

Hermiston ready to welcome basketball and football events

Kennison Field will host 3 state football playoff games Saturday

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The city of Hermiston will nearly double in size this weekend as 110 AAU basketball teams are invading the town, and Hermiston High School is hosting three high school football playoff games at Kennison Field.

“We have a contract with the OSAA, and it’s worth it for the amount of money it puts back into our community,” Hermiston athletic director Larry Usher said.

“We have hosted several events before. The OSAA looks to us because we have nice facilities.”

Hermiston, with the help of Echo and Stanfield, will host the Autumn Kickoff Classic. Basketball games will be played Saturday and Sunday in every available gym in all three towns.

“If there is another event that brings an economic boon to our economy like the AAU tournaments, I’d like to know what it is,” said Usher, who noted that AAU events also will be held in December, January and February. “All of that money stays in our community. It’s easily \$300,000 per weekend.”

Add in the three football games, and that amount will go up.

“It’s awesome for our community,” Hermiston Chamber of Commerce CEO Kimberly Nevil said of the upcoming events. “It’s great for our hospitality industry, restaurants and other businesses. I think our community does well to support things like this.”

A check of local hotel websites shows no vacancies at some properties, while others have anywhere from one to five rooms available.

“The amount of hotel rooms determines what events we can bring to town,” Nevil said. “That’s the cool thing about Hermiston — it’s not just one week a year. We have welcomed events that make Hermiston a wonderful

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EO file photo
Hermiston High School will host three state football playoff games Saturday at Kennison Field.



EO file photo
Pendleton’s Walker Camp rushes the ball as teammate Ty Patrick (6) puts a block on La Salle’s Matthew Evans in the Bucks’ 62-14 win against La Salle on Oct. 5, 2018, in Pendleton. Camp and Patrick recently earned first-team all-league honors for their 2019 season.

Pendleton places 19 athletes in 5A Special District 1 All-Star Selections

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Although the Pendleton football team’s state run ended sooner than they had hoped, that didn’t stop the Intermountain Conference from taking note of their diverse talent.

The Buckaroos placed six athletes on the 5A Special District 1 East All-Star first team, four on the second team, and also had nine honorable mentions.

“I was able to nominate quite a few of the kids,” Pendleton coach Erik Davis said, “but it was the other coaches who voted for them. It’s a big thing to have the rest of the league recognize them.”

The Bucks placed sophomore Kyle Liscom on the first team as a linebacker, senior Kason Broncheau as a corner, senior Travis McGee as a tackle, senior Greyson Clark as a center, and junior Zaanan Bane

as a running back. But it was senior Walker Camp who shone as the most decorated Buck, being named a first-team safety and wide receiver. Camp was also named a second-team place kicker.

“He was definitely one of our most valuable players,” Davis said of Camp. “He was just one of those kids that we were lucky to have on the team.”

Senior down lineman Chris Charpentier, senior linebacker Nat Hunsacker, and senior wide receiver Ty Patrick joined Camp on the second team.

Junior down linemen Isaac Urbina and Blake Swanson, senior linebacker Wilbert Salazar, senior guard Connor Cary, and senior quarterbacks Cooper Roberts and Tanner Sweek were named honorable mentions. Sweek was also named an honorable mention punter, Bane a returner, and Liscom a wide receiver.

The Buckaroos ended their 2019 season at 6-3 overall and 4-1 in 5A SD1 play, where they fell to

the Scappoose Indians 23-14 in the first round of the state playoffs. Their season included a five-game streak and two consecutive road shutouts.

“Our season didn’t end the way we wanted it to,” coach Davis said, “but for us to be a playoff team — that’s always the goal. Our kids played hard and worked at their craft. They all strived to be great. We’re proud of the kids. We’re small in numbers, but had kids who could play on both sides of the ball.”

The Parkrose Broncos claimed many of the conference’s top honors, including Coach of the Year for Keanon Lowe, Offensive Player of the Year for Taydrian Jackson, and Defensive Player of the Year for Tre Singleton. Parkrose’s Ty Delgado shared the Co-Lineman of the Year title with Hood River Valley’s Henry Buckles.

The Broncos were recently knocked out of the state playoff running in a 49-0 quarterfinals road loss to Crater last Friday.

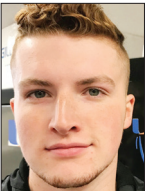
Umatilla, Irrigon players earn Eastern Oregon League honors

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

UMATILLA — Umatilla’s Cody Thacker earned Eastern Oregon League second-team honors on both sides of the ball — as a tight end and defensive lineman.

