

HES students are "Outstanding"



To celebrate their OUTSTANDING rating on the Oregon State Report Card, all of the students and staff of Heppner Elementary School dressed as farmers. The purpose of the farmer attire was to show "HES...We're out-standing in our field" and, despite the snowy/rainy weather, everyone wore a smile in addition to their overalls and kerchiefs. One fifth grade student summed up the feelings of the entire school with this comment, "We give our all to make HES an outstanding school." -Contributed Photo

HES Honor Card recipients announced

Honor Card winners were recently announced at Heppner Elementary School for maintaining positive grades, citizenship, and behavior. HES had 116 recipients for the first quarter of the 2009-10 school year.

The following students received an Honor Card: Mark Adams, Kylie Boor, Kaden Combe, Cedrick Dayandante, Kendall Dowdy, Cody Fletcher, Brock Hisler, Blane Mahoney, Jonathon Waddell, Savannah Morlan, Wyatt Wilhelm, Amelia Baker, Conor Brosnan, Jace Coe, Hannah Green, Brett Jewett, Felix Matthew, Gracie Orem, Chloe Payne, Joseph Sherman, Noah Stone, Roen Waite, Roy Collins, Alexis Cutsforth, Gracey DeLoach, Gaige Futter, Hunter Greenup, Hayden Hyatt, Mikel Jaca, Jackson Lehman, Andrew Looslie, Marlee Mitchell, Madelyn Nichols, Kevin Rea, Gene-

vieve Smith, Tyson Vawser, Sydney Wilson, Suzanneah Cason, Alison Cecil, Drew Coe, Casey Fletcher, Kellen Grant, Gavin Hanna, Kami Holtz, Evan Kollman, Mason Lehman, Abigail Marick, Tresslyn McCurry, Jason Rea, Dylan Rill, Cheyenne Shaw, Makayla Silvia, Jordan Spaulding, Jordan Sweeney, Cami VanArsdale, Morgan Burch, Madison Combe, Jacee Curran, Keegan Gibbs, Claire Grieb, Derek Howard, Madison Jewett, Braden Linnell, Cason Mitchell, Hunter Nichols, Justice Petzoldt, Hayden Qualls, Leo Waite, Carson Brosnan, Tony Delay, Riley Gorham, Kacie Gray, Diana Healy, Alex Lindsay, Jaiden Mahoney, Gibson McCurry, Olivia Schmidt, Caitlyn Scrivner, Nichole Shaw, Naleah Stone, Reiah Waite, Cara Arbogast, Morgan Correa, Tristan Estabrook, Bryan Fowler, Sophie Grant, Logan Grieb, Payton Lehman,

Kevin Murray, Sydney Qualls, Ivy Sandford, Nalani Stone, Kane Sweeney, Cailynn Bailey, Lexi Bray, Patrick Collins, Kolby Curran, Kellie Eadler, Jessica Kempken, Will Lutzer, Victor Meyer, Weston Putman, Emily Rea, Demitra Schmidt, Ryan Smith, Rian Wizner, Emily Cecil, Josh Dowdy, Caden Hedman, Tim Jaca, CJ Kindle, Rylee Kollman, Kaden Lehman, Jake Lindsay, Skyler Palmer, and Emily Pappas.

The following businesses help sponsor the Honor Card program by offering students incentives to do their best everyday: Stable of Youth, Heppner Shell, Wheatland Insurance, Greg Smith and Company, Community Bank, Cornerstone Gallery, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Willow Creek Diner, Murray's Drug, The Video Store, Sweet Productions, and Heppner Family Foods.

Rewards Card collection deadline Dec. 17

Thursday, December 17, is the deadline for collecting rewards cards for purchases made at local merchants.

