

Peck retires from fire board



Chief Steve Rhea (left), former Chief Rusty Estes and Rural Board chair Kelwayne Haguwood (right) present a plaque of appreciation to Lyle Peck.

Lyle Peck, long-time member of the Heppner Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors, recently announced his retirement from the board. Peck has served for over 31 years, having first been elected in 1989.

In accepting his resignation, the board acknowledged his many years of service and stated his knowledge of the district and its history will be sorely missed. "We have been able

to keep good equipment available for our firefighters and I am really proud of our new fire hall, which was greatly needed," said Peck. "That facility is top-notch, truly appreciated by the city, the rural district and by our firefighters," he continued. "We can all be proud of it."

The Rural Fire District contracts with the city of Heppner for firefighting services, training and certification. The rural dis-

trict provides the wildlands firefighting rolling stock and equipment, while the city provides structure firefighting rolling stock and equipment. The city's fire department is an all-volunteer group and they respond to all fires and emergency calls within both the city and the rural district.

Peck has overseen much growth in the rural district, including the recent annexation of the entire Blake Ranch community and all formerly unprotected lands in south Morrow County.

Upon accepting Peck's resignation, the rural fire board then promoted Lexington area rancher Eric Orem to fill Peck's position. Orem has served for many years on the district's budget committee and is from the same geographic area of the district that Peck had represented.

Town and Country event coming soon

Heppner Chamber's Annual Town and Country Community Awards event is just around the corner. The event will be held Thursday, February 6 at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building, starting at 6 p.m. with a no host bar operated by Bucknum's.

The buffet and/or served dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the awards program to follow. Alvin Liu with Gateway Café will be catering the dinner and will be serving prime rib with au jus, creamy garlic mashed potatoes, green beans in garlic sauce, gar-

den fresh salad and a dinner roll with butter, dessert and a beverage.

Tickets are available at Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner Chamber, city of Heppner and Murray's for \$30 per person until February 3 when they will increase to \$35 each. A limited number of tickets will be sold.

Awards will be presented for man of the year, woman of the year, business of the year, youth, citizen-educator of the year and the lifetime achievement award. The event

is sponsored by NextEra Energy Resources, Portland General Electric, Representative Greg Smith, Community Counseling Solutions, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Invenergy, LLC Willow Creek Energy, Mid Columbia Producers, Inc. and Heppner Community Foundation.

For additional information or to reserve tickets or seating contact the Heppner Chamber at 541-676-5536 or email heppnerchamber@centurytel.net. Reserved seating is available for groups six or more.

FSA urges agricultural producers to enroll

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is encouraging agricultural producers to enroll in the Agriculture Risk Loss (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. March 15 is the enrollment deadline for the 2019 crop year.

Although more than 200,000 producers have enrolled to date, FSA anticipates 1.5 million producers will enroll for ARC and PLC. By enrolling soon, producers can beat the rush as the deadline nears.

"FSA offices have multiple programs competing for the time and attention of our staff. Because of the importance and complexities of the ARC and PLC programs; and to ensure we meet your program delivery expectations, please do not

wait to start the enrollment process," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce.

"I cannot emphasize enough the need to begin the program election and enrollment process now. Please call your FSA county office and make an appointment soon to ensure your elections are made and contracts signed well ahead of the deadlines."

ARC and PLC provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American farms.

The programs cover the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sor-

ghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Until March 15, producers who have not yet enrolled in ARC or PLC for 2019 can enroll for both 2019 and 2020 during the same visit to an FSA county office unless yield updates are requested. Additionally, farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields that take effect beginning with crop year 2020. If the owner accompanies the producer to the office, the yield update and enrollments may be completed during the same office visit.

Mustangs compete in Farm City Invitational



Suzanneah Cason wrestling Juan Lauriano of Othello. -Photo by Damon Brosnan.

Heppner High School wrestlers traveled to Hermiston on Saturday to participate in the Farm City Invitational. The Mustangs were among eleven teams that competed on Saturday.

Success for the Heppner boys and girls was hard to come by but hard matches were easy to find. Roen Waite, wrestling at 106 pounds went one and two with one victory by fall over a wrestler from Ridgevue. Bryan Collins, at 120, had two tough matches with wrestlers from Hermiston and Othello that would leave him with a zero and two record.

Suzanneah Cason, at 126, also wrestled twice against wrestlers from Hermiston and Othello and would end the day with a zero and two record. Saul Lopez competed at 132 pounds and would wrestle four times on Saturday. He would come away with two victories, by fall, over wrestlers from Hermiston



Saul Lopez taking down Lance Stover of Chiawana. -Photo by Damon Brosnan.

and Richland. Edward Ellsworth was on the sidelines with an injury and didn't participate on Saturday. Jace Coe and Conor Brosnan, once again, both competed at 160 pounds. Jace would end the day with two victories over Hermiston and Irrigon participants and two losses. Conor went home with one

victory over Irrigon and two defeats.

The Mustang boys and girls had a tough day but the level of competition they faced will only make them better wrestlers for the remainder of the season. The team is in action next on Friday, the 24th at Grant Union. The action starts at 10 a.m.

Backpack program feeds students on weekends

The Heppner Hunger Backpack program has been working diligently to feed students on the weekends in the community. The program is supported by various grants provided by Willow Creek Valley Economic Development and National FFA Foundation, as well as animals donated by the Morrow County Fair livestock auction and other donors. Also, an anonymous donor provided meal certificates at Thanksgiving.

The group has handed out 30 backpacks in the school. Each family gets one and it is filled with fruit, vegetables and snacks along with breakfast and



Visiting Oregon FFA state officers help with the delivery of the backpacks earlier this year. Pictured are Ellie, Matt Orem, Blake Carter, Roy Collins, Deidre Schreiber, MaKayla Silvia and Suzy Cason in front. State officers are in official dress and other students pictured are the managers of the local project.

lunch meals they do not receive on the weekends since they are not school days.

The FFA chapter will hold a food drive next month while celebrating FFA week. Donations that

would help fill the backpacks during that food drive include peanut butter and jelly, chips, granola bars, fruit cups, canned vegetables and fruit, macaroni and cheese, cereal and oatmeal.

Ione 4-H club holds meeting

The Ione Community 4-H club held a meeting January 12 at their leader's house with eight members present. The meeting was held for election of officers.



Pictured (L-R) back row: Carson Eynetich, Lewkus Burright, Eva Martin, Larysa Burright, Novalee Cambell and Cory Rice. Front row: Phlegley Padberg and chicken, Blitz.

Phlegley Padberg did a presentation for fellow members on how to show a chicken. Members in attendance were Carter Eynetich, Carson Eynetich,

Phlegley Padberg, Novalee Cambell, Cory Rice, Eva Martin, Larysa Burright and Lewkus Burright as well as four parents.

Bank of Eastern Oregon's 12TH ANNUAL Invitational WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Hosted by the Heppner Mustangs

SATURDAY
February 1st
2020

HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL
10:00 AM

CONCESSIONS available.

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HEPPNER, OREGON

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