

CJRA Rodeo year-end awards given



(Back Row L-R): Rebecca, Amy and Eric Jepsen and Bo Foster; and (Front Row L-R): Devin and Garrett Robinson. Not Pictured: Ruben Finn



(L-R): Emily Rietmann, Mary Rietmann and Jenny Griffith

Eleven local members of the Cayuse Junior Rodeo Association were recently given awards at the CJRA annual dinner, which was held in combination with the group's spring meeting at the Umatilla Sage Riders Clubhouse. They awarded \$10,000 in prizes for 43 different categories. Prizes included such items as silver spurs from Hamley and Co., belt buckles, bracelets, headstalls, breast collars, rope cans, hat cans, various hand crafted leather items and sweatshirts. All prizes were engraved, monogrammed or custom painted. Patti Kaiser of Condon did a great job ordering all the awards this year and had help from Ronald Wilson of Arlington who did all the leatherwork, Blue Mt. Creations of Pendleton who did all the embroidery, Jonna McKay of Condon who painted all the metal items and ZPTA Silver and Gold of Pendleton did most of the silver work.

The CJRA sponsored seven different rodeos in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington from May through August 2005. These rodeos were held in: Arlington, Prosser, Goldendale, Umatilla, Milton-Freewater, Union

and La Grande. This past year the group added a new Cowkids division for boys and girls ages 5-7. There were also three age divisions for both boys and girls: Pee-wee, age 8-11; Juniors, age 12-14; and Seniors, age 15-18. Prizes and money were paid out for winners at each of the individual rodeos. Members also accumulated points in the overall standings for year-end awards.

In the Cowkids division, Ruben Finn of Heppner, son of Brian and Angie Knowles, received awards in all of the events for that age group. He was second in Barrel Racing, third in Calf Riding and Goat Tail Untying and fourth in the CA Stake Race.

In Pee Wee Girls, Rebecca Jepsen finished the year with first place in Breakaway Roping, second in Goat Tying and seventh in Pole Bending. Mary Rietmann of Ione claimed fourth place awards in both Barrel Racing and Pole Bending.

Garret Robinson of Heppner finished up the year earning sixth place awards in three Pee Wee events: Barrel Racing, Goat Tying and Steer Riding and he was seventh in Pole Bending.

Taighler Dougherty



Taighler Dougherty

of Heppner earned awards in three Junior Girls events. She was third in Pole Bending, seventh in Goat Tying and eighth in Barrel Racing for the season.

In Junior Boys, Eric Jepsen finished first in Calf Tying and seventh in Breakaway Roping. Bo Foster of Heppner was fifth in Ribbon Roping, sixth in Breakaway and eighth in Cow/steer Riding. Devin Robinson earned awards for sixth place in Ribbon Roping and seventh in Cow/Steering Riding. Foster did especially well considering that he joined the CJRA late in the season and only participated in four of the seven rodeos.

Amy Jepsen finished the season with first place in Ribbon Roping, second in Breakaway Roping and third in Pole Bending, Barrel Racing and Goat Tying. She also won the silver spurs and title of All-Around Senior Cowgirl. Jenny Griffith was third in Breakaway and Ribbon Roping, fourth in Pole Bending, sixth in Goat Tying and seventh in Barrel Racing. Emily Rietmann was sixth in Barrel Racing and seventh in Pole Bending.

In the Team Roping, which included all age divisions, Eric Jepsen and Foster finished third and seventh as Headers. In Heeling, Devin Robinson and Foster finished seventh and ninth respectively.

The Cayuse Junior Rodeo Association is open to anyone who wants to join. There were 189 members in 2005. To compete, contestants have to be 5 years old by Jan. 1, 2006, and not older than 18 on the same date. There is a \$50 family membership fee. You can also compete in one rodeo as a guest and not join the association. For more information, contact Marnie Gibbs in Prosser, WA at (509) 882-2802.

