

FIRES: RODEO: *Spirits up, despite low numbers*

Locals evacuate homes

Continued from Page A1

"Our home is safe, thank God, but the fire took some of our neighbor's houses, some only two miles away. It's very, very scary," Williams said. She added the fire traveled so quickly that neighbors Dean and Betty Elliot lost both their car and truck, along with their home.

Dean Elliot even left his wallet in the home. "The fire just came like a freight train," Betty Elliot said.

The Canyon Creek Complex threatened 500 residences, with at least 26 confirmed as destroyed. As of Monday, the fire was zero percent contained. The Strawberry Mt. Wilderness Area is also closed.

Baker County

Baker County is suffering the effects of at least three fires: The lightning-caused Coronet-Windy Ridge blaze has devoured nearly 100,000 acres southwest of Baker City. Despite the efforts of more than 600 firefighters, the fire destroyed four residences and threatens 187 more with 21 other structures consumed.

The fire is 30 percent contained with no expected containment date. Conditions are such and resources stretched so thin that even active-duty military personnel were called in to help.

Between 160-200 firefighters are battling the 20,000 acre El Dorado fire about 70 miles southeast of Baker City. The fire has consumed four residences and threatens 20 commercial/residential properties. The fire is 10 percent contained with no expected containment date. The cause is unknown.

The lightning-caused Eagle Complex fire has consumed 2,200 acres near the Eagle Cap Wilderness about 20 miles northwest of Richland. More than 160 firefighters are battling the blaze, which has forced evacuations and threatens 20 residences and 30 structures in the area. The fire is zero percent contained with no expected date of containment.

Back at home

Jenni Word, chief nursing officer at Wallowa Memorial Hospital, said the hospital hasn't admitted any emergency-room patients with symptoms directly related to the air quality, but she noted several area health care providers have reported patients with increased asthma symptoms and some breathing complaints.

A Wallowa County air-quality alert was issued by the National Weather Service in Pendleton, along with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The alert states air quality will reach unhealthy levels and possibly cause burning eyes and runny noses, as well as aggravating lung and

Continued from Page A1

The All Around Cowgirl belt buckle, donated by Diane Dagget, broker at Wallowa Mountain Properties in Enterprise, went to Anna Grandi (daughter of Dave Yost) of New Plymouth, Idaho.

The All Around Cowboy belt buckle, donated by Bennet Insurance of Enterprise, went to Cody Ross of Joseph

Dan Probert of Enterprise and his 4-year-old quarter horse mare, "Buggsy," won the buckle, sponsored by Leonard Post of Wallowa, and \$250 in the Ranch Horse competition.

Team Branding turned out to be a nail-biter as teams of four took turns at heading and heeling two calves and "branding" them with a paint brand. Grain Growers and Triple Creek Ranch sponsored some nice buckles for the winners.

Experienced cowboys Mark Dawson of Joseph and Barrie Qualle of Enterprise put in a right snappy first round with younger teammates Paul Rogers of Ellensburg, Wash., and Clancy Warnock of Imnaha doing the groundwork and looked like they were headed for the win. But when the younger men took their turn at the heading and heeling they were unable to keep the lead.

In the end it was another combo team of seasoned and young that took the top award with the Dan Probert, Dave Yost, Cody Ross and Josh Pressure team bringing home the win and splitting \$280.

The Team Steer Sorting class was packed with good teams and exciting action, and for a



Kathleen Elyrn/Chieftain

Rylie Warnock yells encouragement as All Around Cowgirl winner Anna Grandi of New Plymouth, Idaho (daughter of Dave Yost) prepares to heel her calf in the branding competition. Husband Odo Grandi has headed the calf. Rylie and Ty Warnock made up the rest of the team. The four-person team took second place in the branding behind the Ross, Yost, Pressure, Probert team.



Kathleen Elyrn/Chieftain

Cynthia Warnock and Mark Ramsden pack the rocks that will make their rock jack the winner at the 2015 Stockgrowers Ranch Rodeo. The rules this year called for a man/woman team of rockjack builders and Ramsden's wife and Warnock's husband weren't up to the challenge. So the two builders made a rock jack pact — and won \$500.

time it looked like the youngster team of Lute Ramsden, Chloe Birkmaier and Kelly Birkmaier might take it with three steers in the pattern sorted within the

2-minute time. Up until that time, nobody had managed to sort their cattle in order. But then the Odo Grandi, Anna Grandi and Collin Cunningham team

rode in and sorted out 10 steers like it was clockwork to take the win and \$514.

The champion Ladies Steer Stopper was Adele Nash on her

EVENT: *Fly-in turnout high*

Continued from Page A1

The "Women in Aviation" display drew much attention, with 99s Club member Karin Rodland from Tri-Cities giving free rides to girls and women after they viewed the stories of Bessie Coleman, Beryl Markham, and Joseph's first airport manager, Bessie Halladay.

Historic "Halladay School of Flying" signs found their way home to the airport for this special event.

Months before the fly-in, 10-year-old Madi Williamson had expressed interest in flying to her family. Rodland flew Madi for her first ride, with sister Chelsea and their grandmother

Sara Jane Williamson joining them. In flight, Sara Jane asked Madi if she was having fun.

"This is more than fun!" the little girl exclaimed.

"What an outstanding breakfast," "I didn't know Joseph had an airport;" and "This is amazing," were some of the many comments made by participants as they strolled by the giant 1937 DC-3 and 1928 Boeing Model 40 glistening in the morning sun.

"Our intention with this event was to generate interest in general aviation, and Wallowa County flying in particular" said Bill Ables, chairman of the Wallowa County Pilots Association. "We are happy with the turnout."

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