

## Heppner students take 'time out for reading'



Heppner students took "Time Out For Reading" during January and February. The program, which gave the students prizes for reading minutes, received positive feedback from participants. —Contributed photo

During the month of January and part of February, 32 sixth-grade students at Heppner Elementary took "Time Out For Reading."

Led by Pam Dowdy-Turner, students engaged in a reading program based on the game of basketball. Each week was recognized as a quarter of a game, and reading minutes were recognized as points. Students were evenly divided up into teams, but competed individually, as well.

Each Monday, the team captains figured out their teams' average minutes read per person for the week. Whichever team scored the highest average won a prize, as well as a book with a basketball theme. If a student read at least 1,000 minutes during the week, that student also got to choose a book and won a chance to win four Harlem Globetrotter tickets.

This year the reading game went into overtime, allowing students to log even more minutes read. The Portland Trailblazer team, consisting of Jayden Wilson, Kendall Dowdy, Jackson Lehman, Diana Rodriguez and Hannah Palmer, had the highest weekly average with 1,005 average minutes read per person.

Serenity Rodriguez, the individual leader with a total of 10,010 minutes read, had this to say: "I love the competition of reading. I spent many late nights reading and I got to finish two book series that I had been wanting to read. And, of course, I like the prize party. My family is going to get to attend a Harlem Globe Trotters game, and that is very exciting, too!"

"I was motivated to read for the challenge of it," commented Sydeny Wilson.

Marlee Mitchell said,

"The program pushed me to read on weekends rather than my regular free time activities because I had the goal to make the weekly 1,000-minute club. I didn't get it the first week, but figured out how to manage my time to accomplish my goal. I enjoyed the reward of the prizes, too!"

Blake Wolters was also impacted by the Time Out For Reading program.

"The program motivated me to read the series Janitors, and I'm reading the fourth book now," he said. "I really liked my prize, a \$50 Game Stop gift card donated by my cousin, Logan Grieb."

The Time Out For Reading program provides a book and prize at the end for each and every student participating, as well as the weekly average prizes and 1,000-minute club prizes.

Program coordinators and volunteers say this reading program would not be possible without donations like Logan's, or cash donations from Paul Reimers, Karen Smith-Griffith and the local Elks lodge. Jannie Allen once again donated prizes, as well as her famous Babe Ruth bars for the reading party.

## Heppner robotics takes first place at Redmond competition

Heppner High School's Robotics Team won first place at a VEX Robotics competition in Redmond, OR recently. The primary members of the Heppner Robotics team include Bryan Fowler, Cade Arbogast, Kai Arbogast and Tom Gould.

VEX Robotics is a national robotics organization. Students use specialized equipment to design, build and compete against other teams. Students use computer programming to control their vehicle and then also drive it manually. Heppner competed in two prior VEX Robotics competitions this season in Salem, OR.

This year's challenge, Skyrise, involves stacking tower sections and placing cubes on various height poles. Teams compete with



Heppner Robotics Team members Bryan Fowler, Cade Arbogast and Kai Arbogast at the Redmond VEX Robotics competition recently. —Contributed photo

an alliance of two teams. With help from the Ukiah team, Heppner students improved throughout their day in Redmond, redesigning the vehicle and writing new programming code.

Heppner worked its way through the double

elimination rounds and then won the finals in two straight matches. Heppner Robotics is now preparing for the VEX Robotics competition at the National TSA Conference in Dallas, TX this June.

## MCGG 'Fuel the Future' sponsors folk singer Adam Miller

Heppner schools will host Adam Miller, folk singer and storyteller, on March 19. Miller will be holding assemblies with his "Singing Through History!" program at both Heppner Elementary and Heppner High School.

This assembly is possible because of donations by Morrow County Grain Growers and their "Fuel the Future" program. The "Fuel the Future" program was designed to support Heppner schools by donating a percentage of all propane sales to the fund.

"We would not be able to do this without the support we have through MCGG and this program," said Matt Combe, Heppner Schools Principal.

