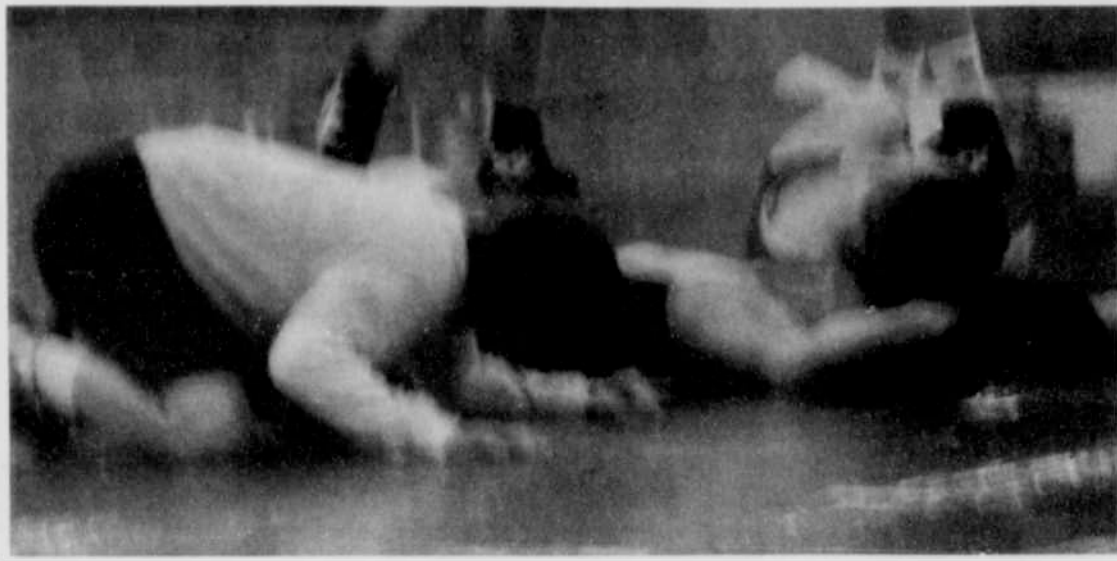


HHS wrestling program underway



Lightweight wrestling contenders Dillon Lucher and Brock Herbison demonstrate their skills with referee Ty Hurl looking on.

Students at Heppner Junior/Senior High School were given the opportunity to watch a demonstration of the school's new wrestling program on Monday, January 9. An explanation of wrestling terminology and point system was presented.

Coaches for the new

wrestling program are Ken Bailey, Tye Hurl, Bryan Harmon and John Bowles.

"The wrestlers have really worked hard," said Heppner Jr./Sr. High Principal Daye Stone. He said that the participants in the wrestling program do not participate in any other

winter sports. Currently 14 high school and 10 junior high students are participating in the program.

Wrestling programs are starting statewide in junior and senior high schools, he said. A wrestling program in the evenings for younger athletes is also underway in Heppner.

Banner Bank gives gifts to Morrow County Fair & Rodeo Court



Kate Close, branch manager at Banner Bank in Boardman, presents jewelry to Princess Josie Miller (left) and Queen Heather Yocom (right). The jewelry was purchased from Green Feed and Seed in Heppner.

Wheat Growers announce scholarship

The Oregon Wheat Growers League has announced that its Oregon Wheat Foundation Scholarship application is currently available. In 2006, up to 12 \$500 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors in Morrow, Gilliam, Klamath, Malheur, Sherman, Umatilla, Union/Baker, Wallowa, Wasco and the valley counties.

Scholarship winners will be selected based on school and community

involvement, scholastic performance, and an essay on the wheat industry. Eligible applicants must be a son or daughter of a current Oregon Wheat Growers League member, or a son or daughter of an employee of an Oregon Wheat Growers League grower member; and be a current high school senior or home-school equivalent.

Deadline for applications is Wednesday, Feb. 1. The scholarship

application may be downloaded from the Oregon Wheat Growers website at <http://www.owgl.org> (click on Oregon Wheat Foundation). Applicants should not submit applications via e-mail. The application may be photocopied. Mail applications to: Oregon Wheat Foundation Scholarship, c/o Cindy Osterlund; P.O. Box 322; Condon, OR 97823. For information only, e-mail to cindy.osterlund@oregonstate.edu.

Fair theme 'Happy Trails'

At its December meeting, the Morrow County Fair Board selected the theme of "Happy Trails to the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo" for 2006.

The board said that they felt that this theme would be easy to decorate the grounds with during fair week. The board encourages everyone to sign up for a booth. The deadline for reserving a booth is Friday, Aug. 4.

For more information call 676-9474 or e-mail mcfair@co.morrow.or.us.

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Aluminum print hangers are also available!

Stephanie Schuler wins local Geography Bee

The two finalists and the crowd were all nervous as the final questions began at the annual National Geographic Society Geography Bee held Friday, January 6, at Heppner Elementary School. At the end of that championship round, the winner was announced-Stephanie Schuler-with Zach Hintz as the runner-up.

The competition took place in the HES Gymnasium in front of a packed house. Students from grades three through six, family members, Morrow County School District superintendent, Mark Burrows, and assistant superintendent, Wade Smith, were all in attendance. The area was decorated with numerous globes and world balloons. Social studies teacher, Karen Smith-Griffith, served as the Bee proctor, asking questions for well over an hour. Teacher Jannie Allen assisted her.

