

ITALIAN ICE CREAM Heppner sends 3 to Little League All Stars

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found an end result we liked and that we could call our own."

She adds that she relied on Carmelo's experience to tell her when the flavor was right, since he'd grown up with Italian ice cream and had it while in Italy.

Italian ice cream, which is called gelato in Italy, is similar to American ice cream. The differences, the Di Salvos say, lie mostly in what it doesn't have. It has less heavy cream and less sugar, and it's churned more slowly so it contains less air. That gives it more flavor than most ice creams you pick off a supermarket shelf.

"We also don't use ingredients customers can't pronounce. We stick to four or five simple ingredients... milk, cream, sugar and fresh flavors," Carmelo says. "Read the ingredients in most traditional ice cream; you need a degree in chemistry to understand what you're eating."

Whatever the difference, it seems to have been successful. The Di Salvos went from selling a few containers at the local farmers' market to selling their product through Heppner Family Foods and Howe's About Pizza, as well as taking special orders. In the process, they upgraded from a KitchenAid ice-cream attachment to a professional gelato machine from Italy.

"The response has been very favorable," says Carmelo. "I love when customers come up to me and tell me how much they love our product. I'm especially pleased when customers who have traveled to Italy

and had gelato there tell me how our gelato compares to 'the real thing.'"

Their growth has happened without aggressive marketing. Andrea admits that their marketing is "hit and miss," with a Facebook page and a few flyers the extent of their ad campaign. Mostly, the couple relies on word of mouth to bring people to their product.

"We concentrate on an excellent product and let the genuine taste sell itself," Carmelo says.

The Di Salvos still peddle their fresh gelato every week at the Heppner farmer's market, but Andrea says it's less a moneymaker and more of a chance to talk with people and get a feel for what they like and don't like.

"It gives us a chance to meet with the community, trot out new flavors and get reactions," she says. "Sometimes our experiments work and sometimes they don't. You never know until you try."

She says some of their "flops" have been flavors like lime mint, gingerbread and elderberry. Surprising successes have included lemon basil and white chocolate lavender. For the most part, though, people prefer the old standards, with chocolate and vanilla being their biggest sellers.

As for where they go from here, Carmelo is optimistic.

"I definitely see our company growing," he says. "I think if we continue to keep our ingredients simple, remain obsessed with product quality and make customers happy, we may just be around for a while."

Over the Tee Cup

Results for July 5:

Low gross of the field—Pat Edmundson.

Low net of the field—Karen Thompson and Carrie Grieb.

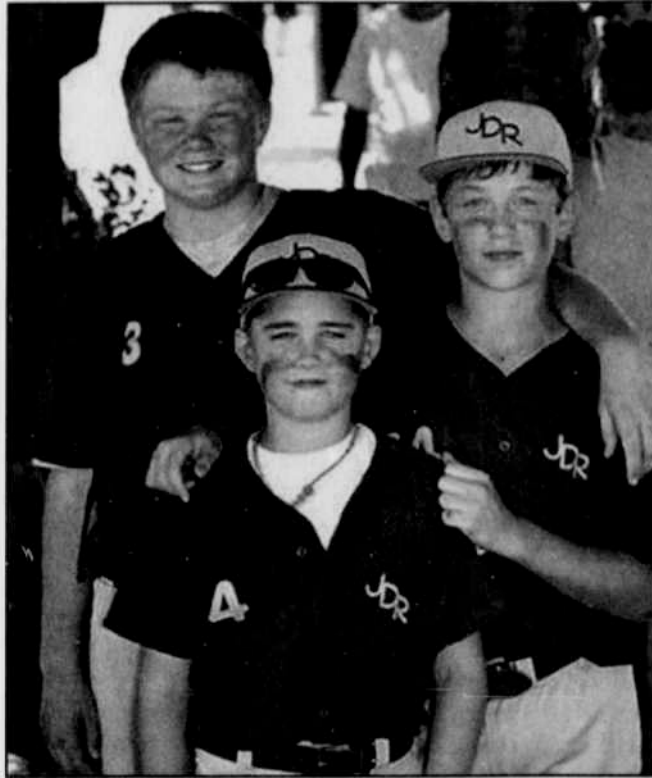
Least putts of the field—Eva Kilkenny.

Flight A: Low gross, Corol Mitchell; low net, Nancy Propheter; least putts, Loa Heideman; long drive, Corol Mitchell and K.P., Pat Edmundson.

Flight B: Low gross, Jan Paustian and Lynnea Sargent; low net, Bernice Lott; least putts, Pat Doherty and K.P., Lynnea Sargent.

Flight C: Low gross, Betty Carlson; low net, Laura Rogers; least putts, Suzanne Jepsen and long drive, Laura Rogers.

