



ECHO COUGAR TIMES

Echo

Volume 2, Issue 3

December 2005

Students sing for the holidays

By Hilary Cisneros
Staff Writer

This year the elementary will be putting on their third annual Christmas program. It will be held on December 18 in the Echo gym at 7:00.

"We are very excited for the Christmas program this year," said Mrs. Hampton, the fifth grade teacher.

This year the theme is going to be "Christmas is Love." It will be put on by grades K-6. "This will be the third year that we will have had a Christmas program with Jodee Clifton who plays the piano," says Mrs. Hampton.

Some of the songs that they will be singing are: "Christmas is Love," "Grandma Got Run Over

By a Reindeer," "Gift For Every Child," "Frosty the Snowman," "Santa Clause is Coming to Town," and many more.

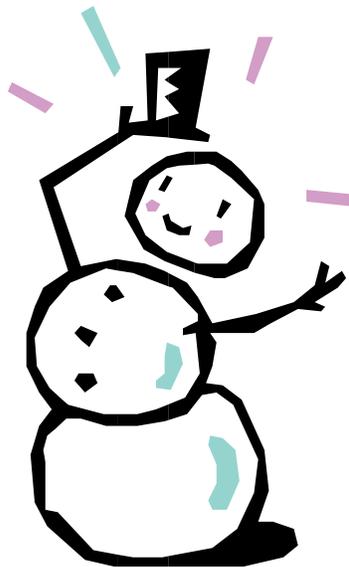
The students practice 5 to 10 minutes a day, and the last week before

the concert they will have a dress rehearsal for about an hour.

The programs in the past have been very successful. "In fact, last year's program was complimented for being so short, but one of the best programs," explained Mrs. Hampton.

This year the VFW Auxiliary will be putting on a "hamper drawing" where the hamper will be filled with lots of neat stuff, so make sure you buy your tickets.

Santa Claus will also be there to take pictures, for \$2.00 a picture.



Sadie Hawkins Dance update

By Ruth Rodriguez
Staff Writer

The Sadie Hawkins Dance will be held on December 8, 2005 in the

Echo High School Commons. Prices for the dance are \$5 for singles and \$7 for couples. The theme will be "Twins."



ATTENTION STUDENTS:

By Nicholaus Botts
Staff Writer

Ms. Goodwater is looking for volunteers for the art club. She will start classes on December 7, and she will have classes every Wednesday from 3:40 to 5:00. Currently participants can be from grades 4, 5, and 6, but with more volunteers, more grades will be able to join the class. She hopes to see many volunteer student or parents.

THANK YOU!

By Nicholaus Botts
Staff Writer

Echo School District would like to thank the following sponsors for supporting Echo athletics:

- Eagle Ranch
- Echo Quarterback Club
- Reese Ranch
- Hale Farms
- Vision Source
- Angles Auto Repair/Angles Auto Sales
- Hammell Transport Inc.
- Burns Mortuary
- Hermiston Glass
- Hermiston Quicky Lube



Basketball girls get busy raising money

By Chelea Myers
Staff Writer

As a new coach for the girl's basketball team, Mr. Bacon has kicked off this season well. There are 18 players, and that's a pretty big team compared to other years. With a bigger team, they require more equipment. And more equipment means that fundraising is in order.

The girls have recently received new matching shoes, and to pay for those, the team needs to get started

raising money right away. Money for a summer league will also be needed for those interested.

A possible fundraising idea would be a work auction, like we did one year for the present-sophomore class, when they were in the 4th grade.

More concrete fundraising events include:

Youth Camps- To give back to the community.

Jan. 21st and 28th

Feb. 10th and 4th

A dinner catered by the girls' basketball

team- In the high school commons, a fish dinner donated by Cy Haskett. Charge amount not yet settled.

Dec. 9th at 7:00 pm.

Any other financial contributions would be greatly appreciated by the girls' team and their coach. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Mr. Bacon at the high school.



Boys and girls teams begin basketball season

By Marissa Ohmiya
Staff Writer

November 7 was the first day of Echo Cougars basketball practice. November 29th will be the first game for the girls' basketball team, who will play against Spray.

Members of the girls' basketball team were asked, "How was the practice?" They said, "The first and second day of practice were really hard because we ran most part of the practice. But now, we are practicing for the first game."

