

Sports shorts

Golden Eagles, Cougars unite with common goal

MISSION — The Nixyaawii Golden Eagles and Echo Cougars will team up again to raise funds for American Cancer Society with their annual Bouncin’ Cancer basketball games.

The teams will be holding fundraisers at Friday’s games in Mission as well as honoring cancer survivors on the court between the girls and boys games.

Bouncin’ Cancer has raised more than \$45,000 in five years.

The girls game is scheduled for a 6 p.m. tip-off with the boys following at 7:30 p.m.

Djokovic wins 6th Australian title

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — After maintaining his perfect record in six finals at Melbourne Park — and extending his old friend Andy Murray’s streak to five losses from five championship deciders Down Under — Novak Djokovic had hundreds of Serbian fans singing and chanting his name so loudly he could barely hear questions in a TV interview.

“I never experienced this much crowd and this much love,” Djokovic said. “I’ve had the fortune to win this trophy now six times, but I never experienced such support.”

Djokovic has won the last three Grand Slam titles, and four of the last five, to lift his career haul to 11 — equaling Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg in fifth place on the all-time list.

“It’s one that’s going to change his life. Whether it be this year, next year or the year after.”

— John Elway
Denver Broncos team president saying he will allow quarterback Peyton Manning to make his decision about retirement at his own pace. Elway, speaking to reporters at Monday’s Super Bowl media day also said the team will make an effort to resign backup QB Brock Osweiler regardless of what decision Manning makes. Manning, 39, who has dealt with numerous injuries and declining skills in recent seasons, would make \$19 million next season should he return.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1876 — The National League forms, consisting of teams in Philadelphia, Hartford, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis and New York.

1967 — The American Basketball Association begins operation with George Mikan as commissioner. The league has 10 teams in two divisions, with franchises in New York, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Oakland and Anaheim.

2009 — Kobe Bryant breaks the Madison Square Garden record with 61 points to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 126-117 victory over New York.

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HEPPNER
Pioneers take top spot at BEO Invite

Mac-Hi wrestling earns 15 placers to take the victory at Heppner tournament

East Oregonian

The Heppner Mustangs hosted the Bank of Eastern Oregon Invite tournament on Saturday that brought

in 14 teams from across the region. When it was all said and done, the Mac-Hi Pioneers came out on top with 167 points to win the team title, barely edging out the Riverside Pirates who finished second with 164 points.

The host Mustangs finished tied with the Irrigon Knights for fourth place with 104 points, while the Hermiston junior varsity ended up in seventh place with 82 points. The Echo Cougars finished in 10th place

to round out the area teams.

Mac-Hi was lifted by 15 of its 17 competitors placing in the tournament, led by Jose Oliva winning at 145 pounds, Cole Skramstad at 160 pounds and Alyxander Shaw at 170 pounds.

Riverside finished with nine placers on the day, headlined by champions A.J. Rockwell at 126 pounds and Tyeler Hancock at 138 pounds. Rockwell’s win was mighty impressive, pinning Grant Union’s

Jay Goldblatt a mere 13 seconds into the match.

Other champions on the day were Heppner’s Ryan Smith at 113 pounds and Hermiston’s Jesus Rodriguez at 120 pounds — who defeated Riverside’s Andrew Barker on a 17-4 major decision. Smith improved to 28-0 on the season with his performance on the weekend, earning his title on a 12-0 major decision over Riverside’s Silvestre Vazquez.

STANFIELD
Heppner holds on to first

Mustangs bounce back from loss with one-point win over Stanfield

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

The play worked exactly as it was supposed to.

With one second remaining and the Stanfield Tigers boys down 44-43, the Mustang defense collapsed down on Stanfield junior Dylan Grogan on the baseline inbounds, leaving Brody Woods open from eight feet out. The lob was accurate, Woods caught it and tossed it at the rim in one motion, but it went off back iron, giving Heppner an exciting one-point win Saturday evening.

“What can you ask for? We had the chance, had the opportunity,” Stanfield coach Victor Baros said. “Like I told the boys, ‘You can’t predict how the ball is gonna bounce. It’ll go in or go out.’ We had the opportunity.

