

From sheep to shawl



Debbie Christensen spins wool for students.



Second graders examine equipment.



Students learn how to dye wool.

Second graders at Heppner elementary have learned first-hand how wool is processed and woven into usable items.

Beginning with breaks during SRA testing, their teacher, Debbie Christensen, began telling them about different breeds of sheep, butchering the sheep to use the skins, and the process involved in shearing them (cutting their hair) to get the wool for processing.

Second graders then began their own hands-on experience testing the wool, washing, dyeing, spinning, and weaving.

In a demonstration for members of other classes titled "From Sheep to Shawl" which culminated their week plus of intensified study, each student had a chance to explain several of the steps in the process. A classroom filled with bulletin boards, books, looms, a spinning wheel, charts, pictures, and articles which the students had made helped them with their presentation.

"Heredity determines the wool type, but the quality and strength depends on the health and nutrition during each year of the sheep's growth. To test for weakness, stretch a tuft of wool between your hands, strum it with your index finger. If the staple gives like a faint dull twanging sound and the tuft will not break," explains a student in front of a bulletin board illustrating terms like beauty, luster, elasticity, uniformity, grease, softness, character, cleanliness, and staple length. "Squeeze, dunk, stretch," is the sequence for washing the wool explains another student.

Dandelions, salt, alum, tea, vinegar, forsythia, onion skin and cherry flavored drink mix were some of the items used for solar dyeing samples of the wool. Students brought the materials for dyeing and compared the different colors the same plant produced when combined with different things. "It's a study of chemical changes," explains Christensen. "Forsythia and salt are different than forsythia, vinegar and alum. Although we have been continuing to do some of our daily work, it seems like we have been using a lot of class time on this one project until all the aspects of the project are considered. Determining which sheep breeds are suited for each region ties in with social studies. Learning that to get a good price for the wool, it is necessary to keep the sheep clean is economics."

The study also included history. Second graders demonstrated the use of teasel which was grown to use for carding the wool, then wooden cards and finally a machine which was developed for carding.

Students used a drop spindle to spin wool and were then able to keep the yarn which they had spun. They also had a chance to try using a spinning wheel and to try different types of looms. Each wove a bookmark, made a sheep from pipe cleaners and wool, made a toy cat from nylon stockings stuffed with wool, and wrote a story titled "What I would do with a lamb if I had one."

Lone tennis teams compete with Arlington

By ASHLEY CONKLIN

Lone's boys and girls tennis teams took on Arlington's tennis teams on Monday, April 15.

Mark Meyers defeated Troy

Local group plans musical

The "Hope-for-the-Best Players," a little theater group of well-known local musicians and actors, are now in rehearsal for a three-act musical comedy to be performed at the Heppner High School Cafetorium May 9 and 10.

This light-hearted romantic comedy, by Jack Sharkey and Dave River features 16 lively songs and plenty of laughs.

The cast includes Cathy Barker, Dawn Parm, Susan West, Leroy Wornell, David Sinkevitch, and Jeff Fortenberry. The pianist will be Marge Sinkevitch.

Scene construction and backstage crew include Cara Costa, Bill Baker, and Connie Hammonds.

"This promises to be a good show, one that will be an evening of fun entertainment for the whole family," says Jane Rawlins, co-director with Cathy Barker.

Garden Bugs meet

BY DELPHA JONES

The Lexington Garden Bugs met for a regular meeting at the home of Kathy Tellechea. Those present were Delta Huber, Lois Allyn, Marie Steagall, Luella Taylor, Eula Bloodworth, Shirley McCarl, Frances Peck, Donna Papineau and the hostess.

Under old business, it was reported that a new standpipe and some work on the water system for Friendship Park had been completed.

The sign for the park will be completed about May 1 and put up soon after.

Yard of the month choice was Eula Bloodworth, her yard is always neat and clean and was judged most worthy of the award.

The group welcomed a new member, Dianna Becket who lives in the Condon-Heppner highway area.