They were then asked, "Are you excited about the first game?" Rachael Jackson said, "Yes, of course I'm really excited!!" Hilary Cisneros said, "Yes, and we going to beat Spray!!"

I asked a boys' basketball player, "What is the hardest thing about practice?" and "What's different about the new coach?" C.J Kunkle said, "Running. We run a lot in the

practice." He added, "The new coach wants to "run and gun." Last coach was a slow pace player."

The girls' basketball coach, Jake Bacon, was also asked, "What do you expect from your team?" and "What is the most important thing to be good player and a good team?"

He said, "To work hard, never give up, bring pride to Cougar athletics," and, "If you want to be a good player, you have to be a good teammate, willing to give up from yourself for the good of the team, willing to work together, encourage each other through good and bad times and support each other on and off the court. If you want to be a good team, you have to be coachable."

Good luck to the boys' and girls' basketball teams for a good first game and a good season.

The scores for Tuesday's Basketball game against the Spray Eagles are as follows:

	Echo	Spray
J.V. Boys	51	24
Varsity Girls	26	35
Varsity Boys	48	56



National Honor Society welcomes new members

By Ruth Rodriguez
Staff Writer

“The National Honor Society recognizes students that excel in Scholarship, Leadership, and Citizenship.” says Mr. Wolfgram.

The current officers in the N.H.S include; Rebecca Ferge as the President, Rebecca Reese as the Vice-President, Rachael

Jackson as the secretary, C.J Zita as the treasurer, and Cierra Eby as the Student Body Representative. Other members include seniors Ali McQuain and Sam Taylor, and juniors Danyelle Myers and Seth Hiatt.

There will be an Induction Cere-

mony on December 12 at 6:30 p.m in the Echo High Home Ec. Room. President Rebecca Ferge will be the master of the ceremony. Their guest speaker will be Mr. Wolfgram. The inductees are sophomores Saudi Ibarra, Kim Manson, and Kaylyn Bloom.

“I am very proud to be in National Honor Society.”
Danyelle Myers

All three felt very excited. Saudi says, “I feel very honored,” and Kim says, “I feel like I accomplished something.”

Kaylyn adds, “It’s a good opportunity; it opens up a lot of college opportunities.”

The National Honor Society recognizes the most outstanding students. The prestigious Society represents over 80 years of tradition recognizing students who exhibit outstanding scholar-

ship, leadership, character and service.

The National Honor Society has provided over \$10,000,000 in scholarships. A student can be part of the National Honor Society by having good grades one year and then the next year you could be a part of it. The minimum grade point average requirement is a 3.5

Being a member of the National Honor Society means standing up when facing obstacles and finding a way through problems.

It means not sitting and waiting for things to happen or fun things to get better but to make them happen to you.

Knowing that by doing something, we are making a difference.

Students plan trip to Spain

By Taylor Mize
Staff Writer

Everyone at Echo High knows about Spanish class, but not everyone knows about the trip to Spain. The trip will be with Mr. Estrada’s Spanish classes, and it will be taking place around June. The trip will be \$2,862 for students and \$3,227 for adults, and to help with funding, the students will have to do many fundraisers.

When asked if he was excited about the Spanish trip, Mr. Estrada said, “You bet.”

What is the trip for Spain? The trip is a school function that students in Spanish class and their parents may attend if they choose to. The trip will

consist of three countries: Spain, Italy and France. It will last 14 days.

The first day is simply the flight. The flight is a relaxing ride over the Atlantic Ocean. The second day is Madrid. Day three is a guided sightseeing of Madrid. There, the students will see the Palacio Real, known as the Royal Palace.

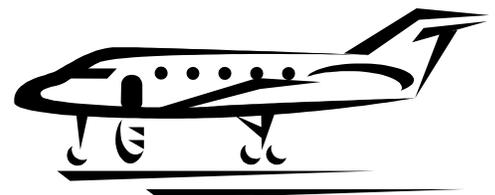
Day four is Zaragoza and Barcelona. Day five is in Barcelona. The students will see many historical sights. Day six is finishing up Barcelona and starting in Provence.

