiches, chips, goodies on the tables and prizes will be offered in Lexington at the Holly Rebekah Lodge. The card party will begin at 7 p.m., Sat., Dec. 3.

This month they are asking for players to bring an unwrapped toy to be given to the Neighborhood Center for Christmas instead of the customary \$5.

## Balancing sacred and secular Christmas workshop planned

Ruth Swanson will be offering a workshop to discuss the issues of scheduling holiday events and handling the expectations of the holidays while keeping in mind the true meaning of Christmas.

The free workshop will be Sunday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m. at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Heppner. The public is invited to attend.

## Storyteller scheduled to perform Dec. 6

Award-winning storyteller, Christopher Leebrick, is coming back to Eastern Oregon. This December he will be sharing spellbinding tales for children and adults in Morrow, Grant and Harney county libraries. Everyone is invited to hear Leebrick, Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m., Heppner City Hall. This program is sponsored by the Heppner Friends of the Library.

Leebrick began performing as a storyteller at the age of 13. He first appeared with Robert Rubinstein's "nationally recognized" "Troupe of Tellers" in 1975, and since then has told stories to over 50,000 children and adults at schools, libraries, and festivals across the United States. Recently he performed at the Seventh Australian National Storytelling Festival, John Brown University in the

Ozark Mountains of Arkansas, and he was the featured storyteller at the StoryKeepers Festival in Missoula, Montana. He has been a professional storyteller since 1986.

Leebrick says he is always excited about coming back to eastern Oregon to share his stories, "It's my favorite area of the state to visit, but I've never been here in December. I'm thrilled to experience a bit of the holiday season here."

The highlight of Leebrick's December program will be a rendition of Dr. Seuss's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Leebrick says, "I started performing this story 15 years ago, and every year there has been a big demand for it. Both kids and adults love this story." The program will also feature other holiday stories as well as tales from Leebrick's popular storytelling CD's.

His first release, "Good Stories From All Over" was honored with a 2003 national Storytelling World Award. His latest CD is called "Critters, Kids, and Cowboys." Leebrick sets the mood for many of his tales by utilizing instruments such as the harmonica and the eastern cedar flute.

Leebrick's program is recommended for all ages, so grownups are welcome. Leebrick says he believes that "a good story is a good story, no matter what the age." He finds that adults enjoy his stories as much as children.

Leebrick's CDs will be available at a 20 percent discount at each of the performances. He says he will be happy to autograph CDs for those who wish. The CDs are also available online at: [allgoodstories.com](http://allgoodstories.com).

For further information, contact the Oregon Trail Library District Heppner branch, (541)676-9964.

## Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

**Nov. 21:** -Boardman Police Department received a report about a missing juvenile who returned home safely.

-BFD assisted a trailer on fire.

-Heppner Ambulance received a report, that the reporter's six-year-old son had burned himself and his skin was peeling off. The reporter did not want to wait for an ambulance. Subject was transported by private vehicle.

**Nov. 22:** -MCSO received a request that the graffiti task force go to a school to remove graffiti from the dugouts and the concession stand.

-MCSO received a complaint that the reporter's neighbors dogs chewed up her daughter's car seat which she had sitting on the front porch.

-MCSO received a report that Anthony J. Harris, 38, was issued a citation for no operating license and failing to renew and driving uninsured.

-MCSO received a report about a theft complaint involving a phony e-mail and transferring money out.

-MCSO received a report for assistance about a wild goose flopping on the playground inside the fence.

-MCSO received a complaint about a dog digging in the reporter's back yard and growling and harassing him and his dogs.

-MCSO received a report that a vehicle hit a deer, making the vehicle go off the road. The deer stayed on the road, being ran over again.

-BPD received a report that Donald Ray Wright, 38, was arrested for failing to appear for physical harassment. Subject was also cited for possession of marijuana.

-BFD received a call about the Finley Butte Landfill fire alarm going off. Sprinkler was activated.

**Nov. 23:** -MCSO received a report that a subject was arrested for failing to pay fine for driving while suspended.

-MCSO received a report that Gloria Orjuela Schmidt, 43, was issued a citation for going 62 mph in a 45 mph.

-MCSO received a request for the phone number of where the reporter's son worked, to see if he had arrived there.

-MCSO received a report that the reporter's husband was harassed by his brother.

-MCSO received a request for a deputy to pick up an injured puppy.

-MCSO received a report about a horse that was running down Hwy 730.

-MCSO received a report that a subject walked in to the sheriff's office with custody papers advising he attempted to pick up children for Thanksgiving and his spouse wouldn't give them to him.

-MCSO received a report that the reporter's 31-year-old sister had left her residence in Heppner and hadn't arrived at reporter's

residence in Irrigon. Subject was ok and located in Ione.

-MCSO received a driving complaint about subjects that were possibly drinking and driving with an infant in the car.

-BPD received a report that Hermiston Police Department reported finding a vehicle that had been reported stolen earlier.

-BPD arrested Mark Thomas Keger, 50, for failing to appear for DUII and reckless endangerment.

-HA assisted a 75-year-old female by the request of Pioneer Hospital.

**Nov. 25:** -MCSO received a report that Steve Sadicario, 35, was issued a citation for going 85 mph in a 65 mph.


-MCSO received a report that the reporter rolled his pickup. There were no injuries. The vehicle was towed.

-MCSO received a report that Gustavo Escobar Velasquez, 24, was issued a citation for going 85 mph in a 55 mph, driving uninsured and failed to carry registration.

-MCSO received a report that Umatilla County Sheriff's Department arrested Kimberly Dumond, 36, on an IJC warrant for failing to pay fine for driving while suspended.

-MCSO received report about owners of a dog that was not being taken care of. The owners were contacted and they advised they would build a doghouse and put the dog on a longer chain.

We Print Business Cards Heppner Gazette



## Real Estate

By DAVID SYKES  
REALTOR

### OCCUPANCY DATE

One of the key dates in the purchase and sales contract is the occupancy date. This should not be an afterthought. This is the date that the home belongs to the buyer and he can move in. The seller and all personal property must be out by this date.

It will take 30 to 45 days for a loan to be approved and settlements are usually 60 to 90 days after a contract has been accepted. If necessary, the buyer can negotiate a rental agreement with the seller to allow him to occupy the property after the occupancy date. Naturally, a fair rental fee would be agreed on by both parties. However, it is preferable to decide on a date that can be carried out by both parties - one that does not have to be altered.

Timing is critical when the buyer and seller are also involved in buying and selling other properties (which is often the case). It is not unusual for both parties to arrive at settlements with their belongings packed in a moving van.

180 W. Baltimore #5  
Heppner, OR 97836

**Heritage Land Co.**  
REALTOR

541-676-9228

Past Real Estate columns and property listings are available at [www.heppner.net/heritage](http://www.heppner.net/heritage)