

Victoria Palacios Gonzalez wins WRE geographic bee

Moves one step closer to \$25,000 scholarship



Top Row: Nestor Ramirez, Damon Sawyer, Josh Gray, Rose Jurcich, Mrs. Theresa Proctor-Reece; Middle Row: David Araiza, Aiden Barresse, Estrella Daltoso, Blake Gallegos; Bottom Row: Champion Victoria Palacios-Gonzalez and Reserve Champion Flint Hodges. —Contributed photo

Victoria Palacios Gonzalez, a sixth grade student at Windy River Elementary, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on Jan. 15, and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. The school-level bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 25th annual National Geographic Bee. The bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

The kickoff for this year's bee was the week of Nov. 12, with thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories participating. The school winners, including Victoria, took a written test; up to 100 of the top scorers in each state will be eligible to compete in their state bee on April 5.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the National Geographic Bee national championship May 20-22. The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the society, and a trip to the Galapagos Islands, courtesy of Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic.

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek will moderate the national finals on May 22. The program will air on television. Check local listings for dates and times.

Also competing in this year's top 10 at Windy River were Reserve Champion Flint Hodge along with Josh Gray, Blake Gallegos, David Araiza, Rose Jurcich, Damon Sawyer, Aidan Barresse, Nestor Ramirez and Estrella Daltoso.

Dog licenses available

The City of Heppner is working to make sure dogs within the city limits are licensed. Dogs over age 6 months are required to be licensed. Licenses cost \$7 per year for spayed or neutered animals and \$15 for those that are not. Licensing helps identify dogs that are picked up and they can be returned to their owner. Unlicensed dogs that are at large are transported to pet rescue in Hermiston. For more information, call Heppner City Hall at 541-676-9618.

Flynn takes state wrestling title

Eighth grade student Cord Flynn became the first lone wrestler to ever qualify for the Oregon middle school state championship by placing second at the Eastern Oregon regional tournament on March 2.

Flynn's only loss in the tournament was a 10-12 overtime decision in the championship bout to Jonathan Urenda from the Dalles. Middle school wrestling does not divide competitors by school size so it is a true state championship.

Flynn competed at 150 pounds in the 16-man state championship bracket on March 9 in Woodburn. The double elimination tournament is comprised of the top four placers from each of the four regional tournaments around the state.

Flynn's first trip to state got off to a tough start when he lost his first match by a 12-6 decision to a

Eugene opponent. With a first round loss he faced single elimination thereafter and would need to win the next three matches to make it to the medal round. He won his second and third matches without much difficulty, the first by pin and the second by a 9-0 major decision. His next match was a rematch with Jonathan Urenda, the Dalles wrestler that had defeated him the week before at the Eastern Oregon regional championship. This time Flynn was better prepared and driven by a determination to bring home a state medal. He dominated the match from the beginning and this time didn't allow Urenda to score a single match point, winning a 9-0 major decision. He went on to finish sixth and became the first wrestler from Ione to stand on the podium at a state wrestling championship.

Dodge ball tourney will benefit children

Irrigon High School student leadership will host a dodge ball tournament to raise money to buy toys for children at Dorenbecher's Children Hospital in Portland. The tournament will take place March 28-29 from 2 - 7:30 p.m. at Irrigon High School Gym. Teams of 8 are needed and the cost will be \$25 for the

whole team. Team name and matching shirt or team colors are required. Deadline for the team information is due no later than March 22. For more information call Emilie McKenney at 541-701-1279 or Antonio Sanchez at 541-701-1784. There will be no admission fee at the door but we will greatly accept donations.

South Morrow County Scholarships available

At the annual meeting of the South Morrow County Scholarship and Trust, Bill Rietmann of Ione was elected President; Del LaRue was elected Treasurer and Sharon Harrison Secretary. Board members serving are Martha Munkers, Missy Cutsforth, Ginger Bowman and Carri Grieb.

The South Morrow County Scholarship Trust

was established several years ago to provide funds to grant scholarships to graduating seniors from Heppner and Ione High Schools and to take the place of the Froedson Scholarship fund which will be discontinued in the year 2023.