Head Start visits BEO



(Front Row L-R): Makayla Silvia, Jordan Spaulding, Angel Matthew, Xavier Glover and Kaitlyn Martin; (Middle Row L-R): Annabelle McDaniel, Antonio Matthew and Kaydean Trickle; and (Back Row L-R): Morgan Burch.

On Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2006, the children of Heppner Head Start participated in a field trip to the Bank of Eastern Oregon- Heppner branch. The children were given a tour of the bank by Sharon Harrison. Along the way, they were introduced to the many employees, shown the various equipment the bank uses and were given piggy banks and change purses to begin saving money of their own. The children at Heppner Head Start had a great time.

MCSD solicits input on educational goals

On Thursday evening, Feb. 23, Morrow County School District sponsored a community meeting to solicit input on educational goals from parents and patrons. Over 30 citizens, farmers, professionals, business owners, as well as parents and educators gathered in the Heppner Elementary School Library. Superintendent, Mark Burrows, gave a brief presentation on the successes, challenges and current goals of the district. Moderator, Greg McKenzie, of the Oregon School Board Association led the discussion on three questions: What is Morrow County School District doing well? What does Morrow County School District need to improve? Should our three small comprehensive high schools consider focusing on specialized programs?

The group brainstormed, discussed, and prioritized ideas on the first two questions. Below are the suggestions in order of the amount of support they received from the group:

What is Morrow County School District doing well?

- Encourages community to support the kids
- Quality of personal attention to students; especially Elementary and Special Ed
- Safe learning environment in our schools
- Small class size
- Good relationship among Board/ Superintendent/community
- Openness of Board to revisit FFA Program
- High achievement levels and high expectations
- Commitment to facilities
- Diversity of curriculum
- Good quality staff
- Dealing with budget constraints
- Alternative school

- Outstanding ESL program
- Technology available
- Abundance of extra-curricular activities
- Equity among the 3 Morrow County communities

What does Morrow County School District need to improve (challenges)?

- Motivation of students
- Wellness program, including counselor who can deal w/non-education problems
- More emphasis on vocation education
- Recruit and retain quality teachers and administration
- Expansion of TAG Program
- Focus on writing skills at high school level
- SAT Prep before testing
- Alternative sources for raising funds
- Track the 9 percent who do not graduate and lower the percentage
- More variety of languages
- Elementary school facility is aging
- Additional interaction between district schools
- More emphasis on non-sport extra curricular activities
- Keep academics within the 4 days-athletics on day 5 and 6
- More communication to public about what district is doing well
- Updating Heppner High facilities, including science lab

The group did not prioritize their ideas on the third question.

Should our three small comprehensive high schools consider focusing on specialized programs?

- Consider block style learning rather than students traveling
- Continue comprehensive program, but allow flexibility for each community
- Equal is not the same-not in favor of specialization

- In favor of limited specialization
- Keep as comprehensive schools with some specialization
- Not opposed to specialization, but focus on optimization.

A similar meeting was held in Boardman on Feb. 28 and another meeting will be held on March 8 at 12:45 p.m. at the Stokes Landing Center in Irrigon. The results from all three meetings will be compiled and used to help the School Board determine future initiatives.

March events for Heppner schools

Spring Break will close out the month of March with students out March 27 through March 31.

The Morrow County School District board meeting will be held at the District Office in Lexington at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 9.

On Tuesday, March 7, the Heppner Elementary School Site Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. and the HES Parent-Teacher Club meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. The Community Education Committee will meet on March 20 at 7 p.m.

An all-grade Science Club meeting will be held at HES on Thursday, March 16.

Sixth grade track begins on Monday, March 6.

St. Patrick's high school class to host soup feed

The St. Patrick's Catholic Church high school CCD class is hosting a soup feed on Friday, March 3 from 5-8 p.m. The event will be held in the church's parish hall. The meal will include soup, bread, cookies and beverages. Cost for the meal is \$4 for adults and \$2 for those 12 and under.

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- Thursday, March 2nd -

OLD TIMERS NIGHT

Steak Dinner with all the trimmings
by the Trustees

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge at 8:00 p.m.

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