

## Ione kids bring joy with toys

By Aaron Smythe

The sixth-grade class at Ione Community School, with assistance from volunteers Barb Collin, Marilyn Childers and Bonnie Ball, made a big box of sock monkeys for distribution in Cape Town, South Africa through Clowns Without Borders. The children receiving the monkeys are from families affected by HIV/AIDS. MCGG donated socks.

Since 2005, Operation Sock Monkey has raised money in support of the humanitarian work of Clowns Without Borders. Operation Sock Monkey (OSM) is a volunteer organization that supports humanitarian organizations that provide laughter, hope and healing to communities around the world affected by disaster, social/political turmoil, and disease. Sock monkeys can be purchased or sponsored to be sent to children in need of a smile.

The children had a lot of fun making the monkeys and writing stories to go with each monkey. It



Ione Community School's sixth-grade class displays the sock monkeys they will be sending to Cape Town, South Africa. Top Row (L-R): Madeline Pringle, Logan Burrigh, Sydney Stefani, Alexis Garrett and Tyler Carter. Bottom Row (L-R): Aaron Smythe, Renee Peterson, Susanna Teeman, Gracie Crum and Payton Miller. —Contributed photo

brought smiles to their faces and they hope it will bring many smiles to the recipients' faces as well.

To help with the project, go to [www.operation-sockmonkey.com](http://www.operation-sockmonkey.com). There

are many ways to get involved and help OSM. Donate a monkey—send them a monkey and they'll find them good homes; adopt a monkey—buy a sock monkey and they'll donate

the proceeds to Clowns Without Borders; sponsor a monkey—buy a sock monkey sponsorship and they'll send a sock monkey to someone in need of a smile.

## Miles couple celebrates 50 years



Dexter and Corinne Miles on their wedding day in 1962.

Dexter and Corinne Miles of Heppner will celebrate their golden anniversary at the end of this month. The couple celebrated the 50-year mark with a seven-day Alaskan cruise in May of this year.

Dexter Martin Miles, 23, married Corinne Mavis Siggelkow, 22, on December 30, 1962 at 2 p.m. at the Lutheran church in Scobey, MT. They were attended by sister of the bride Karen Siggelkow, now Bernier, and friend of the groom Max Barclay.

Corinne was born in Portland, OR and raised in Scobey; Dexter was born in Monee, IL but spent much of his life in the Lexington area. The couple met while she was teaching in Glasgow, MT and he was

stationed at a nearby U.S. Air Force base.

After their marriage, they say they moved 14 times in the first 10 years, mostly throughout eastern Montana and northeastern Oregon, and "painted every house." They spent most of their married life farming, first working for others and then leasing ground. They have farmed in the Heppner area since 1971, and bought their own farm outside of Heppner in 1977; they have been in their current home 35 years.

Dexter and Corinne have five children and 19 grandchildren. They expect their first great-grandchild in February of 2013 and their 20th grandchild in March.

## HHS girls split, boys lose two in basketball league play

League varsity basketball play began in Heppner on Friday, Dec. 14, when the Mustangs hosted the visiting Stanfield Tigers.

The Lady Mustangs shared an undefeated pre-season with the Tigers.

With a 22-14 Tiger lead at halftime, Heppner decided to turn the game around. In the third quarter, they outscored Stanfield 15-9 to cut the lead to two points to start the fourth and final frame. The Mustangs' defense eliminated Stanfield's scoring threat, and the offense started clicking to score a win in their first league game, 47-37.

Baily Bennett scored 15 points and Blake Greenup and Alana Wilson had 11 and 10 points for Heppner.

In the boys' game, the Mustangs were beaten by the Tigers. Stanfield built a 37-11 halftime lead on the Mustangs. In the third quarter, Heppner played

even with the Tigers but could not overcome the hot-shooting Tigers, losing the contest 65-33.

The Mustangs played the Pilot Rock Rockets on Saturday, Dec. 15, in their second league game of the year. It was a good game all the way for the girls, until the final seconds when the Rockets took a three-point lead to win the game 54-51. Heppner (1-1 Blue Mountain Conference) shot 12-18

from the line. Alana Wilson scored 16 points for Heppner and Blake Greenup added 14.