Day seven is in Provence, visiting the astonishing Pont Du Gard aqueduct. After that (day eight) they will visit the French Riviera and Florence. Day nine is Florence. Day ten is Florence and Rome.

Day eleven and twelve are both

Rome. The last half of day twelve is in Sorrento. Day thirteen is finishing Sorrento then back to Rome. Day fourteen is the flight back home.

To do this very exciting and astonishing trip, the students have to do many fundraisers such as turkey raffles, Movie Night, a catered breakfast, baked cookie sales, several fun activities during the school day, and a community dinner. All your help is greatly appreciated.





Echo Elementary introduces family reading night

By Danyelle Myers
December Editor

For the first time ever Echo Elementary is holding a Family Reading Night. This event will take place on December 6, from 5-7:30 pm.

The purpose of the event is for parents to come view the new school, read with their children, and have an enjoyable evening.

To some, a Family Reading Night does not sound like an enjoyable evening. However, this is not an ordinary

reading night.

Several groups associated with Echo Schools that are not a part of the Elementary are also participating in making the event a success.

Such groups include the high school Spanish Club, who are putting on a dinner, and Mr. Larry Wolfgram, the high school science teacher, who will be signing and selling his book *From Prairies to Mountains*.



In addition the PTA will be holding their annual membership drive, and there will be snacks provided in the classes.

Each grade will have one book, or idea, that is their main theme. Then the books, and activities within the classroom will correspond with that theme. An example would be snowmen, the decorations and books within the classroom would match the snowmen theme.

A read aloud and activity will occur in every classroom. There will also be door prizes donated from the Scholastic Book Fair and the Echo School Library. In the 5th grade room however, there will be no reading. Instead that classroom is hosting the Book Fair.

Second grade teacher Mrs. Sherbahn said, "I'm excited about this. It's our first time, and I'm hoping we'll have a good turnout!"

A successful turnout and response to the reading night could ensure to make this new event an annual one. So please come and support the school, your child, and reading, on December 6th, 2005.

Elementary classes compete for top prize in canned food drive

By Haley Surber
Staff Writer

This year, City Hall would like Echo High School to participate in the canned food drive they are organizing.

The canned food will be made into baskets and sent to people who need them, and these baskets will be delivered on December 21st or 22nd.

City Hall will start the drive on December 5th, and the high school will start after Thanksgiving.

The last couple of years, the high school students have not been excited about the food drive, and Mrs. Sherbahn hopes that the high school will show some motivation into getting

those cans for the needy so that the city can pass out plenty of food for all those families that need it this holiday season.

The elementary will be having a class competition for the food drive and the top class will have some sort of reward for bringing in the most food. So bring your cans!

(At the time of publication it is as yet undecided as to whether the high school will have a class competition.)

Mrs. Sherbahn will be organizing the canned food drive at the school, but she

will also have other staff members helping her with the loads of cans they hope will come in. So let's bring those cans in and help with the canned food drive.



COME TOUR THE NEW SCHOOL



Open House tours from 3:30 to 5:00 pm and 7 to 8 pm



Eby earns ‘Good to Great’ spotlight

By Danyelle Myers and Taylor McKenzie
December Editor and Staff Writer

This month Cierra Eby has been nominated for good to great. Everyone knows Cierra—how could you not?

If you haven’t seen her slamming the opponents in volleyball, you would be sure to find her tearing up the track on her hurdle events. However, the place where she is the most known is in the classroom. Her grades are exceptional and have earned her a widely known reputation for being an incredible scholar.

The credit for her grades goes to her endless hours of studying at

home and dedication to the quality of her work. Mrs. Eby, Cierra’s mother, says that Cierra is a very hard working person and really likes school.

She remembers one incident where she had to persuade Cierra to go home because she was so sick, all the while Cierra was complaining because she did not want to go home. Mrs. Eby also said that for the most part Cierra is happy, bright, smart, caring, and funny, but she is also a very serious person.

All the teachers at Echo realize what a gifted person Cierra is. Mr. Estrada finds that, “She is a motivated individual who is determined to succeed at the highest level possible. She is a caring, honest individual with a great sense of humor.”

Mr. Olson added, “She is a class leader. She enjoys construction class.” He also said that she is a pleasant person to work with and she is willing to attack any assignment assigned to her.

