

Ponies win two out of three volleyball games

By Kelsie Evans
On September 27 the Heppner Jr. High volleyball teams traveled to Ione to play. The first game was played by the Heppner eighth graders and they won two out of three games.
Starting the first game were Jenny Krein, Char Coe, Rondi Robinson, April Rollis, Dani Hill and Patty Anderson. The team worked together during all three games and defeated Ione 15-12.
The second game saw action from Kelsie Evans, Deanna Peck, Patty Anderson, Robyn Struthers, Tina Chinen and Amber Vajraska. Ione came out victorious 3-15.

The third game was close but Heppner pulled through 16-14.
Last Thursday Heppner's eighth graders defeated Boardman two out of three games. Their record stands at 2 and 0.
The seventh graders also defeated Ione two out of three games. Heppner won the first game 15-3. The second game Ione came out on top 2-15. The girls played a winning third game to pull off the match 15-6.
Last Thursday the seventh graders lost to Boardman's seventh grade team two out of three games. The seventh graders are one and one for the season.

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see at night. Optometric tests found that reflective tape shows up better than white fabric in the dark.
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Cardinals defeat Wasco

By Anne Morter
The Ione Cardinals defeated Wasco County on the gridiron last Friday night 38-14 on the Ione field. The Cards controlled the non-league game from the start and used punishing defense to keep Wasco County completely off-balance.
The Cards held a 22-6 advantage at the half and allowed only one additional Redside's score. Five Cardinal players were in double figures in tackles, including Deacon Heideman with 17, Jim Holtz with 16, Ryan Halvorsen and Brent Sheirbon with 12 each and Eric Orem with 11.
Ione racked up 266 yards of total offense, 183 yards on the ground and 83 in the air. Mac Lovett was the leading rusher, carrying the ball 20 times for 97 yards and two touchdowns. Gabe Garcia had four carries for 48 yards and two

touchdowns and Jim Holtz gained 41 yards in five carries. Quarterback David Wagenblast was 9-11 for passing for 83 yards and he threw for three of the Cardinal touchdowns.
"We did what we wanted to do both offensively and defensively," said coach Gregg Rietmann. "We finally got a good defensive game going," he added.
Rietmann credited Deacon Heideman with a great game for leading the team in tackles. He also said that Jim Holtz did some exceptional blocking, and that linebacker Brent Sheirbon had a solid defensive effort.
"We played a total game," said Rietmann. "We played both sides of the football very well."
The Cardinals travel to Lyle, Washington this Friday for what is likely to be a tough game. Kick-off time for the non-league contest is 7:30 p.m.

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Brigitte McElligott sold her grand champion hog to Wheatland Insurance.



Jossie Evans sold her grand champion steer to Taggarre and ACX Partnership. With Jossie is queen Judy and her court.

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**EASTERN OREGON
OUTDOORS**

by Mark Bagett

While trophy mule deer bucks can be found in virtually all of the diverse habitat and topography of central and eastern Oregon, none can quite match the images conjured of the huge, heavy-antlered monarchs that live among the pikas, boulders and bighorns near the crests of our more predominant mountain ranges. In fact, when asked where they would go to find a buck that would earn a slot in the Boon and Crockett record book, I'd wager that many of our more experienced buck hunters would name the craggy seclusion afforded above timber line as their first choice.

But to be honest, I'm of the opinion there aren't as many monster bucks flirting with the eagles during hunting season as we've been led to believe. For years, we've been advised that the largest, wise old bucks always stick to the high country until deep snow or the November rut pushes them on down the mountain. Could be, but I'm starting to think it takes very special conditions to keep the big bruisers right on top, conditions that we very seldom see in this part of the state. Such conditions include at least moderate amounts of rain plus warm, frostless nights to keep the forage green and growing.

In dry years such as this, I believe the "mossy horns"--bucks five years of age and older--will follow the green forage right down the slopes. As the feed dries out on top, they gradually work downward into the cooler, shaded draws and canyons at the upper fringe of the timber where the browse is still putting on succulent new growth. Here they have food, water and shade, and are required to move very little. The trouble with hunting these upper-mid-elevations is that it's tough to spot feeding bucks when they remain beneath the timber canopy and, given the dry, noisy conditions, slipping up on one is nearly impossible.

This fall, after scouting several miles of rubble-rock peaks and boney-dry, sub-alpine plants at the 7,000-to 8,000-foot elevations without seeing any sign until I had dropped a few hundred feet into the timber, I bounced my theory off of several wildlife biologists. Though they all pointed out that big mule bucks are tough to predict under any conditions, most agreed that weather and forage conditions heavily influence their habits.

"Generally, when you see shifts in distribution of the critters," says Brad Smith, assistant biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in John Day, "it's related to either weather conditions--and we really haven't had anything to force them out of the high country--or water, or food. The last couple of dry years, maybe some of the things that they usually work on up in that high country is kind of burned up and they're coming down after something else."

"Another thing, too," adds ODFW district wildlife biologist Greg Hattan, "is that we've had such hot dry weather. People don't realize how important it is for deer to have thermal cover in the summer. They lose body condition in the summer pretty rapidly if they don't have something to thermal-regulate under--a tree canopy that has eight or 10 degrees cooler (temperatures)."

But what about last year? We had plenty of fall rains and a good green up, yet very few big bucks were killed in many high country areas. Here's where the need for warm frostless nights comes in. After I'd hunted the peaks with no success last season, a biologist explained that while good forage production did occur up high, several hard freezes thereafter killed the new growth, sending the deer in search of succulent, live vegetation beneath the protective, mid-elevation timber.

If the high-country wall hanger you've been holding out for has eluded you so far this season, try pulling down the north or east slope until you begin to notice green forage. And if you figure these critters out, be sure to let me know. I'll more than likely be the one still circling the top of the mountain.

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