According to Miller, traditional folksongs remind us that historical events have been accom-



Storyteller and folk singer Adam Miller, shown here at a Milton-Freewater library performance, will present his "Singing Through History!" program at assemblies in both Heppner schools March 19. —Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

plished by ordinary people not unlike ourselves. For over a decade, Miller has captured the imagination of students at schools and public libraries all over the United States with his

entertaining, multi-cultural "Singing Through History!" folk-music programs.

These programs are intended to conform to state history, social science, and visual and performing arts frameworks, addressing curricula and subjects students are already studying in the classroom. All "Singing Through History!" programs aid are intended to aid in the development of cultural and historical literacy, emphasizing the importance of history as a story well told. Students also can have a great time learning about American folklore and folk traditions while singing along...all programs are designed to encourage group singing and interactivity, and are tailored to be age appropriate for any combination of grades or ages.

From his repertoire of more than 5,000 folksongs, Miller selects age-appropriate songs that appeal to children, and presents them in a way that helps students realize that they, the young people of today, are not very different from the young people of past generations.

These meaningful and enjoyable songs also help children locate their own place in the long stream of cultural tradition, and emphasize that America's culture has diverse ethnic roots.

## Tryouts planned for St. Pat's talent show

Tryouts for a St. Patrick's weekend talent show will be held Sunday, March 8, at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's parish hall.

The tryouts are open to all youth high school age and younger. All talents are welcome—dance, vocals,

instrumentals, or anything in between. The event will not be judged; event coordinators say the tryouts will be used to vet performances in order to fill the allotted time.

The talent show will take place March 14 at 6

p.m. during the St. Patrick's Day celebration; the talent show will serve as an opening act for the Gothard Sisters concert that evening at the St. Patrick's parish hall.

Questions, text or call Leanne Lindsay at 541-379-6331.

## Ten Reasons why Religious TV Can't Compete With Heppner's Churches

It's certainly easier to stay home and watch TV on Sunday morning than it is to get up and go to church. Also the rehearsed programs, professional musicians and big time preachers can usually make a slicker and more appealing presentation than you'll find in the average church in Heppner. Why not then just stay home and enjoy the TV?

1. Obedience: God told us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. (Heb. 10:25) He knows we need each other. By ourselves we are incomplete and out of balance.
2. TV lends itself to entertainment, whereas a Heppner church will encourage you to active involvement in worship.
3. Most TV programs are selected for public consumption and seldom give the balanced diet needed to cover all the areas of life's joys and struggles.
4. We all need the give and take of interacting in small group settings to stimulate our thinking and challenge us to personal action and growth.
5. Every church in Heppner could use one more helping hand. The TV church gives little opportunity for you to develop any ministry of service — except to give your money.
6. TV ministries let the needs of Heppner go unmet. They don't teach your grandchildren or hug the neighborhood kids, or spend an hour holding the hand of a grieving widow.
7. You have a responsibility to be a good example in raising the spiritual and moral climate of your community. Our local churches need you to help in assuring a good moral environment for the Heppner area.
8. There is strength in numbers! Whether its prayer, worship, or building a storage shed, many hands are stronger than one! Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt: 18:20)
9. The TV preacher won't be there to marry your children or to comfort your family at your decease.
10. Loving and caring are central to Christianity and essential for emotional health. Admiring a TV celebrity just doesn't express love like hugging the senior citizen next door.
11. Hey, well, I know I said ten, but let me throw in just one more: If your family has a major tragedy, will the TV audience be there for them the way a local congregation in Heppner would be?

## Pastor David Jenkins

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

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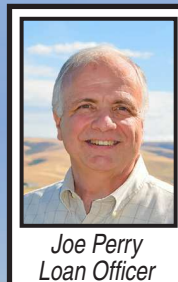
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Morning Worship  
6:00 pm Bible Study & Prayer

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## Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office has released the following report of marriage licenses:

February 19, 2015: Carlos Bartolo Jaimez, 38, of Hermiston and Hilda Landeros Ramirez, 31, of Hermiston.

February 23, 2015: -Abigail Quasar Lepage, 39, of Irri-gon and Roy Ernest Hallgarth Jr., 29, of Henryetta, OK.