McElligott 50 years coaching



The 2023 Ione tennis team—McElligott's 44th tennis team during her 50-year coaching career. Back L-R: Assistant Coach Susan Kendrick, Corey Rice, Victoria De la Torre, Martin Medina, Kyle McGill, Liam Heideman, Holly VandenBrink, Kalvin Rietmann, Sophia Qualls, Sunem Calvillo and Coach Maureen McElligott. Front L-R: Michael McElligott, Lizzy Doherty, Zamira Dotson, Brionna Serrano, Leelynn Vandever, Jolene Serrano, Kelly Doherty and Gift Cross. -Contributed photo

-Continued from PAGE ONE itively at Blue Mountain Community College, has coached tennis with McElligott throughout her 19 years in Ione.

"She's still really good," says McElligott.

At the same time, McElligott says, the focus is on fun, not competition.

"We let the kids put the pressure on themselves and stress having fun," she says. "If you lose, you lose. As long as you are progressing and having fun."

"It must be working," she adds. "They keep coming back."

Not counted as part of the fun is the weather, which is unpredictable at best during the February to mid-May tennis season—and downright awful

"You go a long ways to get miserable sometimes,"

McElligott recalls times spent waiting for the bus in the pouring rain, and even one spring when she and Kendrick had to shovel snow off the tennis court after a March storm.

"It was so deep, we couldn't practice," she says.

Things have changed in tennis over the years, especially as Oregon School (OSAA) occasionally re- Heppner sent several exdraws the district lines.

just in this area there were the number to 28. around our own size," she says, adding that the 22 schools in Eastern Oregon the tennis district included all of Eastern Oregon.

The expanded districts and the focus on fun haven't hurt the team's record, though. McElligott says most players begin as fresh- along the way when McElman and develop as players ligott has considered quitover the years.

really progress nicely," she

In all her years of coaching tennis, McElli- or I would have dropped gott says she's taken teams it," she says. "I can't stay to the state competition 34 on forever, but I can still times, with two individuals move." placing fifth at the state

The year of the first district expansion, the boys' team won first place in the "We've always ended

up pretty high, second or

third in districts," she says. She says the Ione tennis team, which is usually formed cooperatively with Arlington and Heppner,

Activities Association a year. One year, she recalls, change students to be part "We used to play teams of the team, which bumped

"That was fun, too,"

This year's Cardinal used to be divided into four team of 17 included 15 districts. Those districts Ione students and two hokept expanding. This year, meschoolers. The girls took second as a team in the district competition, along with other individual achievements for both girls and boys.

There have been years ting for good, but it hasn't "Some of these kids happened yet. She says she plans to continue coaching through next year, at least.

"It's been fun, for years,

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Famous podcaster to speak at Republican fundraiser



speak at the Republican fundraiser Thursday in Heppner. -Contributed photo

Heppner native Bryan Dean Wright will be returning to his roots this week when he comes home to speak at the Morrow Coun-

Center Thursday. terms "un-American" and Tucker Carlson Tonight. "destructive" forces. He's now a staunch Republican, home in Arizona. helping to give life to the within the party.

Wright Report—he has also more information. written about his political

ty Republican fundraiser at journey for multiple press the Gilliam & Bisbee Event outlets. He has written extensively about national se-Wright was raised in curity issues and the econothe Heppner area and then my, specifically technology went on to serve abroad in and illegal immigration. the CIA for several years. His work has appeared in He says he was originally a outlets ranging from the Democrat but watched with Fox News website to the alarm as he saw his lifelong LA Times. He has also apparty embrace what he peared on TV programs like

He now makes his

The Republican dinner America First movement and auction is this Thursday, June 22. Doors open at Aside from having two 5 p.m. with dinner at 5:30. successful podcasts of his Wright will speak at 6 p.m. own—first the President's Tickets are \$25. Contact Daily Brief and now The mocoreps@gmail.com for

Heppner burn ban begins June 26

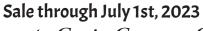
Heppner Fire Chief Monday, June 26, for all burning within the Heppner city limits of. This ban inburn ban is in effect until further notice.

City of Heppner resi- 541-980-4232 or Heppner Steve Rhea has advised a dents can still request that Assistant Fire Chief Eric burn ban will go into effect the fire department burn Chick at 541-701-4910. natural vegetation and debris piles, however. A sig- to remind residents that nup sheet for fire depart- it is illegal to burn any cludes all burn barrels. The ment assistance is available petroleum-based products at Heppner City Hall, or such as plastics, rubbers, residents can call Rhea at Styrofoam, etc.

Rhea would also like

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