

# The Wedding of their Dreams



Nick Christman and Cara Kennedy.

*Editor's Note: The following story was written by Tammy Malgesini and ran in the Sunday, May 13, edition of the East Oregonian. Nick Christman and Cara Kennedy are finalist in "The Wedding of their Dreams" contest. All entries can be found on the East Oregonian website. To vote for Nick and Cara, fill out the voter form in any East Oregonian paper May 15 through June 6 and send it in. The winner will win a wedding valued at more than \$30,000 and will take place July 22.*

Nick Christman had a crush on Cara Kennedy when he was 8 years old, but was too shy to talk to her. And Kennedy, who grew up in Lexington, had no clue the quiet third-grader from Ione had a crush on her until half a dozen years later.

"Nick's mom told me, 'Did you know he had a crush on you back in third grade?'" Kennedy recalled.

They both attended AWANA, a Bible Club, held at Willow Creek Baptist Church in Heppner.

"That's when I first started eyeing her," Christman said with a smile.

The young couple finally got together in the seventh grade. Kennedy was curious about the quiet and mysterious young man.

"He wasn't rowdy like the other guys," she said.

Kennedy likes the fact their morals and convictions are compatible.

The couple grew up attending the same church and their Christian faiths are important to them.

Their first date was spent four-wheeling with family at Anson Wright Park.

During their early courtship, they often did things with each other's families. A short split-up even had an impact on their families.

"Our moms became really good friends and when we broke up it was really hard on them," Kennedy said.

Christman had a change of heart and attempted to reconcile with

his first love. But Kennedy wasn't ready to dive back into the relationship.

"She was stubborn and wouldn't give in," Christman said.

But that didn't stop the young suitor.

Kennedy finally told Christman she would only resume dating him if he was serious in developing a future together.

The couple knew they wanted to get married during their senior year in high school; however, decided to wait two years.

"A lot of people go off to college and grow apart," Kennedy said.

Christman is finishing his second year at Whitman College in Walla Walla, studying electrical engineering. Kennedy is studying to become a physical therapist at Walla Walla Community College, but took this term off to earn additional money for school. Christman lives in a dorm in Walla Walla and Kennedy lives in Milton-Freewater, where she works for Premier Physical Therapy.

Kennedy said she envisioned a romantic dinner as the setting when Christman would pop the question. But Christman had other plans. He took his soon-to-be fiancée up Rhea Creek outside of Heppner.

Covered in mud after four-wheeling to a remote waterfall, Christman tried to get behind her and kneel down to present the ring.

"I thought he was going to push me in the water," she said with a laugh.

Kennedy said winning the EO's Win the Wedding of Your Dreams contest would be the icing on their wedding cake.

"We obviously don't have the money to have a big fancy wedding," Kennedy said. "We live on Ramen Noodles."

Unbeknownst to the couple, Christman's paternal grandmother, Betty Christman, entered the contest on their behalf.

The couple wants to share their vows at the Ione City Park, an effort to maintain their south Morrow County roots.

This is the essay submitted to EO wedding contest:

First of all, what a wonderful opportunity this is! Especially in these times when weddings can really hit anyone's budget. Your newspaper and all the local merchants who have donated deserve much recognition.

I didn't see in the rules that someone else couldn't enter The Wedding of Your Dreams for the happy couple. Saying that, I am the grandmother of the waiting groom.

Nick and Cara fit the picture of a perfect loving couple. They are young, but have been going together eight years. Both sets of parents are a one marriage family, so these two have been raised with very strong values and family support. Both families live here locally, and have spent countless hours volunteering to make what our community is today.

They met at the same Sunday school and worked together in a youth group. Living in a rural area, school and church is the backbone of the community. Even though they attended different schools, sports and church kept them close. It was no surprise that a favorite family gathering place in the mountains was the perfect setting for the proposal.

Both have set very high standards and goals for themselves and recognize that sharing a loving marriage and happy life together would be a major step.

Nick is attending college full-time, working for an electrical engineering degree. He has worked every summer since junior high, building on his bank account for his college. He has a very good work ethic.

Cara is continuing her training in physical therapy where she has worked for several years. Cara's strong work ethic is one that few young women have.

Winning the dream wedding would be such a great reward and a wonderful start for these young adults as they look forward to a new life together as a married couple.

Betty Christman

# HJH track team participates in district



Pictured is the 2007 Heppner High School Jr. High track team. The team is coached by Susan Hisler and Larry Palmer. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

By Larry Palmer

The Heppner Junior High track team traveled to Stanfield to participate in the UMMSAA District Championships on Friday, May 11. The team fared well as the 6th and 7th grade boys brought home their first ever district championship, according to Coach Susan Hisler.

