

BEO announces wrestling invitational



The trophies for the BEO Invitational are on display in the bank lobby in Heppner until the tournament on February 4. -Contributed photo

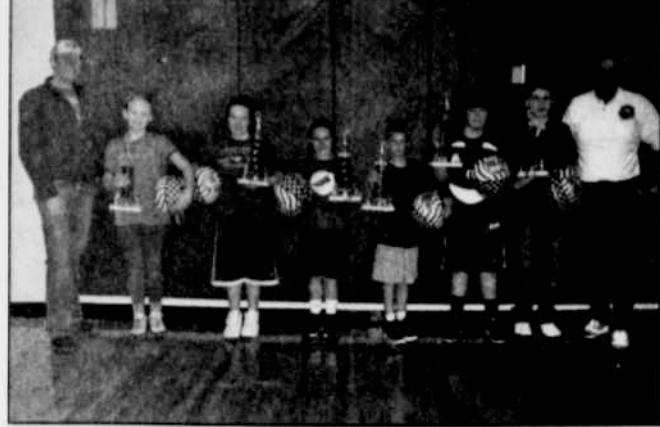
Bank of Eastern Oregon announces the invitees to Bank of Eastern Oregon's 2012 Invitational Wrestling Tournament to be held at Heppner High School on February 4. High schools scheduled to compete are Adrian, Crane Union, Culver, Elgin, Enterprise, Grant Union, Heppner, Imbler, Irrigon, Joseph, MacHi (JV), Riverside, Union and Wallowa. The competition begins at 10 a.m. Bank of Eastern Oregon invites the public to come watch these talented athletes compete. Tickets are available at the door and concessions will be available.

Mark Lemmon, Bank of Eastern Oregon's Chief Financial Officer and Heppner High School wrestling coach, has been instrumental in organizing the bank's sponsorship of

the event. "The bank's management has been very involved in establishing this annual tournament and looks forward to the 2012 competition. The first three years of the event were outstanding and we intend the BEO Invitational to be a 'can't miss' tournament on every school's future schedule," said Lemmon. "We appreciate bank staff and local citizens who volunteer to help at the event or sponsor amenities; their help makes the tournament run smoothly."

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help or who has any inquiries concerning the upcoming event can contact Heppner High School's Athletic Director, Greg Grant, at 541-676-9138 or Mark Lemmon at 541-676-0224.

Elks holds hoop shoot



L-R: Local Hoop Shoot director Bill Schlaich, Ivy Sandford, Kacie Gray, Sydney Wilson, Casey Fletcher, Dakota Howard, Wyatt Steagall and NE District Hoop Shoot Director Corey Sweeney. -Contributed photo

The Heppner Elks Lodge held their annual Hoop Shoot at Heppner Elementary on January 15.

Twenty-eight kids participated. They each shot 25 free throws and the one with the most made shots in each age bracket was named the winner. The first place winners received a certificate, Hoop Shoot basketball and trophy; second and third place winners each received a trophy.

The first place winners will advance to the District Hoop Shoot on January 28 at Armand Larive Middle School in Hermiston. The first place winners from the District Hoop Shoot will then advance to the State competition in Salem on February 11.

For the girls' eight-to-nine year bracket, first place was Sydney Wilson, second place was Tresslyn McCurry and third place was Madelyn Nichols.

For the girls' 10-11 year bracket, first place was Kacie Gray and second place was Alison Cecil.

For the girls' 12-13 year bracket, first place was Ivy Sandford and second place was Cassey Bowles.

For the boys' eight-to-nine year bracket, first place was Casey Fletcher, second place was Drew Coe and third place was Brian Lindsay.

For the boys' 10-11 bracket, first place was Dakota Howard, second place was Hunter Nichols and third place was Gibson McCurry.

For the boys' 12-13 bracket, first place was Wyatt Steagall, second place was Alex Lindsay and third place was Austin Carter.