Right now in construction class they are working on a cabin that Mr. Waite is having them make for his son. Yet another of her endless good qualities is her nonexistent fear of heights. According to Mr. Olson, Cierra is not afraid to climb up on the rafters of the cabin.

When told that she is Good to Great spotlight student for December, Cierra said, “I think the Good to Great column is a neat way to recognize students who are working hard to succeed at Echo High School.”

Echo students anticipate yearly Mexico visit

By Lucia Mendez
Staff Writer

Many people like going to Mexico for Christmas and other holidays because according to some Echo students in Mexico people have more fun.

Cynthia Quezada, a freshman from Echo High, said, “Mexico is the best place to spend your holidays, especially Christmas, because you can do almost anything without getting in trouble with the law, like you can have any type of fireworks, and you don’t have to be out of the streets by a certain time.”

Ruth and Ruby Rodriguez, the sophomore twins, also enjoy going to Mexico mainly because they get to see their family, but one thing Ruth hates is the trip there. “It’s boring, it takes forever, and it gets crowded because we go driving and my whole

family goes, and they are always arguing about stupid things.”

Ana Rosa Ambriz is also going to Mexico this winter break. She is so excited because during the time she is going to be there, her cousin Cecilia Mendoza is going to have a quinceañera. (This is a Mexican tradition that when a girl turns 15, her family has a big party for her. It’s almost like a Sweet 16, except they do it when the girl turns 15.)

“I’m really excited because this quinceañera has been planned for two years and I’m going to see friends and family that I haven’t seen in two years,” said Ana.

Another fellow student from Echo High has also had the privilege to go to Mexico during the holidays and experience all kinds of different things. Her name is Saudi Ibarra, and she usually goes every two years to see her friends and family and, like

everyone else, to have fun and have a good time with her family that she hasn’t seen in a long time.

Most people prefer going to Mexico during Christmas because it isn’t so cold and they have get-togethers with friends and family almost every day and night.

They also get to meet new and interesting people. Everyone there is so friendly and they will talk to you no matter what, and you get to see all kinds of different fireworks almost every night during the holidays.

Mexico is a great place to visit and to spend your holidays especially Christmas. So if you ever decide to go to Mexico you will get to experience all kinds of different things, and meet different people.





Guests visit EHS for Veteran's Day

By Anna Zolotoff
Advisor

November 10, the day before Veteran's Day, began with a flag dedication ceremony. Members from the local VFW visited Echo to present the school with a flag that flew over the nation's capitol in Washington D.C.

Sadly, this flag is not of the correct proportions to be flown on the new flagpole in front of the school, but it is proudly displayed in the office. A new flag, however, was gladly strung on the flagpole and raised over the entrance to the new school.

Later that same day, Echo High and Middle Schools were visited by Gary Horton who, in his American Freedom Assembly, discussed the meaning of Veteran's Day, in addition to relating personal stories and life lessons.

"I thought he was great—he was really wise. He really knew what was going on,"

said Vicente Escalante.

According to his website, www.youthontrack.org, Mr. Horton's goal is "Motivating young people to understand that America's strength lies within each and every one of them."

Mr. Horton is a US Army vet who uses themes, such as his depiction of AMERICA as an acronym for Attitude, Motivation, Enthusiasm, Respect, Integrity, Courage and Aspiration, to communicate free of charge to students around the United States.

"I thought he was funny at first, and that got our attention. Then he was more serious, but he wasn't boring," said Amanda Mathers.

"I remembered what a powerful impact Gary Horton had on the students last time he was here, and when we had the opportunity to bring him back, we really wanted to jump on it. The students enjoy and appreciate his message," added Principal Norm Stewart.

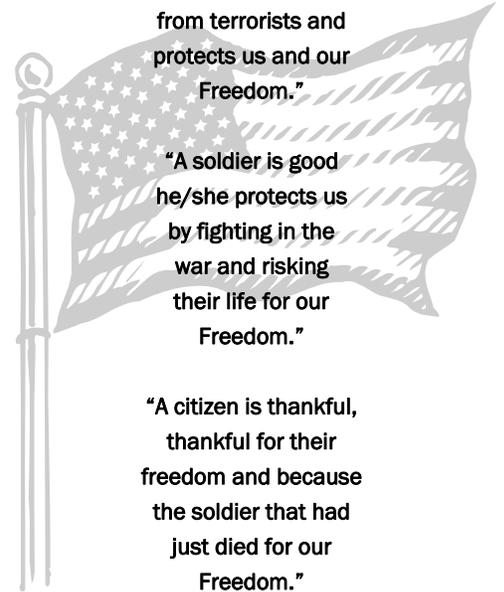
AMERICA

"A soldier is good
he/ she protects us
from terrorists and
protects us and our
Freedom."