There were several individual district championships as well: Josh Williams 100m, 200m, long jump (7th grade boys); Cody Orr high jump (7th grade boys); Brooke Thompson 100m (8th grade girls); Keshawna Talamantes discus (8th grade girls); Natalie Rauch discus (7th grade girls); Carrie Haguewood high jump (7th grade girls); and the 7th grade boys 4x200m relay team consisting of Curtis Martin, Chase Milner, Seth Palmer, and Justyn Peck.

Team scores were as follows:

**8th grade boys**  
Umatilla 188, Heppner 87, Stanfield 66, Weston 58, Riverside 50, Pilot Rock 36, Echo 29, Ione 24, Irrigon 25.5, and Helix 4.

**8th grade girls**  
Umatilla 136, Riverside 80, Heppner 75, Pilot Rock 65, Stanfield 44, Ione 36, Irrigon 32, Weston 31, Helix 16, and Echo 1.

**6th & 7th grade boys**  
Heppner 151.5, Stanfield 102.5, Umatilla 94, Ione 88, Riverside 70, Pilot Rock 28, Irrigon 16, and Helix 13.

**6th & 7th grade girls**  
Umatilla 169.5, Ione 111, Heppner 93, Stanfield 79.5, Weston 32, Riverside 29, Echo 19, Pilot Rock 12, Helix 11, and Irrigon 8.

All local results listed below:

**Boys Results**

100 Meters - Varsity - Finals	4 Nick Kempas	12.68
	Ian Murray	DQ
100 Meters - Junior Varsity - Finals	1 Josh Williams	12.49

4 Curtis Martin	13.20
6 Camron Day	13.49
25 Garret Gibbs	16.86
200 Meters - Varsity - Finals	
2 Nick Kempas	25.37
12 Jordan Wright	28.46
14 Daniel Jeffreys	28.92
200 Meters - Junior Varsity - Finals	
1 Josh Williams	26.71
3 Curtis Martin	27.87
Justin Bailey	DQ
Camron Day	DQ
400 Meters - Varsity - Finals	
3 Nick Kempas	1:00.92
400 Meters - Junior Varsity - Finals	
4 Chase Milner	1:11.89
14 Justin Pranger	1:28.55
15 Zech Hintz	1:29.86
Josh Williams	DQ
800 Meters - Varsity - Finals	
5 Brett Harrison	2:39.08
800 Meters - Junior Varsity - Finals	
6 Cody Orr	2:38.58
8 Seth Palmer	2:43.77
Coleman Clark	DQ
John Nelson	DQ
1500 Meters - Junior Varsity - Finals	
3 Cody Orr	5:29.77
7 Coleman Clark	6:06.64
8 Cody Nelson	6:13.48
100 High Hurdles - Varsity - Finals	
3 Kyle Fuchs	17.55
4 Jared Hedman	17.64
14 Brett Harrison	21.02
100 High Hurdles - Junior Varsity - Finals	
2 Camron Day	19.01
14 Justyn Peck	21.05
20 Cody Nelson	23.02
22 John Nelson	23.55
300 Int Hurdles - Varsity - Finals	
10 Brett Harrison	56.14
300 Int Hurdles - Junior Varsity - Finals	
6 Seth Palmer	1:00.02
9 John Nelson	1:03.80
10 Cody Nelson	1:05.08
4x100 Relay - Junior Varsity - Finals	
7 Garret Gibbs	1:06.40
Zech Hintz	
Justin Pranger	
Justin Bailey	
4x200 Relay - Varsity - Finals	
6 Kyle Fuchs	1:58.34
Jared Hedman	
Daniel Jeffreys	
Alex Pickles	
4x200 Relay - Junior Varsity - Finals	
1 Curtis Martin	2:04.17
Chase Milner	
Seth Palmer	
Justyn Peck	
Shot Put - Varsity - Finals	
6 Jordan Wright	2'07.00
9 Ian Murray	3'06.00
25 Joe Armato	22'02.50
26 Brent Brosnan	21'01.00
Shot Put - Junior Varsity - Finals	
5 Zech Hintz	26'03.00
10 Jacob Moore	23'07.00
18 Bryce Fowler	18'10.00
Discus - Varsity - Finals	
6 Jordan Wright	87'06
7 Ian Murray	87'04
24 Brent Brosnan	59'11
25 Joe Armato	57'03
Discus - Junior Varsity - Finals	
4 Zech Hintz	72'05
13 Bryce Fowler	54'10
16 Jacob Moore	51'00
Javelin - Varsity - Finals	
3 Ian Murray	130'10
10 Alex Pickles	111'08
12 Kyle Fuchs	96'09
17 Joe Armato	86'08
Javelin - Junior Varsity - Finals	
2 Cody Orr	144'07
7 Justin Pranger	106'04
12 Garret Gibbs	93'05
13 Justin Bailey	92'09
High Jump - Varsity - Finals	
2 Daniel Jeffreys	5'02.00
3 Kyle Fuchs	5'00.00
6 Jared Hedman	4'04.00