Application for this year's scholarships is available at both Heppner and Ione High Schools. The deadline for scholarships to be submitted is April 8.



Chillin' the holiday beverage

A cold beverage is an important part of any celebration. Heppner's St. Patrick's Day Committee is selling can cozies to not only keep the chill on the can but to raise money to help offset the cost of the four day event. Cozies can be purchased at the Community Bank, on Main St., Heppner for \$3 each. They will also be available at the committee's information booth during the weekend festivities. Pictured with the selection are: L-R Jenelle Vongunten, Amy George and Nicole Skillings.

Port of Morrow SAGE Center Volunteer Fair

The Port of Morrow SAGE Center will host two volunteer fairs on April 9. Anyone interested in volunteering at the SAGE Center is welcome to attend. The first session will be

from noon -1:30 p.m. and the second session will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Both fairs will provide a boxed meal. For more information or to R.S.V.P. please contact Kalie Davis, SAGE Center manager at 541-481-7678.

4-H exhibits and memorabilia sought

The Morrow County 4-H program is looking for any 4-H memorabilia, Morrow County and non-Morrow County alike, to share in a display at this year's Centennial of the Morrow County Fair, held Aug. 14-17.

Photos, ribbons, trophies, pins, along with 4-H exhibits or any other 4-H memorabilia would be a great addition to this year's display recognizing the hard work and memories from 4-H throughout the years.

Please contact the Morrow County 4-H office or 4-H leader Doashea Qualls for more information: 541-676-9642.

Plan in works for AARP class

Plans are in the works to offer an AARP Safety Class in Heppner. The class is designed for drivers 50 and older and provides information in defensive driving, traffic laws, and strategies to address age-related changes.

Anyone interested in taking the class can contact Ron at 541-575-4268. He hopes to offer the course in April.

The Secret Garden – What's It All About?

Area students are encouraged to audition for the Missoula Theater's "The Secret Garden", on March 25 in Irrigon.

An original rendition, "The Secret Garden" is a joyful retelling of a story of hope, celebration and all good things in life. Mistress Mary Quite Contrary embarks on a journey from India to her uncle's home in England. Along the way, she makes friends with hilarious Canadian Geese and colorful Giant Bugs that Rock.

In time, Mary learns to appreciate everything around her, including the Moor Animals and helpful Fireflies. Add to that, a good healthy dose of caring and something amazing happens. The whole household begins to enjoy the return of health and happiness as a carefully tended garden blooms once more.

If you are a K-12 student in Irrigon or Boardman schools, you can audition to be in the play on March 25 Auditions will be held at AC Houghton Cafeteria, 1105 Main Street Irrigon, at 10 a.m. There are parts and costumes for 50 students. Participation is free to Irrigon and Boardman youth. If you are an adult, plan to be at one of the two performances, 2 and 5 p.m., on March 30.

The week long workshop and performances are made possible by funding support from North Morrow Community Foundation and Morrow County Cultural Coalition. For information, contact Community Coordinator Angela Schneider 541 314 0166.

Tickets, available at the door are \$2 for adults and \$1 for youth. Doors close five minutes before the 2 and 5 p.m. show times.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Brandon James Garcia, 20, was convicted of Rape in the First Degree, a Class A felony, and sentenced to 100 months prison time with credit for time served to run concurrent with previous sentences and 20 years post prison supervision minus time served. The defendant was further convicted of Sodomy in the First Degree, a Class A felony, and sentenced to 100 months prison time with credit for time served to run concurrent with previous sentences and 20 years post prison supervision minus time served. The defendant

was further convicted of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, a Class B Felony, and sentenced to 75 months prison time with credit for time served to run concurrent with previous sentences with 10 years post-prison supervision. The defendant was further convicted of Incest, a Class C Felony. Fines, fees and assessments totaled \$3,987.

-David Henry Brood, 53, was convicted of Failure to Report as a Sex Offender, a Class C Felony. Sentence of 180 days jail time was suspended and the defendant sentenced to 36 month bench probation to include 120 hours community service. Fines fees and assessments totaled \$500.

You Are Invited...

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Wednesday, March 27th, 2013 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
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