For a money making project the club decided to sell rainbow candles which are available from Kathy Tellechea, or any member of the Garden Bugs.

The door prize was won by Luella Taylor.

The program was about vegetables that can be sown early, and various tips on the growing of vegetables. These tips were from actual experience in a vegetable garden, a most interesting and educational talk which was greatly enjoyed.

Wheelhouse 6-0, 6-0, in boys single action. The doubles team of Meyers and Eric Pointer beat Wheelhouse and Megan Gronquist 8-2, in a pro set. Meanwhile, Pointer won 6-2, 6-3 over Gronquist.

In girls singles play, Paula Anderson was an easy 6-0, 6-0 victor over Carletta Hughes. Anderson and Ken

Snider downed the team of Michelle Barrett and Colleen Carrol 6-0, 6-0.

Mike Rietmann topped Jennifer Sharp in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1. Rietmann and Snider prevailed 6-1, 6-1 over Becky Burdick and Carmen Borghese.

The Fifth Quarter

Sports with Mike Oths

Rip City! The boys from Portland are finally making it happen in the NBA. After suffering through a season that is sure to claim most of Jack Ramsay's remaining hairs, the Blazers may have finally won the game that silences the critics. By the time this appears in print, the Portland-Dallas series will have completed its third game, but the second game is the one that will keep them buzzing for awhile.

The Blazers have labored under a "choke" tag all season, having earned a well-deserved reputation as a team that folded its tent in the last two minutes. In Saturday's second game of the playoffs, however, the Portlanders were anything but chokers. Down ten points with under 2:00 to play, and facing a deficit of two games to none, the Blazers staged a gutsy comeback to earn an overtime period, then ran away from Dallas in the extra session.

For all the early back-seat coaching, it sure is nice to look up and see Sam Bowie patrolling the middle of the lane. It's also nice to have a few shooters to go to when the game is on the line. Maybe the Blazers won't win the Dallas series. If they do, they'll be big underdogs to the Lakers. Either way, however, I like the progress that's been made this season. "Wait till next year" may be more than a hollow promise for at least one Oregon sports team. For once.

Elsewhere, I see that the Fifth Quarter's criticism of the Cincinnati Reds got that club going. They've won seven games in a row, to move into first place. At the same time, the commentary about the "undefeated" Seattle Mariners produced four straight losses. This could get as big as the Sports Illustrated "cover jinx."

The USFL continues to rock along with one wheel in the ditch. Half the teams want to play in the spring, while the others want to play in the fall. Ratings and attendance are down, while a future network TV package is in doubt. As predicted, some teams seem to be gearing more toward merger with the NFL than to bolstering the USFL. My prediction is that the NFL will never, ever, merge with a USFL franchise. Even if it made good business sense (which it wouldn't) the NFL owners will never forgive all the commotion caused.

Just about time for the horse racing Triple Crown. Today's trivia question: Can you name the theme songs of each of the Triple Crown races?

First Christian to show "Honey, Your Mama's in Prison"

The First Christian Church in Heppner will be showing a motion picture release of International Prison Ministry of Dallas, Texas, entitled, "Honey, Your Mama's in Prison."

The film is free to the public and will be shown at the First Christian Church, 275 North Gale, April 28, 7 p.m.

The film is a unique look at the importance of the family and the tragedy of family break-up as seen through the eyes of mothers who have been imprisoned for murder, assault, trafficking in drugs, forgery, and embezzlement said a

church spokesperson.

It was filmed inside one of the largest women's correctional facilities in the United States-Florida Correctional Institution, Lowell, Florida. The entire prison population of 650 inmates were involved in the making of the 45-minute documentary as were the officers and staff of the institution. Family members of some of the inmates were also interviewed.

International Prison Ministry, the producer of the film, is a non-denominational organization whose principal work is providing free Bibles and books to prisoners in over 6,000 prisons and jails in the United States and Canada.

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