The other participants were Jorden Sweeney, Matthew Orem, Gaige Futer, Jonathon Waddell, Derek Howard, Keegan Gibbs, Dylan Rill, Coby Dougherty, Tyler Carter, Jacob Heideman, Sabastian Futer and Michael Reed. The Elks appreciates all the kids for their participation and the volunteers for making the event run smoothly.

WOLVES

-Continued from PAGE ONE review suspect wolf kills and make recommendations to the ODFW, which has the final say on whether a kill was actually done by a wolf. The confirmed kills need to be submitted by Feb 15, 2012 for payment and reimbursement in 2013.

Childers told cattlemen and others at the meeting (there were approximately 45 in attendance) if they think they have wolf evidence to submit track pictures or scat samples to Cherry for analysis.

"And if you see a wolf, get a picture," Childers said.

He also recommended ranchers and others who spend a lot of time outdoors should keep a diary to document any type of wolf contact or sign. He said locals should try to get a wolf collared if a pack moves into Morrow County. Apparently, the state has a goal of 14 packs, or 400 wolves, seven on the west side and seven on the east, defined as all of Oregon east of highway 97, which approximately splits the state in half north to south through Bend.

The Oregon Cattlemen have been working to get the wolves delisted from the state endangered species, (they have already been taken off the federal list) but Childers says the legal challenges are getting expensive, and the OCA has already spent \$18,000 on legal fees. He said non-profit groups that have put the wolf management into the court system seem to have a lot of money, and the court will not assign legal fees to non-profits when they lose, so the cattlemen will not be able to recover lawyer fees if they win.

Childers says there

has been some evidence that the Wallowa wolves have started "joy killing," which is evident from the half- or one-third eaten animals that are now being left. Cherry said the wolves need to kill one large animal per week, about the same as a cougar, to survive.

Childers said deer and elk herds are also showing signs of wolf kill, so hunting groups have started to get involved.

"The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is getting involved, hunting groups are getting involved. In Wyoming the wolves have displaced 17,000 head of elk out of Yellowstone on to private property," Childers said to emphasize the long-term effect wolf reintroduction is causing.

Putting the wolf population into perspective, Cherry said across the state right now there are about 100 wolves and about 5,500 cougars.

"I don't want to minimize the conflict, but the wolves are small in comparison to cougars. We are trying to minimize livestock damage just like we do with cougar and coyote," Cherry said. He said cougar also eat game animals, and they have seen a drop in the coyote population when the wolves move in.

"Wolves are our number one priority right now, and we need everyone's help in their management." Cherry urged people to report what they see.

"We need as many eyes as we can out there. And if you find a possible kill, treat it like a crime scene. Keep people, vehicles and dogs out of the area," he said.

When asked if there were wolves here yet, Cherry said, "There is probably a wolf in Morrow County, we have no evidence of a pack yet in Morrow County though. Maybe there is a single one moving through the area."

Wolves kill first livestock of year

By Elane Dickenson, Originally published in the Wallowa County Chieftain, Jan. 11, 2012

JOSEPH - The year's first livestock kill by wolves in Wallowa County was confirmed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife the first of this week.

A 10-month-old replacement heifer was killed early Saturday morning, Jan. 7, in a pasture on the Triple Creek Ranch, managed by Scott Shear, just six miles southeast of Joseph on Tucker Down Road.

"This brings to 21 the number of livestock confirmed killed by the Imnaha pack since spring 2010," said ODFW wildlife communications officer Michelle Dennehy. She said there are a minimum of five wolves in the Imnaha pack.

ODFW notified the Shears at 5 a.m. Saturday that, according to a signal from OR4, the pack's collared alpha male, the wolf was in the vicinity of their cattle. They found the dead heifer a short time later.

