

Heppner Lions Club elects 2014 officers



The Heppner Lions Club held its annual barbecue last week and elected its 2014 officers. Pictured (L-R) are Jim Fichter, Tail Twister; Dean Robinson, President; Steve Rhea, Secretary/Treasurer; Dan Van Liew, Vice President; and Andrew Johnson, Lion Tamer. The Lions Club conducts various community service projects throughout the year, and anyone who would like to become a member should contact a Lions Club member. -Photo by David Sykes

Local players in Little League tournament this week

The Little League District 5 All-Star Tournament will be held in Hermiston this year. The John Day River Little League has fielded two teams, a 9/10 All Star Team and an 11/12 All Star Team. Local athletes on the 9/10 team include Mike Jaca, Tucker Ashbeck and Joe Sherman of Heppner, and Blake Carter and Carson Eynetich of Ione. The John Day River 11/12 All Star Team includes Ione students Hunter Padberg and Tyler Carter, as well as Heppner students Keegan Gibbs, Hayden Hyatt, Drew Coe, Gavin Hanna and Cody Wizner. The 9/10 team opens their play with a game against Hermiston at 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 28. The 11/12 team's first game is Sunday, June 29, at 3:15 p.m. against the winner of the Saturday matchup between Redmond and Bend N. The John Day Little League fields teams from Maupin, Dufur, Sherman Co., Arlington, Condon, Ione, Fossil and Heppner.

Catholic church children 'adore' VBS



St. Patrick's Catholic Church held vacation Bible school last week, June 16-19. The program had a good turnout, with 45 children from St. Patrick's and St. William's participating in Bible lessons, games and crafts throughout the week. The children met with St. Paul, who told them about his life with Jesus, and Solome', a mother of a fisherman, who taught them how to live the Beatitudes. Pictured is Father Kumar teaching the children about the Adoration. -Contributed photo

4-H club to hold car wash this Thursday

The Heppner Grow 'Em & Show 'Em 4-H group will be at Les Schwab on Thursday, June 26, from 12-3 p.m. for a by-donation car wash. The group has been saving up money to purchase a pair of lamb clippers. They will also be looking to buy a small set of trimmers for the members with pig projects. In order for these show animals to look their best at the fair, club members say they need community members to come down and get their cars washed.

Boardman chamber to sponsor July 4 horseshoe tournament

The Boardman Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a horseshoe tournament during the Boardman Thunder Fourth of July Celebration on Friday, July 4. Debbie Radie with Boardman Foods is running the horseshoe tournament, which will start at 1 p.m. at the Boardman Marina Park. Registration will begin just prior to the tournament. The entry fee is \$5 per person, with the first- and second-place winners receiving a 50 percent pay-back. The chamber reminds interested competitors that the more entries they get, the more people will have a chance at winning. This event has been going on for many years, and chamber members say they are looking forward to a great turnout again this year. For more information please call the Boardman chamber at 541-481-3014.

HES Summer Enrichment was a real 'racket'

On the last day of the Heppner Elementary Summer Enrichment Program there were some very excited students, not only because it was the last day of class, but because they had earned a tennis racket, a can of tennis balls and a tennis lesson.

After another morning of reading and math skills, the class welcomed Jo Anne Burleson to the classroom. She began by teaching the students the correct way to hold their rackets. Then she carefully moved on to how to hit the ball. Next, she explained where the ball should land in order to be a successful tennis player. Finally, the students were able to start practicing.

The class's tennis coach said she was pleased to see



Students in the Summer Enrichment Program at Heppner Elementary were surprised with tennis rackets and a quick lesson at the end of their classes. -Contributed photo

how many students were very talented tennis players after only one short lesson.

"Of course, we think the students learned quickly because they had an extraordinarily terrific coach!" said teacher Mary Ann Elguezabal. "Mrs. Burleson was just one of

the many volunteers we had during our summer program."

Elguezabal also extended appreciation to Kane Sweeney, Reiah Waite, Petra Payne, Ivy Zimmerman, Cecilia Drake and Ignacio Elguezabal, as well as Jo Anne Burleson.

FIRE THREATENS HEPPNER

-Continued from PAGE ONE their shoulders. All along all those back streets, there were at least 60 or 70 people with garden hoses and shovels there to protect the houses."