**High Jump - Junior Varsity - Finals**

1 Cody Orr	4'08.00
2 Chase Milner	4'08.00
6 Justyn Peck	4'02.00
Long Jump - Varsity - Finals	
2 Nick Kempas	16'07.00
3 Alex Pickles	16'02.00
Cory Silvia	DQ
Long Jump - Junior Varsity - Finals	
1 Josh Williams	16'00.00
2 Camron Day	15'08.00
4 Curtis Martin	14'01.00
5 Justyn Peck	13'09.00
Triple Jump - Varsity - Finals	
5 Alex Pickles	32'00.00
6 Daniel Jeffreys	30'01.00
11 Brett Harrison	24'10.00
Triple Jump - Junior Varsity - Finals	
3 Chase Milner	28'08.00
5 Justin Pranger	26'09.00
Shane Smith	DQ

**Girls Results**

100 Meters - Varsity - Finals	
1 Brooke Thompson	13.74
4 Keisi Putnam	14.58
5 Lindsay Cutsforth	14.61
6 Afton Clark	14.64
100 Meters - Junior Varsity - Finals	
12 Ashlee Ames	15.58
18 Carrie Haguewood	15.81
18 Brittany Thompson	15.81
200 Meters - Varsity - Finals	
2 Brooke Thompson	29.20
4 Keisi Putnam	30.05
5 Afton Clark	30.90
Lindsay Cutsforth	DQ
200 Meters - Junior Varsity - Finals	
8 Ashlee Ames	33.11
12 Brittany Thompson	33.80
14 Carrie Haguewood	34.30
400 Meters - Varsity - Finals	
3 Afton Clark	1:11.20
5 Keisi Putnam	1:12.52
11 Lindsay Cutsforth	1:15.87
400 Meters - Junior Varsity - Finals	
2 JoAnna Patton	1:10.18
4 Kellie Nelson	1:13.52
11 Andre Collins	1:24.18
800 Meters - Junior Varsity - Finals	
3 JoAnne Patton	2:45.20
4 Courtney George	2:47.11
Kellie Nelson	DQ
X Andre Collins	DQ
100 High Hurdles - Varsity - Finals	
Brooke Thompson	DQ
100 High Hurdles - Junior Varsity - Finals	
8 Brittany Thompson	21.93
4x100 Relay - Junior Varsity - Finals	
5 Ashlee Ames	1:03.74
Courtney George	
Carrie Haguewood	
Natalie Rauch	
4x200 Relay - Junior Varsity - Finals	
2 Ashlee Ames	2:15.90
Courtney George	
Kellie Nelson	
JoAnne Patton	
Shot Put - Varsity - Finals	
4 Keshawna Talamantes	25'10.00
Shot Put - Junior Varsity - Finals	
3 Natalie Rauch	23'07.00
5 Kellie Nelson	21'06.00
Discus - Varsity - Finals	
1 Keshawna Talamantes	75'07
Discus - Junior Varsity - Finals	
1 Natalie Rauch	67'07.7
Javelin - Varsity - Finals	
2 Keshawna Talamantes	96'00
8 Keisi Putnam	81'028
Javelin - Junior Varsity - Finals	
3 Natalie Rauch	83'00
High Jump - Junior Varsity - Finals	
1 Carrie Haguewood	4'06.00
2 JoAnna Patton	4'05.00
3 Courtney George	4'02.00
Long Jump - Varsity - Finals	
9 Lindsay Cutsforth	12'02.00
11 Afton Clark	11'11.00
Long Jump - Junior Varsity - Finals	
4 Brittany Thompson	11'02.00
Triple Jump - Varsity - Finals	
7 Brooke Thompson	21'02.00

# 2007 HHS golf team members go to state



Pictured is the 2007 Heppner High School golf team. Five members of the HHS golf team went on to compete at the state level. For the boys, Taylor Hodges competed individually Monday and Tuesday at the Stone Creek Golf Club in Oregon City. The girl's golf team qualified for state as a team. Jenna Bowman, Maggie Armato, Bailey Keithley, and Emily Thompson competed on Monday and Tuesday at the Eagle Crest Ridge Course in Redmond.

## John Day navigation lock to close May 22 for inspection

The navigation lock at the John Day Dam facility will close to river traffic from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 22 for an inspection, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced.

The closure will allow the Corps to measure the tension on wire ropes that were installed on the downstream lift gate during recent maintenance. These measurements will be used to determine the weight of the gate and counterweights to ensure they are properly balanced.

The John Day Lock and Dam is located at exit 109 off Interstate 84. At this time no part of the dam is open for public access.

**HEPPNER  
G-T**

188 W. Willow  
676-9228  
fax 676-9211

**We  
Print:  
Letterhead  
Envelopes  
Invoices  
Business  
Forms  
Business  
Cards  
Color  
Flyers  
and  
more!**