

The Big Read comes to Heppner

Free copies of the novel "The Joy Luck Club" by author Amy Tan will be available throughout the month of March at the Heppner Public Library and in eight other communities as The Big Read program comes to Eastern Oregon.

Through The Big Read program, residents are encouraged to read the novel in March and April. First published in 1989, the best-selling novel has become an American classic.

The project is sponsored by Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO) in collaboration with the Oregon Trail Library District and public libraries at Hermiston, Milton-Freewater, La Grande, Baker City, Condon, Fossil and Lakeview.

Dozens of new copies of "The Joy Luck Club" will be available at the Heppner Library and other community locations.

"We're really excited to offer The Big Read in Heppner," said Marsha Richmond, library district director. "It's a wonderful opportunity for the community to be able to par-

ticipate in this nationwide program."

In 16 interwoven stories, Amy Tan's characters—four Chinese mothers who immigrated to America after World War II during the Chinese Civil War, and their American-raised daughters struggle to connect despite the ghosts and secrets of the past. The book is targeted for readers from high school age through adult. Underlying themes of the book are similar to those faced by all first- and second-generation immigrants.

As an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), The Big Read is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The Big Read in the Pacific Northwest is supported, in part, by a grant from Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

Planning is underway for programs to complement the book. Programs will be held in April and May.

On Thurs., April 10, a program will be presented at the Heppner library by Christina Sweet, curator of

the Kam Wah Chung & Co. Museum at John Day.

Operated by Oregon State Parks and Recreation Dept., the museum served as a late 19th and early 20th century mercantile, apothecary and opium den for Chinese laborers who came to work in the gold fields of Eastern Oregon. Sweet will bring artifacts from the museum and discuss the history of early Chinese in the region.

And on Tuesday, April 29, Oregon scholar and historian Gregory Nokes will also come to the library. He will present a program about early Chinese in Eastern Oregon, focusing on the 1887 massacre of 37 Chinese laborers along the Snake River by a gang of horse thieves.

LEO is one of 127 organizations to receive a grant to sponsor Big Read celebrations this spring. The NEA launched The Big Read nationally in 2007 after its success as a pilot project for 10 communities in 2006. By 2009, approximately 400 communities in

the U.S. will have hosted a Big Read since the program's launch.

"In just two years, the Big Read has grown from 10 communities to include nearly 200 towns and cities nationwide. Although each of these communities celebrates its Big Read program in its own way, one theme we consistently hear back is that the Big Read is not just bringing citizens back to the joy of reading, but also reinvigorating the very idea of community," said NEA Chairman Dana Gioia.

A nonprofit, LEO serves libraries in 14 counties with a mission to create and deliver opportunities for 21st century public library services. For more information about The Big Read, contact Lyn Craig, LEO executive director at 541-763-2355 or Oregon Trail Library District Director Marsha Richmond at 541-481-3365.

Further information about the national program is online at www.neabig-read.org.

Becoming better readers ... minute by minute

Ross Cutsforth led the field of readers in fifth and sixth grades at Heppner Elementary School during the annual Time Out for Reading programs which takes place each January. For almost two decades students have counted the minutes spent reading during the popular reading incentive program. Ross read 6,266 minutes of the total of 101,094 for all 50 participants.

