

Local fiddlers win contest

Two young Heppner fiddlers competed in the Seventh Annual Oregon Trail Days Fiddle Contest in La Grande on Aug. 18.

Bryan Holland and Eric Jepsen qualified to compete in the final evening round by being chosen as two of the top five contestants in their age group after the morning round. Both boys were in the "Small Fry" category which is for fiddlers age nine and under. There were nine contestants in that group.

The final contest round of three tunes by each contestant was performed on stage at McKenzie

Theater on the campus of Eastern Oregon University. Eric finished second and Bryan was fifth overall. They both received trophies and Eric was awarded \$25 prize money as well.

The boys were accompanied on guitar by their fiddle teacher, Peg Willis of Pendleton. Bryan was also accompanied by his brother, Matt Holland, on guitar.

Approximately 66 musicians from Oregon, Idaho and Washington competed in several different divisions in the event.

O'Briens receive yard of month



Ginger and Burke O'Brien

The home of Ginger and Burke O'Brien, located on Highway 207 near Heppner, has been selected as the Heppner Garden Club's August yard of the month.

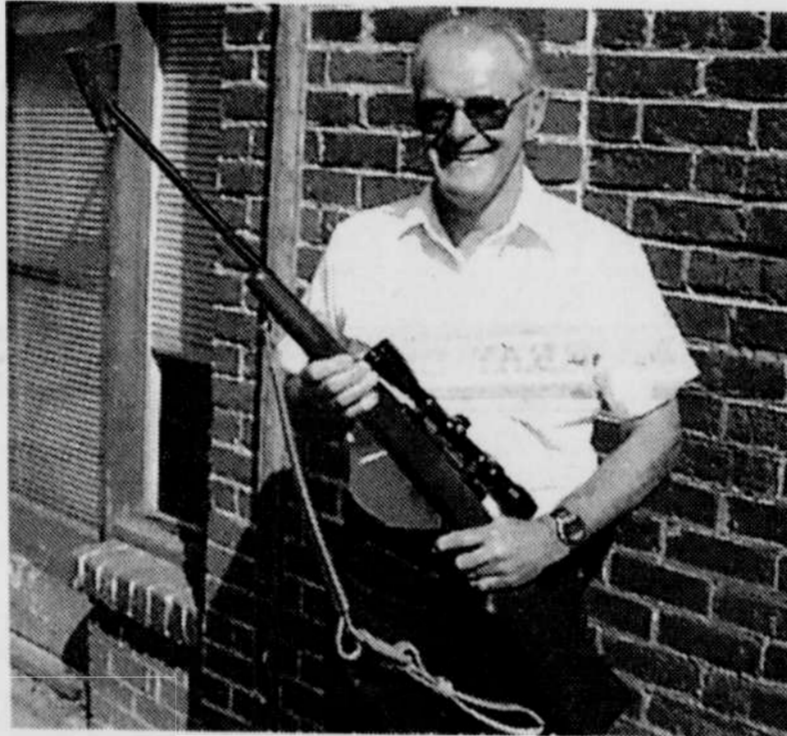
The O'Briens moved into their home in 1987 and have redone the whole yard, planting all of the flowers except for some roses that were cared for by the previous owner. The O'Briens also poured all new sidewalks last year and removed and replanted trees.

The yard also features many family antiques that the couple has collected—a water trough that belonged to Ginger's grandfather Adolf Majeske that has been planted with flowers; a

metal gliding chair that belonged to Adolf and his wife Freida; wrought iron railing from Wallowa County that was from Burke's dad, Dick O'Brien, who was a sheriff there; a big black kettle that was used by Burke's stepfather, L. King, to cook corn; a hand plow that was used by Burke's grandfather, Vic Bergeson; an old Zerlina woodstove that was found in a cabin on property owned by friends; and an old park bench from a Baker City park that Burke's mother, Roseanna King gave them.

"It's a work in progress," said Ginger. "We enjoy it. We both work together. He mows and I plant flowers."

Don Cole wins Lions rifle raffle



Don Cole, winner of the Lions Club rifle raffle

Special Grains Commission meeting scheduled

A special meeting of the Oregon Grains Commission has been set for this Friday, August 24, at 7 a.m. via conference call.

The commission plans to discuss and approve a request to the director of the Department of Agriculture for an emergency funds transfer from the "emergency fund" line item of the FY 2000-2001 budget to the personal services line item.

Commission meetings are open to the public. Persons wishing to participate in the conference call should contact the commission office in advance of the meeting to obtain appropriate information.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$5.)

Harvest of shame

To the Editor:

Some will deny.

Some will lie.

But evidence of mismanagement of our natural resources by the Forest Service and BLM is undeniable wherever a smothering pall of smoke fills our valleys, wherever the ugly cast of dead and dying trees stains the skyline, wherever watersheds bear the ugly scars of wildfire, portending erosion and siltation that will inevitably follow.

And today, right now, the communities of Dale, Ukiah and Monument are threatened with total destruction by wildfire.

Ten years of paralysis by analysis, frivolous appeals turned into federal lawsuits and catering by authorities to the whims of "other publics" have left our forests, our wildlife, our watersheds and communities terribly vulnerable to the ravages of wildfire.

Over the past decade, if only these agencies had acted, how many acres of bug-infested, overcrowded stands could have been treated to reduce fuel loads, returning them to the fire-resistant, healthy stands prevalent 50 years ago?

How many projects, fully funded by Congress, should have been completed, leaving defensible timber stands that allow fire to creep

through at lower intensity and far less damage to ecosystems, if only those who have sworn to "protect the land and serve the people" had acted instead of dithered?

Will agency heads now stand up and take responsibility for failure to accomplish the thinning and harvesting projects authorized and fully funded by the American People? Will they now admit that years of catering to preservationists, "other publics" and the radical fringe of the environmental movement is connected to wildfire that now threatens homes, timber and rangeland, and is destroying public resources at a fearsome rate?

And if they have such courage, what will they say to the grieving parents of four young people who died fighting fire in Washington State, to explain that an agency interpretation of the Endangered Species Act prevented helicopters from pulling life-saving water from a river where there was thought to dwell a protected species?

The bill for years of waste, mismanagement and lack of accomplishment has come due and Mother Nature will not be denied.

Truly, this is a harvest of shame.

(s) Senator Ted Ferrioli,
District 28
Salem

THANK YOU

Our families want to thank all those who made Orval's memorial so special and for all those who sent flowers, cards, brought food and phoned and visited.

We also deeply appreciate your prayers and remembrances to Home Health Care.

Our thanks to you, Pastor Hiller, for your personal care and concern; to Debbie and Lea for your beautiful music; and to Pat and Trish for your loving care of the service.

A big thank you to all who prepared the church and served the wonderful meal.

It is especially at times like this we realize how much our family and friends mean to us.

The Matheny Family

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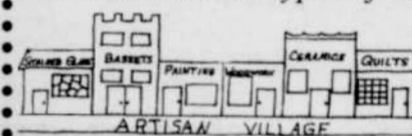
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