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Fire destroys one of Heppner's oldest homes



Firemen work to douse the flames.

What may have been one of Heppner's oldest homes, located on south Chase Street, was destroyed in a fire which broke out around 11:25 a.m. Monday, January 15.

According to Heppner Fire Chief Rusty Estes and Fire Captain Steve Rhea, the fire is believed to have started in an attic storage area. Rhea said that children living in the home were reported to have heard a loud pop before the fire ignited. Reports indicate that the children tried to put the fire out, but when the smoke alarms in the house went off, they went downstairs to their mother.

The mother and children escaped the house safely and reportedly went to a neighbor's home to call 911.

The family living in the home, the John Fulton family, were said to have moved from Ione only a week or so earlier.

Estes said that the home, which is owned by Ron Forrar, Hermiston, formerly of Heppner, is totally destroyed. He said that it is not yet certain whether the house will be torn down or burned by the Heppner Fire Department.

Rhea said that the age and construction of the house hindered firefighters from get-

ting into the attic to put the fire out, because it had tongue-and-groove lathe in the ceiling, but also may have helped prevent the ceiling from collapsing.

No other homes were damaged, partly, said Rhea, because the roof of the home was higher than other roofs in the area. One house nearby was evacuated mainly because

St. Patrick's auction committee seeking donations for auction

Now that closets are full of new Christmas goodies, the St. Patrick's Day auction committee is seeking donations for the St. Patrick's Day Auction.

The auction is the main fund source for the St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Although St. Patrick's Day would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of many volunteers, several thousand dollars are required each year to cover expenses for publicity, brochures, entertainment and facilities rentals.

Items donated in prior years include artwork, appliances, computers, furniture, collec-

tibles and antiques. In addition to "treasures", auction donations may also include services or opportunities. Escorted hunting or riding trips, babysitting services, garden care or home repair work are all examples of auction items.

Volunteers are available to pick up large items at homes or businesses. Call Steve Rhea, 676-9113 days, Mike Mills, 676-9141 days, Dan Brosnan, 676-5382 days, or the Murrays, 676-9158 days or 676-9631 evenings, to arrange for pick-up service. Small items may be left at the Kuhn, Spicer and Mills office on Main Street or at Dan and Doris Brosnan's house.

A hot spot in the roof flared up again around 5:30 p.m. that day and firefighters again responded.

Rhea and Estes said that Ione Fire Chief Jim Boor assisted, as did Columbia Basin Electric. Many citizens helped with salvage, they said.

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Columbia Basin Business of the Year Jeanne Berretta, Glen Ward and Jannie Allen chosen Heppner citizens of the year



Dr. Jeanne Berretta

Jannie Allen

Glen Ward



Chamber president John Edmundson (l) presents Business of the Year award to Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative board president Jerry Hollomon and CBEC manager Fred Toombs.

Dr. Jeanne Berretta was selected the woman of the year and Glen Ward, the man of the year at the annual Heppner Chamber of Commerce Town and Country Day Celebration held Thursday, January 11, at the St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Heppner.

Jannie Allen, Heppner Elementary teacher, was chosen educator of the year and Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, business of the year.

Dr. Jeanne Berretta

Berretta and her husband, Dr. Ed Berretta, have been physicians in Heppner for the past eight years.

Ironically, Berretta was born in Heppner. Her mother and father lived in Condon, where he was the town's dentist. After graduating from high school in Condon, Dr. Jeanne enrolled in a pre-med program at St. Joseph College at West Hartford, Connecticut. She received a bachelor of science degree in biology there in 1975.

She attended medical school at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and received a bachelor of science degree in medicine in 1977. From there she enrolled at the University of Alabama School of Medicine and received her M.D. there in 1979. She completed her internship at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland and her residency in family medicine at the East Carolina School of Medicine (ECSM) in 1984. In 1985 she earned a fellowship in geriatrics at ECSM in 1985. At ECSM she was an assistant professor in the school of family medicine.

The Berrettas moved to Heppner in 1988. In addition to working long hours at Pioneer Memorial Clinic, the Berrettas provide emergency coverage at Pioneer Memorial Hospital evenings, weekends, and many holidays. "She is very dedicated and has put in a lot

of long hard hours," commented Kevin Erich, Morrow County Health District administrator. Erich remarked about her concern for her patients and the people in the community.

The Berrettas have four children, Gretchen, a sophomore at Portland State University, Matt, a freshman at Heppner High School, Vincent, a fourth grader at Heppner Elementary, and Nick, a first grader at HES, and one grandchild.

An accomplished pianist, Dr. Jeanne plays the piano and organ at Hope Lutheran Church in Heppner, where she is a member and often fills in at other churches. According to the Rev. Stan Hoobing, pastor at Hope Lutheran, Dr. Berretta even volunteered to play the organ at a church in New York, while she was on vacation. Apparently the two organists at the church were sick and Dr. Jeanne stepped in to help out at the spur of the moment.

Each year at Christmas time Dr. Jeanne has an open house at her home for the residents of Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home. She plays the piano and is often accompanied by local musicians, Ann Murray and Sharla Erich.

Dr. Berretta is also a teacher at Friday School each week the program is in session. Friday School is a Christian education program for children, sponsored by Hope Lutheran, United Methodist and All Saints Episcopal Church, which was formed when the Morrow County School District went to a four day student week.

Glen Ward

Glen Ward was born in Haines, Oregon, attending elementary school in Haines and graduating from high school there. Following high school, he joined the Navy. After the Navy, he went to col-

lege at Oregon State University and then began working at his passion and life long occupation, for the Oregon State Game Commission, now the Department of Fish and Wildlife. He worked for 39 years for the state of Oregon, most of the time in the Heppner community. He retired in 1990, and, commented presenter Bill Kuhn, "Everyone misses his professional advice and game slides and talks."

Ward and his wife, Joyce, have three children, Ron of Gresham, Sandra and Judy, both of Hermiston, and four grandchildren.

Over the years, Ward has given "countless hours" to community and youth activities, including coaching Little League, girls softball, swim team and as a scout master for a Boy Scout Troop. Five young men in his troop became Eagle Scouts.

Ward is a mainstay for the local American Legion and has been a member and secretary of the Heppner Elks Club for 39 years. He also spent many years on the city budget committee.

Since retirement, Ward still volunteers at the Elks Club daily and cuts wood, which he gives away to those who need it or who can no longer cut their own.

Jannie Allen

Jannie Allen was born and raised in Fossil, graduating from Wheeler County High School. She attended college at the Oregon College of Education in Bend, now Western Oregon State College, and received a degree in elementary education in 1974.

From 1974 to 1978, she and her husband returned to Fossil where both were teachers. Allen taught the fourth grade.

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