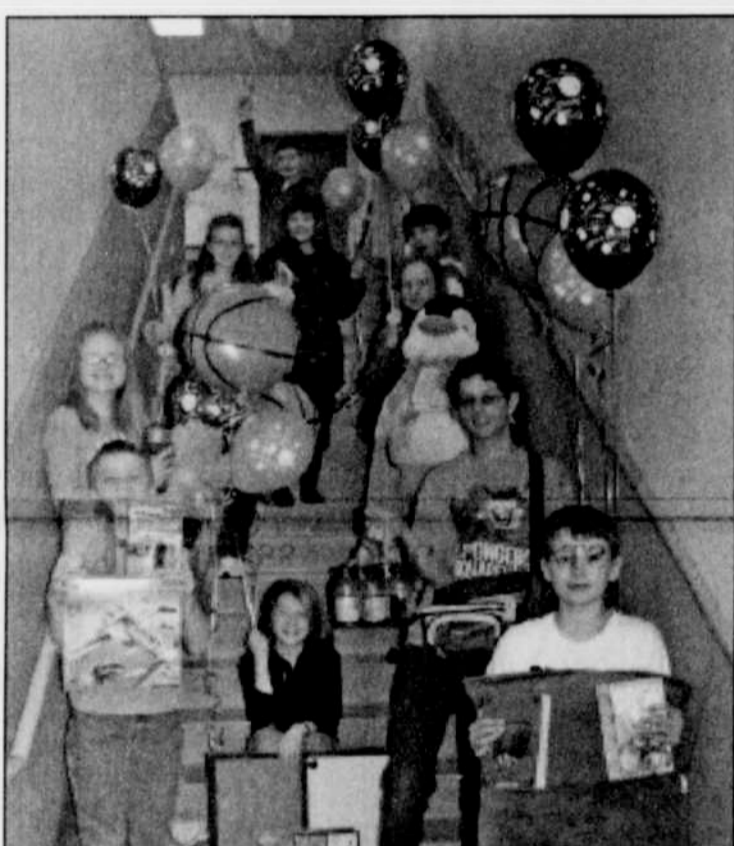
Prizes were awarded on Wednesday, February 6, in the decorated computer lab, with each winner receiving a prize and a book. The top 10 readers in order were Ross, Joe Schmidt, Maddie George, Jordan Bailey, Cade Arbogast, Jeff Dowdy, Lane Pilant, Paige Grieb, Ryan Dougherty and Abby Ames.

Prizes included an MP-3 player, OSU and U of O chairs, stuffed animals, duffle bags, school and art supplies, backpacks, coolers, lava lamp, Legos, basketballs, watches, and more.

From the readers,



Ross Cutsforth was the big winner of the Time Out for Reading program held at HES.



The top 10 readers were Abby Ames, Jeff Dowdy, Jordan Bailey, Ross Cutsforth, Joe Schmidt, Lane Pilant, Maddie George, Cade Arbogast, Paige Grieb and Ryan Dougherty.

Mrs. Allen received a boxed set of the complete works of Calvin and Hobbes. "Watching the students get excited about reading is enough of a gift, but I love the books because I am a huge fan

of Calvin and Hobbes." She also commented on the delight in so many readers devouring books in series such as Harry Potter and the Guardians of Ga'Hoole.

"Smart Hearts" poster contest winners announced

Heppner Elementary School students participated in a "Smart Hearts" poster contest based on the Health and Education Fair on February 14. The students were asked to draw what smart hearts means to them. All the students came up with great ideas about how to stay healthy. There was a winner in each class and two overall winners for k-2 and 3-6 grades. Each winner received a \$5 gift certificate to The Stable of Youth.

The winning posters are located at the Heppner TV office and the other posters will be displayed around



Smart Heart Poster Winners pictured left to right are Kami Holtz, Cheyenne Smith, Olivia Schmidt, Reiah Waite, Tim Jaca, Rylee Kollman, JC Putman, Jared Lemmon, and overall winners Jaiden Mahoney and Micha Hintz.

town. The Smart Hearts event will be held February 14 from 5:30-7:30 at the HES gym and is sponsored by Parents for Parents. There