On the evening of December 17 dinner will be served by the Elks Lodge from 6-7:30 p.m. and Santa will be there for pictures. The activities upstairs will

start at 7:30 p.m. with cookies, coffee and punch, an opportunity to get to know the exchange students and their host families, and drawing of the winning "rewards cards." You do not have to be present to win the "rewards cards" prizes, but those not present will have to have someone there

to enter your cards into the prize containers and pick up the prize.

The chamber will also be drawing the winner of two Christmas Raffle Baskets. The chamber will contact the winners of the baskets if they are not present.

Garden Club to hold greens workshop

The Heppner Garden Club will be making wreaths, swags, crosses and table arrangements again this year.

Orders can be placed with Ida Farra at 676-9446 before November 30. Pick-ups can be made from December 2-5 at the fair grounds.

On Saturday, December 5, anyone can make their own wreaths or arrangements. The greens are free and this is open to the public from 9 a.m. to noon.

HHS students studying Japanese cultures



Petra Payne's World Cultures class is currently studying the Japanese culture. Students in her class have been working on the Japanese art of Origami. Origami is an ancient form of paper art. Most of Origami is animals that have different meanings and represent different characteristics. Pictured are" Cidney Coster, Mayci Garrett, Taighler Dougherty, Jacob Moore, Tashina Rushlow, and Celeste Owen along with some of the classes Origami work. -Contributed Photo

A view from the hill

By Doris Brosnan

The preschool students who came for a Halloween party at Willow Creek Terrace on October 27 found themselves surrounded by masked men and women! In keeping with the spirit of the upcoming celebration and with the need to preempt any flu bugs that could have come through the door with the children, the residents wore small masks decorated with "scary" faces and words, such as "BOO!" Apparently, the youngsters didn't view the unfamiliar as threatening - they stayed for the party that included painting pumpkins from the Terrace garden.

This year, residents again wore their Halloween pumpkin shirts, thus becoming the Terrace's "Pumpkin Patch." The staff joined the fun by dressing as super heroes. New to some readers might be "Super Shower Girl," "Super Cook," and "Super Dishwasher". Manager George Nairns fulfilled her promise to come as "the Great Pumpkin." One wonders which elicited more groans, the costumes or the Knock-Knock jokes on October 31 (also a National Day designation).

The month ended with Happy Anniversary wishes for Dick and Virginia Wilkinson, who shared cake with neighbors, friends, and family. Ginger delighted the guests when she displayed her wedding dress.

November has followed with special events already. On the 5th, the gentlemen who live on the Hill were invited to make dinner, and Bud Batty and Dallas Craber accepted the invitation, somewhat. They were great with their supervision of the hamburger grilling. One of the community's favorite singing groups, the Has-Been-Wanna-Be's, came with some fine songs on the 11th, and three residents attended the Heppner High School Veterans' Day Commemoration the next day. Manager Nairns and Virginia Wilkinson accompanied Bud Batty and Dick Wilkinson, who were among the men and women honored for their military service.

In sharp contrast to the history of war and conflict evoked by that tribute to veter-

ans, but reflecting the hope for peace and harmony, the day after the event - World Kindness Day - was a time for the residents and staff to reflect on the issue and hope for that eventuality. Another somber reminder of what American men and women have sacrificed will be the sharing on the 19th of the Gettysburg Address, written by President Lincoln in 1863.

On an upbeat note, Terrace residents and staff are invited to set aside modesty on the 24th while they share their unique talents. Some coaxing and maybe cajoling might be required, but Nairns recognizes that each member of the community is truly unique and has a talent to demonstrate or explain. Also on the 24th, the Terrace kitchen will feature the special talents of Guest Cook Dean Antonucci.