Eric Hoyos and Kaden Salamanca earned honorable mention honors on offense and defense for the Vikings. Hoyas as a running back and linebacker, and Salamanca as an offensive and defensive lineman.

Earning second-team honors for



Thacker

Umatilla were Darian Smith (offensive line), Izayah Rodarte (receiver), and Andrew Earl (defensive back).

Irrigon offensive lineman Jack Curtis was named to the second team, while teammates Frank Chapa (running back), Ryan Hussey (defensive back) and Dylan Johnston (receiver) earned honorable-mention honors.

Sophomore Jaden Tiller of Burns was named the Offensive Player of the Year, while Hilanders coach Terry Graham was named Coach of the Year.

Burns’ Sean Wilbur was named lineman of the year.

Vale linebacker Jared Fulwyler, and Burns linebacker Mick Winn, were named the Defensive Players of the Year.

EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE

DEFENSE

First Team
Linebacker — Jared Fulwyler, sr., Vale; Mick Winn, sr., Burns; Santiago Miranda, so., Nyssa; Matt McBride, sr., Vale.
Defensive line — Harlen Gunderson, sr., Burns; Sean Wilbur, sr., Burns; Jacob Graviat, sr., Vale; Mortiz Rusp, sr., Vale.
Defensive back — Colton Kesey, sr., Vale; William Johnson, sr., Burns; TJ Speelman, sr., Vale; Aiden Moyes, sr., Nyssa.
Punter — Aleonzo Calderon, sr., Nyssa.

Second Team
Linebacker — John Wolfe, so., Vale; Wyatt Epling, so., Burns; Vicente Arteaga, jr., Vale; Elijah Cleaver, sr., Nyssa.
Defensive line — Cody Thacker, sr., Umatilla; Pierce Epling, sr., Burns; Adam Simpson, sr., Nyssa; Bryan Flores, sr., Nyssa.
Defensive back — Jason Ponce, sr., Vale; Andrew Earl, sr., Umatilla; Pedro Chavez, sr., Nyssa; Dawson Williams, sr., Burns.

HONORABLE MENTION
Linebacker — Eric Hoyas, jr., Nyssa; Branson Vela, so., Nyssa; Anthony Moulton, sr., Burns; Ryan Lawrance, jr., Umatilla.

Defensive line — Brock Payne, sr., Vale; Devan Otley-Smith, so. Burns; Kaden Salamanca, fr., Umatilla.
Defensive back — Ryan Hussey, jr., Irrigon; Trent Aldred, jr., Vale; Jaden Tiller, so. Burns; Arrick Russell, sr., Umatilla; Justin Winn, jr., Burns.

OFFENSE

First Team
Quarterback — Jaden Tiller, so. Burns.
Tight end — Harlen Gunderson, sr., Burns.
Offensive line — Sean Wilbur, sr., Burns; Jacob Graviat, sr., Vale; Matt Arritola, jr., Vale; Jonathan Lopez, sr., Nyssa; Jeremiah Daugherty, sr., Vale.
Kicker — Aleonzo Calderon, sr., Nyssa.
Wide receiver — TJ Speelman, sr., Vale; Pedro Chavez, sr., Nyssa; Justin Winn, jr., Burns.
Running back — Dakota Ceja, sr., Burns; Jared Fulwyler, sr., Vale; Caleb Benson, jr., Nyssa.

Second Team
Quarterback — Colton Kesey, sr., Vale.
Tight end — Cody Thacker, sr., Umatilla.
Offensive line — Darian Smith, sr., Umatilla; Adam Simpson, sr., Nyssa; Bryan Flores, jr., Nyssa; William Tolman, so., Vale; Jack Curtis, so., Irrigon.
Wide receiver — Jason Ponce, sr., Vale; Teagan Moody, jr., Nyssa; Izayah Rodarte, so., Umatilla.
Running back — Keegan Mizuta, sr., Vale; Mick Winn, sr., Burns; Matt McBride, sr., Vale.

HONORABLE MENTION
Quarterback — Landon McDowall, so., Nyssa.
Tight end — Elijah Cleaver, sr., Nyssa.
Offensive line — Devan Otley-Smith, so., Burns; Kaden Salamanca, fr., Umatilla; Payton Kelson, jr., Vale; Emilio Olvera, so., Nyssa.
Wide receiver — Dalhton Proffitt, so., Burns; Dylan Johnston, sr., Irrigon; John Wolfe, so., Vale.
Running back — Frank Chapa, so., Irrigon; Santiago Miranda, so., Nyssa; Eric Hoyas, jr., Umatilla.