



Hoof Beats

Kiwanis Club of the Horse Heaven Hills

PO Box 6798, Kennewick, WA 99336

www.HorseHeavenKiwanis.org

March 2, 2009

Edited by: [John Lawson](#), [Donna Underwood](#), [Doug Brown](#)

If you have an announcement, advertisement, or article you'd like included, contact one of our editors.

Remember, there is always more information about our club on our website at www.HorseHeavenKiwanis.org

President Joanna Harrington called the March 2 meeting to order. Wayne Underwood gave our invocation. Larry Hansmeier was song leader. Carolyn Lawson was Wrangler.

Our guests this week were: Heather Moon, an Americore volunteer who accompanied our four student speakers from Phoenix High School – Ari Miner, Joel Oberdorfer, Eddie Carrillo, and Darrick Parker..

Marilyn Hyde won this week's raffle.

The monthly collection for the SIGN project was also circulated this week.

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Brags

Donna Underwood brought an article from the *Tri-City Herald* on the Eastgate K-Kids valentines to the troops, and congratulated Doug Brown's successful publicity efforts. She also praised the hours members contributed this past month to the Young Children Priority One project at Head Start.

Alex Burden noted his almost brother-in-law's birthday. Phil Slusser found reason again to congratulate the Tri-City Americans. Dale Green plugged the up-coming Hula Bowl for Junior Achievement and noted this is your last chance to sponsor his bowling effort. Carolyn Lawson also plugged the worthiness of Junior Achievement's Hula Bowl fundraiser, noting that she had just come from helping decorate for the event.



Dale Green 3/3/09

Doug Brown noted the success of the ARC of Tri-Cities recent Buddy Prom on Saturday, February 28th. The Arc is one of the beneficiaries of proceeds raised by our Youth Services Dinner Dance. About 300 special needs kids and their buddies enjoyed dinner, live music, beautiful decorations, party favors, and hours of dancing.



Dick Nordness got in one last minute brag noting the proximity of Phoenix High School to the Spaghetti Establishment.

Announcements and Coming Events

Committee Meetings

The Administrative Committee will meet Thursday, March 5 at noon in the Crow's Nest and Board of Directors on Thursday, February 12 at 11:45 in the Quarterdeck Room. Youth Services planned a meeting following the regular meeting. The Membership committee will meet Friday, March 6. J&S will meet Monday March 16, following the regular meeting.

J&S

Dick Nordness reported that the train was back home at the Edison Building in Columbia Park. The bulk of the maintenance has been completed.

Camp Kiwanis Workday



Don't forget to help out on the Division 54 workday scheduled April 4th to maintain our Camp Kiwanis facility. *Volunteers needed! Let's all do our part to support this valuable resource.*

Wayne Underwood took a hand count of our likely volunteers at today's meeting.

2nd KHHH Spring Potluck

Don't miss out on the potluck organized by Youth Services for Saturday March 14th at 6:30. It's being held at Kennewick First Christian Church. Bring along any dish you'd like to share. There's no cost to attend, but (tax deductible) donations to the KHHH Foundation are hoped for. It promises to be an entertaining evening and there will be an auction to benefit the club. Contact [Doug Brown](#).



Interclubs

Sarah Longan noted the very good turnout for last week's Kennewick club where past local presidents were honored.

Please check your calendars...

March Interclub Calendar:

(note – no Division 54 meeting in March)

Tuesday March 3 – Walla Walla – *Coordinate with Sarah Longan for car pool plans leaving from Harrington's tomorrow morning.*

Last week of March – (Club to be decided).

Virgie Robinson K-Kids

Jo Harrington reported that the Virgie K-Kids had

received recognition for the “Young Authors Day” and for their Valentine project with St. Jude Hospital.

More Coming Events

Jo Harrington circulated a volunteers signup to support the PTO Bookfair at Virgie Robinson March 9-15. Contact [Jo](#) for more details.

We are all invited to attend the Crystal Apple Award program (one of Youth Services sponsored events) March 29. Contact [Jo](#) for details.

Spring Cleanup Yardsale

Don't forget our coming Spring Yardsale fundraiser. Find some items to set aside for the project.

Our Program Next Week :

**Christy Watts
Ben-Franklin Transit**

This Week's Program:

**Phoenix H.S. students
Student projects at Phoenix High School**

We were treated to four students from Phoenix High School who wanted to convey the nature of the project-based learning they were experiencing and gave us a sense of how this alternative of self-directed studies differs from the environment of the more traditional schools in our area. Their program here with us was part of the community engagement that is central to the Phoenix programs.



Darrick Parker

The four did a good job of explaining the kinds of projects they could use to form a basis for their own personalized learning program. Project examples ranged from a homemade wind turbine to belly dancing. They used such seemingly disparate examples to explain how they had to rigorously document and defend the learning experiences they derived from their projects. They wanted us to know that student-directed projects didn't mean they were "goofing off". They were just choosing a vehicle for their study that appealed to their own learning style. It is their responsibility to show why the learning program they select should earn credits toward graduation. They are also called on continually to address the question of how they can each improve.



Joel Oberdorfer

The project environment allows for much more one-on-one interaction with teachers and with outside experts the students find to bring other insights to their school programs. They regularly seek speakers to talk to them about specific fields of expertise. Outside speakers can give the students an understanding of their own experiences in a career path. The school, and students, are also always on the lookout for donations or equipment and materials, even math tutors.

Phoenix is the newest and smallest high school in the Kennewick School District. Currently there are about 60 students. Plans call for increasing enrollment by about 20 per year to a final target size of only 120 students – grades 9 through 12.

Ari Miner is in her second year at Phoenix. She

said that the program had motivated her to turn her academic life and her grades around 180°. She was now a 4.0 student. Ari gave examples of incorporating music into some of her projects.



Ari Miner

Projects can be individual or collaborative. They always push the students to grow in new ways.

Phoenix students are subject to the same academic requirements as other high schools including standard testing. Sports are encouraged, frequently through the *home* school that they would be attending if they were not enrolled at Phoenix. For most students, subjects like math or foreign languages are conducted online.



Eddie Carrillo

Phoenix students get much more student-advisor interaction than is possible in a regular high school setting. This may be a time to refocus or to vent if that's what's needed.

Students who entered the program credit-deficient can have a new opportunity to work in a way that is personally interesting to them and channel that focus to catch up and move beyond where they would have been in a traditional high school.

They reported that many students are headed for college after graduation, a graduation they may

have never experienced without the new self-directed learning environment afforded them at Phoenix.

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PLEASE JOIN US!
Tuesday - Friday 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturday - 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Sunday - 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
CLOSED MONDAYS

Teams & Groups Welcome



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