In the boys' game, the Mustangs struggled to find their offense, taking the loss to the Rockets 66-34.

The teams then had a week to prepare for a home game against the Weston-McEwen TigerScots on Friday, Dec. 21. Results were not available at press time.

## 2012 Riley Freeman Award honors Morrow County ranchers

Pam and Mark Wunderlich of Heppner were honored as recipients of the 2012 Riley Freeman Award at the Oregon Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention recently.

This award, a joint honor on behalf of the OCA and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, honors an OCA member who best exemplifies the concepts of good ranch stewardship and collaboration with state and federal agencies on fish and wildlife habitat. The award is named after Riley Freeman, a past chair of the OCA Wildlife Committee. Riley vigorously advocated for partnership between wildlife managers, landowners and wildlife consumers, and was instrumental in creation of ODFW's Access and Habitat Program.

The Wunderlichs op-

erate Wilkinson Ranches LLC, located in Morrow County. The ranch was first opened to public hunting in 1967 by Pam's parents, Dick and Virginia Wilkinson, and has been open to the public for hunting access since that time.

Pam and Mark continue to work closely with ODFW to provide this public access, and Wilkinson Ranch provides the core of the Heppner Regulated Hunt Area in Morrow County through an Access and Habitat grant. They have also worked with their local Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with ODFW and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) to implement projects to improve upland bird and mule deer habitat.

"Wilkinson Ranch's generosity provides Or-

egon big game and bird hunters year-around access to almost 31,000 acres of private property supporting 6,000 user days of hunting annually," said Bruce Eddy, Northeast Region Manager for ODFW. "The Wunderlichs also have a strong commitment to the stewardship of the land and continue to work to improve wildlife habitat."

Kay Tiesl, Executive Director of the Oregon

Cattlemen's Association, stated, "The OCA is pleased to honor Pam and Mark and their efforts to not only conserve and sustain their family's ranchland but also work to provide greater access for Oregon hunters. Their example demonstrates the positive relationship that can occur between the ranching industry, state agencies and a mutual respect and concern for our natural resources."



Pam and Mark Wunderlich of Wilkinson Ranches were recipients of the 2012 Riley Freeman Award. —Contributed photo

## Beavers prevail at dodgeball tourney



Competition was fierce during the Operation Graduation dodgeball tournament Dec. 19 in Heppner. Above: the FFA team battles against the Balls to the Wall team for the spot as tournament champions; both ultimately lost, with the Beavers team taking home the title. —Photo by Megan Futter

After quickly eliminating the Ducks, the Beavers moved easily through the 16-team bracket into the championship round of the Project Graduation double elimination dodgeball tournament held Dec. 19 in Heppner.

Seth Moses Roofing sponsored a second team—the Little Rascals—to help fill out the 16-team bracket. The Average Joes defeated Killer Manufacturing, while the Beavers defeated the Stable of Youth in the final four full-court matches.

To claim the title, the undefeated Beavers only needed to beat the Average Joes once since the Joes had lost earlier to Killer Manufacturing in the second round. The Beavers weren't able to pull it off early, though, and had to face the Average Joes a second time to finally get the win. Stable of Youth placed third.

The tournament was a fundraiser for the Class of 2013 Drug and Alcohol Free Graduation Party being planned for June 1.

## Holly Rebekah to host New Year's Eve card party

Holly Rebekah Lodge will once again host a card party on New Year's Eve. Play will start at 7 p.m. on Dec. 31 at the lodge hall in Lexington. The cost is \$5 per person.

All playing are asked to bring a finger food to share. This event is open to the public. Coffee and hot cider will be provided.

The Gazette-Times will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 1. All deadlines for the Jan. 2 issue are:

Dec. 28 at 5 p.m.

### Happy Holidays from Elite Performance!

As of now through January 5th personal training will be offered for a little as \$12.50 per session.

Contact Blas Elguezabal for more information at 541-561-6613.

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If you are a resident of Morrow County and you wish to take advantage of the services above or desire more information, Please call any of the following numbers to set up a LOCAL appointment or just to talk:

Bobby Harris @ 541-676-9925 or 541-256-0175  
Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) @ 541-676-9161  
OR 1-877-695-4648 (1-888-MYLIMIT)