Heppner's Assistant Fire Chief and Training Officer Steve Rhea agreed.

"I just appreciate everybody's support and I think Rusty does, too. I think some people don't pitch in and help because they don't think we want them to, but that's not the case," he said. "Any time someone can come in and help run a shovel or drag a hose, we'll take that help. I appreciate all the folks that helped. It was good to see."

Estimates on the number of acres consumed vary, but Rhea said he



Townpeople help create a line of defense against the fire west of the Heppner housing line beyond Gale Street. -Photo by Megan Futter

"There was a lot of good stuff in that shed," said Elguezabal.

She said the fire also melted everything along one wall of their large carport.

while certainly far from the worst fire he has ever seen, it was a bit unique for this area.

"To me, the only difference between this fire and other fires is we had more structures threatened, we had a lot bigger audience than we normally have watching the fire operations and, on the same token, we had a lot of citizens pitch in and help," he said. "We have a lot more large fires in the course of the year than we had here, but this had a lot more impact in the threat of the homes, which made this more unusual."

Rhea and Estes both gave credit to their local firefighters and the people who pitched in and helped.

"We have an awesome department and a great bunch of guys," Rhea said.

"It was wonderful for the outpouring of help we got," added Estes. "It was wonderful."



A haze of smoke blinded and made breathing difficult as volunteer firefighters from around the county worked to quench the flames around Heppner. -Photo by David Sykes

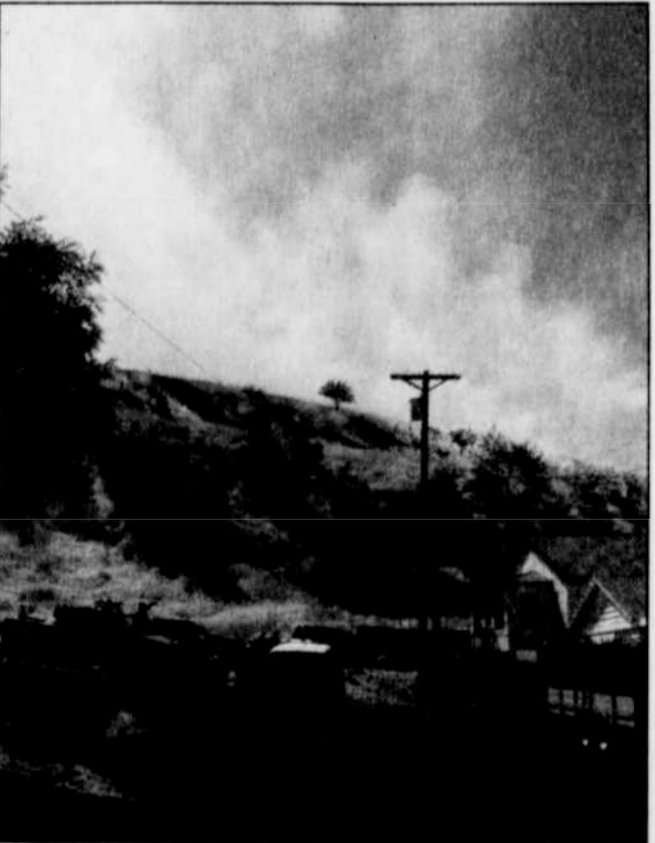
would place it at between 600 and 800 acres.

"I look at it as a farmer; is it a section? Maybe," Rhea said. "It's hard to gauge in an environment that has a lot of hills and draws and things."

Estes said it took only two or three hours to get the fire knocked out, though there was a minor flare-up later in the evening.

"I started relieving guys, letting people go, at about seven, and we were just mopping up hot spots," he said.

Though the fire spread quickly and crept right up to the line of houses at the city limits, the quick response of the firefighters and people of Heppner kept it from doing any major property damage. The only structural loss was on the Elguezabal property, near where the fire started. Mary Ann Elguezabal reported that they lost a shed that contained, among other things, a wooden bassinet in which all of her children and grandchildren had slept.



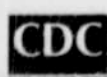
Emergency vehicles form a temporary base of operations at the west end of Willow Street during the fire last Thursday. -Staff photo



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