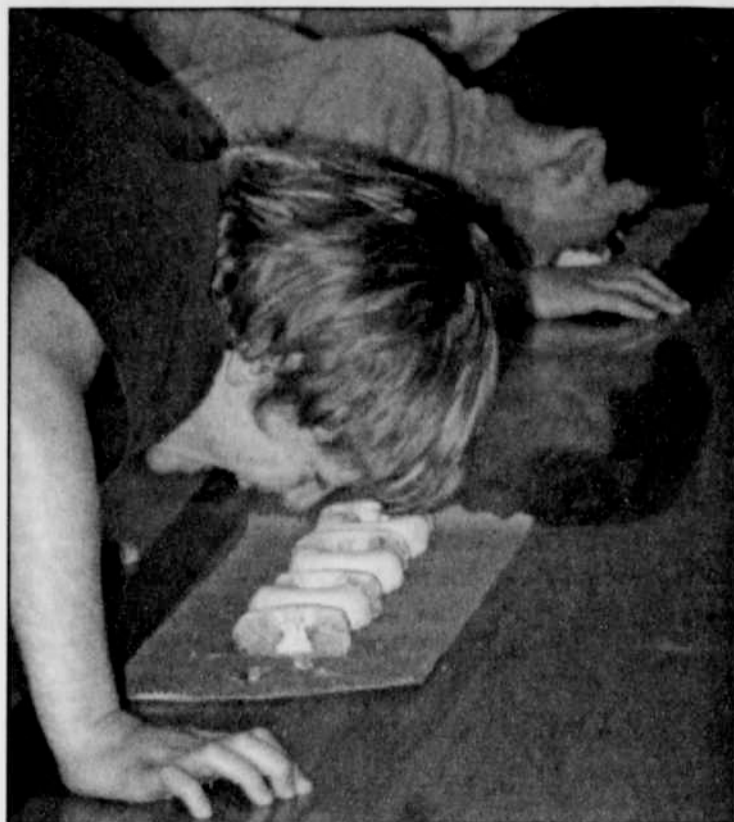
will be a free taco dinner, puppet show, 20 booths, and raffle prizes. The event is free, but students must have an adult with them to participate.

Do you swear to tell the truth?

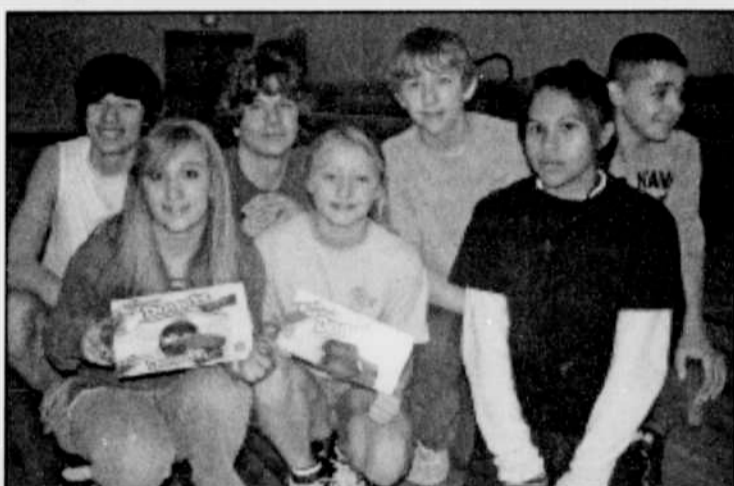


"Jurors" listen intently as Lacey Wagoneer questions Joe Armato during a mock trial put on by students from Jeannie Collins' class at Heppner High School. The students put on their mock trial on Monday, February 11, at the Morrow County Courthouse. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

Ione Middle School ASB Olympics held



Sixth grader Joel Stillman chokes down a donut in a hurry.



The winning team takes a bow. Bottom row (L-R): Cassie Arbogast, Stacey Halvorsen and Nerida Cavillo. Top row (L-R): Steven Holland, Zac Orem, Adam Collin and Jose Ruiz.



Team members Micah Stillman, Skyler Kendrick and Zane King prepare to race.

Ione Middle School ASB held their 'Olympics' this past weekend. Teams compete for prizes and recognition. The activity this day was for each team member to crawl across the gym on their hands and knees, eat half of a donut without their hands and crawl back.

IES students take field trip to Krebs Ranches



Students for Ione Elementary School went on a field trip to Krebs Ranches, hosted by Skye Krebs, on Monday, February 11. Pictured L-R: Angel Ruiz, Danny Doherty, Donald McEligott, Henry Padberg and Jerad Clark check out the progression pens.

Third grader Austin Morter bottle feeds a bummer baby lamb with help from Mrs. Vicky Wagenblast.



Pictured L-R: Amanda Rea, Emily Rea, Ann Rietmann, Leslie Browning and Katelyn Garrett.

Leslie Browning cuddles a baby lamb while Katelyn Garrett, and Babali Peterson look on.

