

## HES students read 131,179 minutes in January



(R-L): Wade Matthew, Tim Lees, Shane Smith read on the steps during the after-school reading party on Jan. 26.



Top 10 Winners for January (Back Row L-R): Natalie Rauch, Mrs. Jannie Allen, Alana Wilson, Zach Hintz and Garrett Robinson; (Middle Row L-R): Justin Bailey, Justin Pranger and Gabby Sanchez; and (Front Row L-R): Jacob Moore, Seth Palmer and Jonathan Chen.

Students in grades five and six at Heppner Elementary certainly took time out of their daily routines to make time for books during the month of January. The annual reading incentive program, appropriately named Time Out For Reading, was a huge success as these young readers logged 131,179 minutes during the first month of the year.

This popular program has been in place at HES for over 15 years, encouraging students to read more for enjoyment, and to keep track of the time spent reading. "The great thing about Time Out For Reading is that it doesn't matter if a student is a slow reader, or a speed reader, as it's the minutes that count and not the number of books read," said Jannie Allen, coordinator of the program.

In addition to individual readers clocking reading times to earn weekly rewards and prizes at the conclusion of the program, there is also a team incentive. Students are placed on "teams" and the team with the highest average gets to enjoy a pizza and pop lunch. This year's top team was the Cinco Dunkers, with team members Justin Pranger, captain; Joe Sallee, Hanna

Lovgren, Alana Wilson and Samantha Waddell.

Another exciting element of the program is the evening reading party. On Thursday, Jan. 26, students stayed after school until 9 p.m. to read, have dinner (sack dinners from home), watch a movie, which is based on a children's novel and play word games with their novels in an attempt to win prizes. Over 60 of the 73 students attended the party, with Mrs. Dowdy, Mrs. Smith-Griffith, Mrs. Clough and Mrs. Allen serving as chaperones.

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, the minutes had all been totaled, and the students congregated in the computer lab of HES to pick their prizes. The prizes ranged from CD players to stuffed animals, from duffle bags to basketballs, fold-up chairs to pillows, and school supplies to homemade chocolate chip cookies. After choosing a prize, winners also received a book of their choice. All students who met the goal of 360 minutes for the month received a prize, 66 readers, walked away with a prize and a book.

The top reader was Justin Pranger with the highest score ever attained during Time Out For Reading, 10,937 minutes. A

close second was Justin Bailey with 9,636, followed by Alana Wilson, Natalie Rauch, Seth Palmer, Zach Hintz, Garrett Robinson, Jonathan Chen, Jacob Moore and Gabby Sanchez to complete the top ten.

Teachers say that one of the most exciting aspects of the program comes after Time Out For Reading is over, as many students have a new-found love of reading and continue to spend their extra minutes enjoying books.

## Singspiration to be held

The monthly Singpiration has been scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Nazarene Church located at 335 N. Gilmore Street in Heppner.

Special music presentations will be pre-arranged by request with one per church, so we will have more audience participation. Next month's Singpiration held on March 12, will be at the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

The event is open to the public and all are invited to attend.

## Names left off of picture captions

In two pictures ran Heppner High School girls' names were left out. last week of dancers at the basketball game, a couple We apologize for the error.



Dancers from the Performing Arts Academy of Hermiston-Heppner performed during the basketball game on Jan. 21. Dancers in the K-1<sup>st</sup> grade age group: (Front Row L-R): Sophie Grant, Reiah Waite, Rachel Allen and Nicole Show; (Back Row L-R): Lannie Stone, Sierra Morgan and Kailea Sample.



Dancers in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade age group: (Front L-R): Mattie Lindsay, Paige Grieb and Allie Allen. In the back row are Ella McCormack and Kaelyn Lindsay. Not performing that day was Allie Lovgren.

## FBLA students participate in regional skills conference



Veronica Wilhelm and Brenda Victorio

On Feb. 2, 2006, a group of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) students from Heppner High School trekked to La Grande to participate in the FBLA regional skills conference held at Eastern Oregon University. Their advisor, Darlene Marquardt, and JoyceKay Holloman, grandmother of one of the students, accompanied them.

Heppner Students who attended were: Cyde Coil, Baillie Keithley, Kelsey Wolff, Brenda Victorio, Sarah Johnson, Veronica Wilhelm, Grant Smith, and Eddie Collins. Schools from as far away as Ontario, Vale, Burnt River and Condon, Grant Union, and Hood River, as well as schools from Wallowa County, Union County, Umatilla County and Morrow County participated in the event.

Attendance of high school students from the Eastern Regions of Oregon was higher than in past years.

Heppner High Schools Leadership group did well among their peers. Wilhelm and Victorio participated in an entrepreneurship team competition and scored high enough to be in an elite group that is selected to participate in that event at the State FBLA leadership conference in Portland, April 2-4. Heppner's club can select other members to go to state as wildcard participants or to participate in certain events that are held only at state competition and not at regional competitions. The club is looking for sponsorships to defray the expenses of the conference and lodging. If you or your business would like to help with this special opportunity, please mail your donation to Heppner High School FBLA by March 1.

## BLM and Forest Service announce 2006 federal grazing fee

The Federal grazing fee for Western public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service will be \$1.56 per animal unit month (AUM) in 2006, down from \$1.79 in 2005. The newly adjusted fee, determined by a congressional formula and effective on March 1, applies to nearly 18,000 grazing permits and leases administered by the BLM and more than 8000 permits administered by the Forest Service.

The formula used for calculating the grazing fee, established by Congress in the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act, has continued under a presidential Executive Order issued in 1986. Under that order, the grazing fee cannot

fall below \$1.35 per AUM, and any increase or decrease cannot exceed 25 percent of the previous year's level. An Animal Unit Month is the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month.

The annually adjusted grazing fee is computed by using a 1966 base value of \$1.23 per AUM for livestock grazing on public lands in Western states. The figure is then adjusted according to three factors - current private grazing land lease rates, beef cattle prices, and the cost of livestock production. Based on this formula, the 2006 fee declined primarily because of an increase in production prices.

The \$1.56 per AUM grazing fee applies to 16 Western states on public lands administered by the BLM and the Forest Service. The states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The Forest Service applies different grazing fees to national grasslands and to lands under its management in the Eastern and Midwestern states and parts of Texas. The national grassland fee will be \$1.73 per AUM, down from \$1.90 in 2005, and will also take effect March 1. The fee for the Eastern and Midwestern states and parts of Texas will be out later this month.

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