Among those who gathered to view the ODFW necropsy of the dead animal at the Shear ranch were Wallowa County Commissioner Susan Roberts and State Rep. Greg Smith of Heppner, who was in Joseph to watch a wrestling

tournament. "The damage caused to the animal by the wolves is what's appalling," said Roberts.

ODFW had planned to kill two Imnaha pack wolves because of ongoing depredation of livestock, but there is currently a court stay-of-execution of the wolves in effect.

Wolf "range rider" Will Voss is back on the job at the request of the Shears.

"When the wolves come back into the valley, it's time for Will to go back on the job," said Scott Shear, who is vice president of the Wallowa County Stockgrowers Association.

He said that Voss, who worked as range rider last year, will be monitoring cattle ranches in the area at night in his pickup.

Shear said he valued the heifer at \$1,500, but that it could have produced calves for the next 10 years. "What value do you put on that," he asked. He plans to put in a compensation claim when the state starts taking claims in February.

This is Shear's second livestock loss due to wolves and he has also reported fence damage due to wolves chasing his cattle.

"There's a place for wolves and this isn't it," he said.

Police arrest Irrigon burglary suspect

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with Multnomah County police, apprehended a suspect in an Irrigon burglary this month. The arrested man was 40-year-old Chester Brent Paradiso of Irrigon.



Chester Brent Paradiso

On January 1, MCSO responded to a call regarding residential burglary at the Melvin Blank residence in Irrigon. During the investigation, they discovered several thousand dollars worth of gold, silver and firearms, along with household items, had been stolen. MCSO Sgt. Rayburn received information that two suspicious subjects were staying at the Tillicum Inn in Umatilla.

Police determined that Paradiso had, indeed, rented a room at the Tillicum Inn. Items left behind in the motel room were identified as coming from the Irrigon burglary.

MCSO was later contacted by The Coin Cradle in the Tri-Cities and told

that Paradiso sold gold and silver that matched the description from the burglary in Irrigon.

On January 10, MCSO received information that Paradiso was staying in a motel in Wood Village, OR. MCSO called

the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, which was able to provide surveillance on the motel. Paradiso was subsequently taken into custody by the arrest team without incident, both on the Irrigon charges and on an unrelated arrest warrant.

MCSO executed a search warrant on the suspect's motel room in Wood Village. Several additional items from the Irrigon burglary were recovered. The suspect was lodged at Multnomah County Jail on Burglary I, Burglary II and Aggravated Theft I.

The MCSO is currently looking for an additional suspect and other persons of interest.

OES holds young artist competition

The Oregon East Symphony (OES) announces its 2012 Young Artist Competition. The competition takes place every second year in Pendleton.

The contest will be held on February 25 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Vert Club Room at 345 SW 4th Street in Pendleton.

The competition gives the region's young musicians the opportunity to prepare and perform for a panel of professional adjudicators. This year's three adjudicators include Dr. Anthony Spain, music director of the Oregon East Symphony and the Northwest Symphony Orchestra in Seattle, WA, and Maestro Bruce Walker, conductor of the Yakima Youth Symphony in Washington and OES's A-Sharp Players and Preludes preparatory orchestras, as well as principal cellist for the OES.

"We are really excited to have such an ac-

complished group of adjudicators coming for this event," says Lisa-Marie Patterson, Executive Director of OES, "and we're also looking forward to hearing some of the best young talent in the area."

Competition participants will compete in one of three divisions: intermediate division (through grade 8), senior division (grades 9-12) and young adult division (through age 25). Prizes will be awarded in each division as follows: intermediate, \$75; senior, \$125 and young adult, \$150. In addition to the competition prizes, selected participants may be invited to perform with the Oregon East Symphony or A-Sharp Players orchestra during the 2012-2013 concert season.

The general public is welcome to attend this event; however, seating is limited.

More information about the Oregon East Symphony and the Young Artist Competition can be found online at www.oregoneast-symphony.org, by emailing programs@oregoneastsymphony.org or by calling (541) 276-0320.

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