At the end of the preliminary round, seven finalists earned their places in the final round. Those finalists were: Conner Pappas, Zach Hintz, Stephanie Schuler, Jonathan Chen, Maggie Collins, Courtney George and Camron Day. After three rounds, the competition was down to two contestants who met head-to-head in the championship round - Zach Hintz and Stephanie Schuler.



Teacher Karen Smith-Griffith, Bee winner Stephanie Schuler and teacher Jannie Allen.

This contest is sponsored each year to encourage interest in the field of geography. To qualify for the contest, students in grades four, five and six took a test covering all aspects of geography, from continents to capitals to countries of the world. Earning the chance to compete in the Bee were: Shane Smith, Conner

Pappas, Justin Pranger, Carrie Haguewood, J.C. Putman, Camron Day, Courtney George, Stephanie Schuler, Zach Hintz, Trent Cannon, Annette Rathbun, Jonathan Chen, Garrett Robinson and Maggie Collins. Unfortunately, Annette Rathbun was ill on the day of the competition, and was unable to participate.

Following the award presentation, the geographers and their families enjoyed cookies from around the world, baked by HES staff members.

Joint Ione-Heppner booster club dinner planned

The Ione Cardinal Booster Club met Jan. 2 at the Ione School library. Students who attended "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" in Hermiston sent a thank you note to the club for helping with their admission costs. Painting of the cafeteria and hallway was completed Dec. 30. President LynnDee Ramos recognized individuals for their help with that project. Club members agreed not to pursue painting a mural on the hallway wall at this time.

The committees organizing the joint Heppner-Ione booster club dinner are meeting and making final decisions. The group would like community input for raffle items as well

as entertainment for the evening. The dinner will be Saturday, Feb. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Morrow County Grain Grower's shop in Lexington. The menu will include steak, salmon, baked potatoes, salad, garlic bread and cheesecake. Anyone from Ione willing to help with this fundraiser should contact LynnDee Ramos, Dean Robinson or Betty Gray.

No progress was reported on the sports hall of fame dinner or the popcorn popper hookup. Ramos will research the cost for a storage unit for track equipment. Secretary Cathy McCabe is working on a basketball program designed to recognize businesses that support the booster club.

Ione Education Foundation receives PGE donations

The Ione Education Foundation received \$3,389 in donations from PGE employees and PGE during 2005. These donations were used towards the Tier 1 grant of a half-time music teacher at Ione Community School.

Portland General Electric (PGE) employees and retirees did their part to make the holiday season a little brighter for those in need. In just one month they pledged more than \$1.2 million (including PGE's 50 percent match) to 665 diverse nonprofit agencies and schools through the company's annual Employee Giving Campaign.

Of that amount, \$132,691 went to support education, including Oregon Recipients included the Independent College Foundation, the Foundations of Oregon State University, Pacific Lutheran University, Portland Community College, Portland State University and the University of Oregon; Portland Schools Foundation; Ione Education Foundation; Lake Oswego School District Foundation; David Douglas Educational Foundation; Jesuit High School; Lincoln High School

Foundation; Mary Rieke School Foundation; Oregon Episcopal School, PGE Foundation's Community 101 program; Scappoose High Athletic Fund; Pacific Northwest Academy; and numerous public and private schools across the state.

In the campaign, PGE's 2,800 employees and retirees may designate any charitable nonprofit or accredited school to receive their pledges, and PGE matches their contributions by 50 percent. Since the company match program started in 1998, PGE employees and retirees have contributed more than \$6 million to their communities through the Employee Giving Campaign.

According to a PGE news release, PGE is Oregon's oldest and largest electric utility and serves more than 760,000 customers. "PGE's rich history in Oregon is also marked by its commitment to supporting the community through a variety of innovative charitable, volunteer and environmental stewardship efforts," said the release. To learn more, go to www.PortlandGeneral.com.

Athletic director Robinson proposed the club sponsor two basketball tournaments in Dec. The Ione Basketball Bonanza was held for Dec. 1 and 2. The club agreed to a second tournament Dec. 29 and 30. The Ione teams will no longer travel to the Enterprise tournament.

Karen Padberg will organize sack meals for the visiting basketball teams.

The next meeting of Cardinal Booster Club will be Monday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m. at the school library.

Red Cross to hold classes

American Red Cross, Oregon Mountain River Chapter, will hold two evening introduction classes for "new disaster volunteers" on Thursday, Jan. 19, and Friday, Jan. 20. Additional disaster training for "Family Services and Client Case work" will be offered to all interested disaster volunteers on Saturday, Jan. 21.

For registration and more information on classes, times and location, contact the American Red Cross office at (541) 276-1211. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Local Head Start seeks participant

Umatilla-Morrow Head Start has an opening in their three and four-year-old classroom. Children must come from low-income families or have a disability. Children must have been three years of age as of Sept. 1, 2005.

The program operates three days a week for three and a half hours. Activities for the children include literacy, skill building, fine and gross motor activities, nutrition, social interaction and much more. There is no fee for children to participate. Transportation is offered on a limited basis.

Contact Candy Green at Heppner Elementary (676-5482) for more information.