“I knew by setting up that play that the ball was probably gonna end up in Brody’s hands. I knew they’d be tight on Dylan. That’s exactly how it happened, but the ball didn’t bounce the right way.”

For Heppner (16-2, 6-1), it was a quality win, especially considering the motivation Stanfield (13-5, 5-2) had after

See MUSTANGS/3B



Stanfield’s Brody Woods (32) is defended by Heppner’s Patrick Collins during the first half of Heppner’s 44-43 win Saturday in Stanfield.

Staff photo by Sam Barbree

Tigers blow past Mustangs

Stanfield girls improve to .500

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

After a slow start by both teams in Stanfield and perhaps a bit of a hangover from Stanfield after a big win Friday night at Pilot

Rock, the Tigers used big second and third quarters to handle the Mustangs Friday night 38-24.

Now player scored in double figures. Cynthia

Curiel led everybody with nine points for Stanfield (9-9, 4-3), and Jacee Currin led Heppner (2-16, 0-7) with eight points and seven rebounds.

With starting guard Bailey Watson back in the lineup after missing several weeks due to an injury, Stanfield coach Daniel Sharp feels there’s finally some continuity back with his offense.

“When played on Tuesday, it was the first time we’ve had all 12 girls we started with a month and a half ago,” he said. “We’ve had various injuries and (players) gone (sometimes), and we’re back now. We had another girl go down with a sprained ankle the other night, but the continuity

See TIGERS/3B

PENDLETON
Timberwolves end losing streak against Chukars

Big second half lifts Blue Mountain men to first league win

East Oregonian

The Blue Mountain Timberwolves powered past the Treasure Valley Chukars with a strong second half performance to earn its first NWAC East victory of the season 82-71 on Saturday.

Blue Mountain (10-12, 1-6 East) trailed Treasure Valley 39-38 at halftime, but outscored the Chukars 44-32 in the second half, sinking 14-25 (56 percent) field goal attempts and 4-8 from 3-point range to run away.

On the flip side, Treasure Valley (3-15, 1-6) shot 12-31 (38 percent) from the floor in the second half, and misfired on all seven 3-point attempts.

Jared Schultz had a big game for the Timberwolves, leading the team with 21 points on 6-8 shooting and nailed 8-9 from the free throw line to go along with five assists. Jared Matthews produced a double-double with

Men’s Hoops	
	
Treasure Valley	Blue Mountain
71	82

17 points on 8-10 shooting and grabbed 10 boards.

Rayfield Bell and D’Quan Crockett each added 13 points to round out the double-digit scorers for the Timberwolves. Crockett nailed a team-best three 3-pointers in the game.

The win ends a six-game losing streak — all in conference play — that dated back to Dec. 30 in a 96-82 win on the road over Grays Harbor.

TVCC (3-15, 1-6) 39 32 — 71
BMCC (10-12, 1-6) 38 44 — 82
TREASURE VALLEY — S. Ingram 18, M. Pennock 11, J. Schetzle 10, A. Alip 9, T. Hooper 8, J. Dwyer 7, S. Ziegner 4, D. Robertson 2, B. Brun 2.
BLUE MOUNTAIN — J. Schultz 21, J. Matthews 17, R. Bell 13, D. Crockett 13, Q. George 8, L. Meyers 5, I. Harris 3, A. Dean 2, L. Hawkins, G. Blankenship, T. Thomas, T. Thurman.
3-pointers — TVCC 6, BMCC 6. Free throws — TVCC 11-20, BMCC 18-38. Fouls — TVCC 25, BMCC 19. Fouled out — M. Pennock (TVCC), J. Schetzle (TVCC), L. Meyers (BMCC).

Women’s Basketball
TREASURE VALLEY 63, BLUE MOUNTAIN 53 — At Pendleton, a slow first half was too

See TIMBERWOLVES/3B



BMCC’s Jared Matthews (10) goes for a layup Saturday in Pendleton as Thomas Hooper (3), of Treasure Valley, gets in position for a rebound.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney