

Ione conquers Wheeler

Ione varsity volleyball easily conquered Wheeler on Friday, Oct. 10, with a score of 25-10, 25-10, 25-10. No that wasn't a typo, the score really was the same all three games.

Sophomore, Ashly Grams led the Cardinals on the scoreboard with 18 points. Meghan M. McCabe added 10 points, two aces serves, three hits and led the team with 23 set assists. Natalie McElligott also added 10 points, but led the team with 12 passes, 18 hits and five kills. Megan E. McCabe scored seven points, four of which were unanswered by the Falcons, delivered five hits and 18 set assists. Alyssa Rietmann added six points and

six hits to her team effort. Emily Key scored two points and hammered 10 hits. Jenny Griffith had excellent net play and added an extra 10 hits and one kill to her credit.

Ione's junior varsity team defeated Wheeler in the only game played on Friday, 25-15.

Abby Key and Tina Tuzarova led the Cardinals with seven points each and both girls contributed seven set assists. Kayla LaRue added three points and accepted three passes, while teammate Eva Chitty scored one point and delivered four passed balls. Kim Morris blocked one Falcon hit and passed four balls. Freshman, Stephanie Holland also blocked one hit and accepted three passes.

Lady Cardinals defeat Spartans

Ione girls hosted Pine Eagle on Saturday, Oct. 11. It only took Ione three games to claim a 25-16, 25-14, 25-19 victory over the Spartans.

Megan E. McCabe served 100 percent, to lead the Cardinals with 16 points. McCabe also added three hits, 10 passes and 21 set assists to her team effort. Ashly Grams scored 13 points and delivered 10 passes. Alyssa Rietmann scored 12 points, delivered 17 passes and six hits. Meghan M. McCabe added six points, delivered 14 passes, 20 set assists, six hits and pounded two kills. Natalie McElligott scored one point, led the team with 18 passes, 36 hits and accumulated eight kills. Emily Key scored one point, accepted 14 passes and slammed over 10 hits. Jenny Griffith led the Cardinals with five blocks and contributed two passes and nine hits. The Cardinals served 97 percent for the match.

Ione junior varsity won their first game against the Spartans, 25-15, but lost their edge with a 12-25 loss in game two forcing a third game. Game three for the junior varsity team was tight throughout but the Cardinals ended the match with a 15-12 victory.

Tina Tuzarova delivered five aces serves, scored nine points, hammered five hits and had one kill. Kim Morris added six points and five hits for the Ione team. Morris aces the serve to end the match.

Abby Key scored three aces serves and a total of four points, while teammate Kayla LaRue served 100 percent to add seven points to their team effort. Stephanie Holland scored three points, delivered four passes and three hits and blocked one defensive hit. Eva Chitty scored two points, pounded four hits and accepted three passes.

Child Care Resource and Referral receives grant

Child Care Resource and Referral has been awarded a grant from the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families to increase safe and quality child care for children in Morrow County.

The funding from this grant will enable a Provider Consultant from CCR&R to recruit new child care providers in Morrow County, provide individualized training for child care providers in their homes, and assist providers in becoming registered with the Child Care

Division. This grant will also enable CCR&R to purchase health and safety items for the child care providers home to use in their home child care business.

If you are currently doing child care in Morrow County or are interested in being a child care provider and would like more information on how to benefit from this grant, contact Candy Green in Heppner at 676-9150 or Letty Solis in Hermiston at 1-800-559-5878.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

The Heppner Housing Authority met in regular session on Monday evening, Sept. 29. In addition were members of the Board of Directors of the Senior Center, 10 residents of St. Patrick's apartments, and two family members.

Guests were Rusty Estes, Chief, and Steve Rhea, Information Officer, of the Heppner Fire Department, who gave a detailed report on fire safety, and, specifically, how previous fires had been handled at the apartments and the routine of regular fire drills. A drill is planned for the immediate future. The fire department has, and keeps up-to-date, a chart of the residents, their apartments, and physical condition or other information necessary for a safe exit in case of an emergency. Residents have instructions, and are drilled on which stair to use, where to go and who makes the head counts on each floor. "Be sure of one thing," Steve said, "If you don't show up in the head count, we will come to get you." Residents were encouraged to voice any anxiety or question regarding their safety.

Action was taken by the HHA to install small manageable fire extinguishers in each apartment kitchen with large print instructions on how to use. The issue of resident smoking was raised and action postponed for further consultation on the question.

Doug Gunderson, manager pro-tem, and Karen Dubuque, member of HHA, gave reports of immediate needs of residents, and also a complete inventory of each apartment and its condition at the present time. Action was taken to see about items of immediate concern.

The meeting was presided over by Mayor Bob Jepson.

The terms of the agreement between the HHA and the Center Board of Directors will be on the agenda for the next meeting on Sunday, Oct. 26.

Ione to honor championship football teams

On Friday, Oct. 17, the Ione Booster Club will honor the three state championship football teams on the 25th anniversary of the 1978 championship. They also will honor the champions from 1960 on their 43rd anniversary, and the champions from 1979 on their 24th anniversary.

Teams will get together at the Legion Hall at 4 p.m. for snacks and conversation. They will be introduced in a pre-game ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Since this is Homecoming, activities

About 20 people were present to discuss issues of safety, which had come under recent criticism. The direct and head-on discussion, with action results, was an example of community institutions working with genuine concern for the well being of those under their care. The minutes of the meeting are on public record, available at City Hall. Mayor Bob Jepson presided at the meeting.

Attorney Bill Kuhn will speak at an informational meeting on basic legal questions relating to seniors specifically, on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. at the St. Patrick's Senior Center dining room. The meeting is open to the public. While the content pertains to questions relating to seniors, it is also pertinent for those making plans for their own futures, and transfer of property. Mr. Kuhn will offer general guidelines. He will not be able to speak on questions which would require a personal consultation to be answered.

His comments will be directed toward:

- 1.) Medicaid: what it can do for me; how can I pay for long-term medical care and related topics.
- 2.) Death planning: wills, trusts, how to transfer assets to the next generation and related subjects.
- 3.) Life disability planning and how to set up a system of family support.

There will be opportunity for questions. Another meeting will be scheduled if additional questions are posed, interest is expressed, and participants desire further information. The meeting is planned for a one and a half to two hour span of time, if necessary.

United Methodist Church volunteers will serve the noon meal on Oct. 22, at the Senior Center's noon meal. The menu will be hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, California vegetable medley, plums and gingerbread with topping.

must take place prior to the game instead of halftime. After the game, members of the championship teams will return to the Legion Hall where everyone will be welcome to come and spend time visiting with them.

It should be a great reunion for members of the respective teams, and those who have not visited with some of these individuals for many years. Fans and friends are urged to come out early and support the past champions.

Colt football team to hold Chili Feed

The Colt football team will be having a Chili Feed, Friday, Oct. 17, from 5-7 p.m., at the Fairgrounds. The team will serve chili,

cornbread, dessert and a drink. Cost per person is \$4 each.

The Heppner Mustangs will be playing Culver at 7 p.m.

OFF THE WALL

By Meryn Robinson

After talking to others, I'm not the only one who takes issue with the health district board's sudden decision to close the nursing home in 30 days. This is a major impact to south Morrow County. There should have been a community-wide meeting before taking action.

Yes, the board meetings are open to the public. However even some hospital staff have said they had no idea that immediate closure was on the agenda for this tax-supported entity.

Involving community support of the hospital could have led to a different outcome or at least a better understanding. A letter-writing campaign would have let our representatives or state and federal entities dealing with health care financing know our outrage. The economy of rural communities is severely impacted by any loss of health care facilities.

When making such a rash decision, the board should have at least allowed a minimum of 90 days to give more time to relocate the residents. I also think that the staff was poorly advised to immediately relate this closure to the very vulnerable residents themselves. Their families should have been allowed adequate time to make other arrangements, thus easing the transition instead of traumatizing the residents themselves.

It appears that all the taxpayer dollars spent for hospital remodeling in recent years was a waste if our hospital is going to be an almost empty building with first-aid or emergency room capabilities. Some of that remodeling had little to do with patient welfare.

Questions arise from those of us not up to speed on the financial situation. The charge of \$150 per day per nursing home resident (private pay, semi-private room) translates into \$45,000 per month for just ten nursing home residents, for example. (Medicaid currently reimburses the nursing home at \$111 per resident per day.) We were told it costs the hospital \$180 per resident per month (calculated by the state) and to be feasible the occupancy would have to be maintained at around 30 residents. Evidently nursing home revenue isn't sufficient to pay the majority of hospital expenses, including staff, doctors and maintenance- therefore pressure from the north end contributed to the demise of a need in this community.

In trying to be politically correct, the county-wide health district continues to subsidize the Boardman clinic and a doctor there who has been contentious from the start. An Irrigon clinic, that is only minutes away from a hospital, is now part of our medical district. Since the hospital was built in the 1950s the south end of the county and people as far away as Spray have depended on medical services at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. During the past 20 plus years it was deemed necessary to guarantee doctors a base salary to keep the local clinic staffed and the hospital functioning. In contrast, Dr. Wenburg maintains a medical practice in Heppner without being subsidized.

It's sad that some of our frail, elderly residents will have to be relocated elsewhere, away from family and friends. For certain, those nursing home residents will never receive any better care than where they presently are. The Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home staff comprises some of the most dedicated and devoted workers who treat patients like they are family members. Some staff members are even being handed a wage cut for their dedicated services. It's sad for workers of this caliber to lose jobs that have been so vital; ultimately the community is the loser.

As businesses continue to downsize, hopefully Heppner will not roll up the sidewalks in the future. Fortunately, this area still draws hunters that help the economy. As to fishing or boating, the draw-down of the Willow Creek Lake, leaving the boat ramps high and dry, certainly put an end to that recreation. Irrigation water is paid for by a few farmers while taking away the lake's attraction. What happened to the original reasons for the dam that outlined flood control first and recreation second? Nothing makes sense anymore.

Local students to attend National Youth Leadership Forum

Justin Botefuhr and Madison Bailey, both of Heppner, have been selected to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Defense, Intelligence and Diplomacy (NYLF/DID) from Oct. 28 to Nov. 2 in Washington, D.C. Having demonstrated academic achievement and an interest in a career related to national security, Botefuhr and Bailey will join approximately 400 high school juniors and seniors from across the United States at the forum.

"By participating in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Defense, Intelligence and Diplomacy, students like Justin Botefuhr and Madison Bailey will develop a keenly educated perspective on the United States' role in global conflict resolution," said Donna Snyder, executive director of the NYLF. "While we introduce these young leaders to the masterminds behind our country's international relations communities, students also take part in a series of simulations. The combination of interacting with professionals and other students in this setting ensures that the future of our country

is very bright."

The NYLF/DID curriculum is based on actual world events, allowing participants to learn from the examples set by previous generations of leaders and encouraging them to develop a perspective and tenacity unique to upcoming generations of leaders. Throughout the forum, students will examine how the U.S. plans for peace and prepares for crisis. Students will meet with leaders from key agencies and institutions.

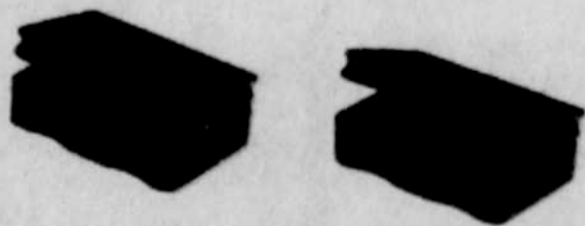
In the past, NYLF/DID has visited several government institutions and military installations, including the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Naval Academy, a variety of embassies and many others.

NYLF is a nonprofit, educational organization committed to help young people to make well-informed career choices. For additional information, visit www.nylf.org.

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