Nancy Propheter had a chip-in on #5 and Karen Thompson had a chip-in on #1. The longest putt went to Karen Thompson.



L-R: Patrick Collins, Jake Lindsay and Weston Putman participated in the District 5 Little League All Star tournament in The Dalles over the holiday weekend. —Contributed photo

Heppner sent three local boys to the District 5 Little League All Star baseball tournament in The Dalles, OR over the Independence Day weekend. Patrick Collins, Jake Lindsay and Weston Putman represented Heppner on the 11/12U John Day River (JDR) team, which consisted of players from Heppner, Ione, Arlington, Condon, Moro and Dufur.

All three boys participated in the opening ceremonies on July 1. Team began play the following day.

Playing Warm Springs in their first game, the JDR team showed why they were considered a top contender in this tournament. These All Stars produced a 19-0 win; the game was called after four innings. Lindsay made a spectacular catch of a pop fly to preserve the shut out.

Although JDR lost to Bend North, a perennial favorite with an outstanding defense, the team showed their teamwork and grit by keeping the heavy hitters to four runs. Using three pitchers, Bend North had kept JDR to no hits until Putman blasted a single into center field in the fifth inning.

JDR was ready to let off its own fireworks against Jefferson County on Independence Day in its third game. Collins,

Lindsay and Putman each got on base during this game. Collins showed his power and his skills on the mound, keeping the runs to a minimum. Again, the team was able to wrap up the game in the fourth inning, beating Jefferson.

Tuesday's game against Hermiston featured well-matched teams as they traded runs throughout the game until the sixth inning. With two outs, Weston Putman smacked an RBI double and then scored himself on a passed ball to give JDR an 8-6 lead. Hermiston rallied and ended up winning 9-8.

Although the team fell short and was disappointed with the loss, spectators said each player can hold his head high. They played as a team by picking each other up when needed and celebrating when deserved. Due to the travel between communities, the boys also spent various nights with one another and had an opportunity to develop relationships off the field.

Head Coach Tracy Fields said he was proud of their efforts on the field, but he was more than impressed at what a great group of kids he had the opportunity to coach. With the end of the 2011 season, these players can reflect on their experience and the friendships they have developed.

Junior golf tournament held in Heppner



Local Junior Golfers who took part in the July 7 tournament were (Front Row L-R): Jared Geier, Kellen Grant, Gavin Hanna and Hunter Greenup; (Middle Row L-R): Morgan Correa, Sophie Grant, Caitlyn Scrivner, Nicole Propheter, Eva Martin and Jake Lindsay; (Back Row L-R): Kyle Harrison, John Propheter, Earl Propheter, Kolby Currin and Logan Grieb. —Contributed photo

The Northeast Oregon Golf Association (NOGA) held a tournament at Willow Creek Country Club on July 7.

It was the fourth of six regional tournaments for golfers ages eight to 18. Fifteen local golfers were among the 39 juniors who participated in Heppner's tournament.

In the pee wee girls' division, Sophie Grant placed 1st, Morgan Correa placed 2nd and Nicole Propheter placed 3rd.

For pee wee boys, Kellen Grant and Jake Lindsay tied for 3rd. Logan Grieb placed 2nd in the intermediate boys division and Kyle Harrison was 2nd in the junior boys.

Several local businesses helped sponsor the tournament. Wheatland Insurance provided medals. Morrow County Grain Growers and Bank of Eastern Oregon both sponsored raffle and special event prizes. Bank of Eastern Oregon also provided tee prizes for each golfer who entered.

NOGA provides competitive golf tournaments in Northeast Oregon for junior golfers with the help of local clubs and many volunteers. This was the third year that Heppner has hosted a tournament. Other stops on the tour are Echo, La Grande, Baker City, Union and Pendleton.

Young musician wows crowd at Ione talent show



Young musician Charlie Powers wowed the crowd at Ione's 4th of July talent show. —Contributed photo

Charlie Powers, son of Major Edward Powers, USMC, and Mary Cupps Powers, took first prize at Ione's 4th of July talent show.

The young musician had the crowd cheering after his first performance, a mash up of "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz and "Over the Rainbow" by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Young. He later secured his place by singing "Everything Glorious" by David Crowder. Powers was awarded \$30 for his performance.

Charlie resides in Oceanside, CA with his parents and sister. His father will soon deploy for Iraq. His mother is a graduate of Ione High School.

Ione 4-H holds cemetery clean-up



The Ione 4-H club recently held a cemetery clean-up day as their club community service project. The club hopes this will be annual project. Pictured (L-R): Jenna Taylor, Hannah Padberg, Tyler Carter, Austin Morter, Austin Carter and Oskar Peterson. —Contributed photo

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