"A soldier is good
he/she protects us
by fighting in the
war and risking
their life for our
Freedom."

"A citizen is thankful,
thankful for their
freedom and because
the soldier that had
just died for our
Freedom."

By Tiffany Tetlow



Boys and girls basketball begin season with new coaches

By Ana Ambriz
Staff Writer

Starting the first week of November, Echo High School began the basketball season. Basketball is the longest season out of all six sports throughout the year, and everyone is expecting new things with this year's basketball teams.

The girls' basketball team has expanded from last year—18 girls came out this year. Around 18 boys also came out to play this year. Both the players and the audience are really looking forward to their games.

The high school girls' basketball team has a new head coach and assistant coach. Their head coach is Jake Bacon, who is the school's Athletic Director and elementary P.E teacher, and their new assistant coach is Emily Key.

The high school boys have a new assistant coach who is Coach Louie Stocker, who was last year's girls' head

coach. Louie Stocker coached the girls for about two and a half years. The junior high also has a new basketball coach.

Emily Key attended Lone High School and played basketball, volleyball and tennis. She is currently attending college at BMCC and Eastern Oregon University.

She's working on her Bachelors in Business Administration with a minor in Spanish. She has coached a pee-wee team in lone but has never coached at a higher level. She enjoys basketball and has been out of high school only for a short of period of time.

She knows the potential this team has, partly because she played against some of them and she wants to gain experience when being on the other side of the game. She also wants to see the Lady Cougars have a successful season and that they meet their team goals and know that no matter the outcome, they did their best.

In addition to basketball, she enjoys most outdoors sports and visiting with her friends.

Jake Bacon also attended high school in lone. When he was in high school he played football, track and basketball. He has been involved with coaching at Echo before, by coaching junior high girls' and boys' basketball and also football.

Two of his favorite sports are football and basketball. Throughout his life he has been involved with basketball. He always wanted to coach high school basketball and is really looking forward to working with this team.

He hopes that all of the players work hard throughout the season and develop team-work skills, learn how to play with each other, and learn what competition is.

"I am really looking forward this year's basketball season. We have tons of girls that come out this year and I think we will do great. Mr. Bacon has a packed schedule for us this year so we'll have plenty of games to win. Our team has quite a bit of experience this year. Mr. Bacon is really intense in practice and that will help us get ready for the games. Don't forget to come to support our games and watch us at Districts," says junior Rachael Jackson.

Echo Schools Activity Calendar

December 2005



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Echo Schools: 376-8436 or		Basketball Lingo: VB = Varsity Boys VG = Varsity Girls HS = High School (all teams)		1	2 VB @ home 5:00	3 HB @ home 1:00 JHB @ Helix
4	5 PTA Craft Night 7pm	6 JHB @ home 4:00 Parent Reading Night & Bookfair New School Open House	7	8 JHB @ home 4:00 Sadie Haw- kins Dance 9- 12	9 Girls Basket- ball Fundraising dinner	10 JVJG/VG @ Touchet JHB Echo Tournament
11	12 PTA Holiday Shop	13 VB @ Hermiston Honor Society Ceremony 6:30 JHB@ Umatilla	14	15 JHB @ Pendleton Student of the Month Assembly 1:30 Elem. 2:45 JH/HS	16 VB&VG @ Dufur JHB @ Home	17 VB&VG @ Dufur JHB@ Heppner
18	19 Holiday Program 7pm School Board Meeting 7pm	20 HS @ Home JHB @ lone	21 HS @ Imbler	22	23	24
Winter Break →						
25	26	27 VB&VG @ Wallowa	28 VB&VG @ Wallowa	29	30	31
School Resumes on January 3, 2006— Have a great New Year						