Thanksgiving Day will find the residents, staff, and guests gathered for a celebration of the wonderful year 2009 has been. Tom Turkey will be featured, accompanied by some of the harvest from the Terrace garden. And the Future Business Leaders of America at HHS will be baking pies for the dinner. Thanksgiving on the Hill takes on a family atmosphere, as family members are invited and friends are encouraged to also come to the feast. The meal is planned for 1 p.m., and all persons who wish to attend are asked to, RSVP at 676-0004 early and no later than Monday or Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

Readers are also invited to join the Terrace community on December 5 for their annual Deck-the-Halls activities. Decorating will begin at 2:30, singing of Christmas carols will add to the festive flavor of the afternoon, and a dinner of calico beans and cornbread will refresh and fill the participants. Staff requests that everyone who wishes to join in RSVP before the 5th, so a bean - or several - can be put in the pot for everyone.

Heppner Parade of Lights to be held Dec. 3

Heppner's 13th annual Parade of Lights, sponsored by Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, is scheduled to start at 6 p.m., on Thursday, December 3.

The day will be filled with open house/customer appreciation activities by the local downtown merchants. At 5 p.m. Heppner Elementary School students and Heppner Day Care children put their homemade ornaments and witness as the tree outside the Post Office comes to life with lights and Christmas bulbs to help light up the night. Local merchants will be open until 7 p.m.

HEROES program seeking volunteers



The HEROES program is looking for volunteers on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Pictured is Larry Mills reading to Johnny Resch. For more information or to volunteer contact Barb Moore at 676-5272 or 676-9128 ext. 2630. -Contributed Photo

Heppner Day Care holding fundraiser

Heppner Day Care and Preschool is selling See's Candy as a fundraiser. Different size boxes are

available for purchase. To purchase candy, contact Kami Combe at 676-0995. Orders are due by Monday, November 30.

Umatilla-Morrow, Union-Baker and Malheur ESDs explore voluntary merger

Editor's Note: The following article was writing by Dr. Mark Mulvihill, superintendent of the Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District.

In the current tough economic climate we're facing, discovering new ways to better serve our students is essential. The Umatilla-Morrow ESD is in the exploratory stage of a voluntary merger with Union County schools. You may recall Senate Bill 574, which would have consolidated Oregon's 20 ESDs down to 13. This bill died in the final days of the 2009 legislative session, but now, thanks to positive relationships, the UMESD, Union-Baker ESD and Malheur ESD are engaged in a year-long process to explore the possibility of voluntarily merging into two ESDs.

If approved by the local ESD boards and the state, this voluntary merger would dissolve Union-Baker ESD by consolidating Union County schools with the UMESD and Baker County schools with Malheur ESD - essentially what SB574 would have done, without the change in board governance. Voluntarily merging also maintains

local control instead of state-mandated requirements inherit with a forced merger.

The term "merger" often scares people - but don't let it. This is a win-win situation for all parties involved. The UBESD board and administration understand the mark its financial past has left on its organization and its limited capacity to build programs. They want to find a more effective way to serve the children in Union and Baker counties, as do UMESD and MalESD.

The three ESD boards have been working together over the past several months to outline the merger process. They developed four committees to explore the various facets of consolidation: Finance, Personnel, Board Governance and State Petition. After all areas of a voluntary merger have been successfully resolved, the three ESDs would agree to the consolidation and petition the state of Oregon to merge.

So why merge ESDs? There are numerous positive reasons to merge, including increased capacity for UMESD and

MalESD with the addition of Union County schools (to UMESD) and Baker County schools (to MalESD). This would make UMESD and MalESD more regional, and a logical place for the Oregon Department of Education to turn to for assistance with school improvement efforts in Eastern Oregon.

Over the next two months, Deputy Superintendent Michael Lasher, Assistant Superintendent Mary Apple and I will visit the school boards in Umatilla, Morrow and Union county districts to provide information and receive feedback on this voluntary merger. MalESD Superintendent Tim Labrousse and UBESD Superintendent Mike Sowder are also meeting with their districts' boards to provide information and receive feedback. We are trying to make the process as open and transparent as possible.

Ultimately, this voluntary merger is about serving the children of Eastern Oregon. The process of exploring this consolidation is a good example of adults putting aside their personal interests and doing what's best for the kids in Eastern Oregon.

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