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Cards win Big Sky Conference, District Tournament Champions



Cardinals celebrate district win

By Anne Morter

The Ione Cardinals wrapped up a state tournament berth and the Big Sky Conference Championship with a victory over Sherman County last Friday at Umatilla High School. By defeating the Huskies, the number-one team from the East Division, the Cards claimed the conference's number-one seeding, heading into the state tournament to be held March 3-7 in Baker City.

The game was close from the start. The Cards came out with the hot shooting hand, grabbing a 17-12 first quarter lead. By halftime, the Huskies worked their way back into the game and into a 28-28 tie with the Cardinals. It was a three or four point, back and forth game in the second half. In the fourth quarter,

Sherman held a five-point lead before the Cards came roaring back. Gabe Garcia hit a three-pointer to tie the game and then down the stretch David Wagenblast hit six crucial free throws in a row to ice the win and the Cardinals first trip to the state tournament since 1980.

Mike Garrett led all scorers with 22 points. Ryan Halvorsen, playing a super first half, added 17 points shooting eight for 10 from the floor. Garcia added 12 and Wagenblast had 10 to pace the Cardinals in double figures. Mike Garrett pulled down 10 boards to lead the Cards to a 30-24 rebounding edge. Halvorsen and Aaron Heideman added seven each. Along with his clutch free throw shooting, David

Wagenblast had nine assists and Garrett led the team with three steals.

The Cards shot 25 of 55 for 45 percent from the floor. At the line, they were 16 of 24 for 67 percent. Sherman also had some good shooting numbers, hitting 25 of 40 from the floor for 62 percent and 11 of 15 from the line for 73 percent.

"The kids played well. I was pleased with the way they played down the stretch," said coach Del LaRue. "They kept their poise--they were determined to go (to state)," he added.

The Cardinals will kick off State Tournament play against Wallowa in Baker City. That game is scheduled for Thursday, March 5 at Baker High School.

Mustangs/Fillies head for District

Four teams Columbia Basin Conference teams are headed for District Tournament action this weekend Feb. 28 and 29 at the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton.

In the girls bracket second place Heppner (10-2) faces off against third place Pilot Rock (7-5) in a 1:30 p.m. match and number one Weston-McEwen (12-0) plays fourth place Wahtonka (5-7) in an evening game. The winners of these games will play Saturday at 1:30 p.m. to determine the top seed at the Class 2A regional tournament held March 6-7 in Pendleton.

The Heppner Mustangs (8-4) are headed into the tournament in third place and will play the second place team Wasco County

Redsides (9-3). The Mustangs split with with the much bigger Wasco County in regular league play and are looking for another win when they meet again at 3 p.m. at the Convention Center. League champion Weston-McEwen (11-1) will play fourth place Pilot Rock (6-6) in an evening game beginning approximately at 8:30 p.m. for the right to advance to the Class 2A regional tournament March 6-7 in Pendleton. The winners of these games will play Saturday at 3 p.m. to determine seed for regionals.

If the league champion loses in the first round it would play at home against the loser of Saturday's game in a challenge for the No. 2 regional tournament seed.

Heppner residents have no water

Several Heppner residents suddenly found themselves out of water one day last week. And the city found themselves in hot water.

According to Heppner city administrator Gary Marks, the city neglected to notify residents ahead of time, before turning their water off. "The city apologizes for our error," said Marks.

Marks said that normal policy is to give notice to property owners who are at home in affected areas, unless there is an emergency.

The water outage affected residents in the Rock St. area out to the fairgrounds.

A wee bit o' Ireland almost here

Heppner's Irish celebration co-chairmen Claudia Hughes and Diana Ball feel it's probably no secret that the festivities are March 13, 14 and 15. Some 30 plus committee members have been meeting monthly while numerous others are behind the scenes participating in the pageant, cooking, making costumes, painting signs, gathering auction items, making buttons, cleaning the creek, preparing for the ducky race, practicing Irish music, and doing all the other jobs required for a successful celebration.

Some changes and new events this year are:

Concessions—those organizations having concessions are to sign up at the city hall after the owner of the property has approved the location. This will ensure that concessions are easily accessible to all events and that the information booth knows their location.

Pageant—a new and exciting event for Heppner. "Erin Came to County Morrow" will be a family pageant to include history, music, all generations and fun for everyone. Jane Rawlins and crew are hard at work and invite one

and all to attend the pageant Saturday, March 14 at 8 p.m. night at 7:30 p.m.—a great place to go after Mrs. O'Leary's Irish Stew.

Volkswalk—the Valley Volkswalkers and Rose City Roamers will be hosting a volkswalk between noon and 2 p.m. at Heppner High school and ending at 5 p.m. Route information is available at the Chamber office.

Of course, KUMA Coffee Hour, the parade, bed race and the traditional events of the past will be repeated. Remember, the St. Patrick's auction to be held across from the city park, brings in funding for next year's event, so one and all are encouraged to donate auction items.

Hughes and Ball encourage everyone to become involved and to send brochures and posters to friends and relatives. RV Parking will be available at the fairgrounds. "It takes a lot of leprechauns to make Heppner's annual 'Wee Bit O' Ireland' a success," says Hughes, "and the many volunteers are to be commended." Get ready for the wearing 'o the green."

Buttons—this year is the 10th anniversary so a special "pot o' gold button has been created by Judie Laughlin. Purchase of this \$5 button by anyone over 18 will make them eligible to win the \$500 "pot o' gold" to be drawn Sunday, March 15 during the lamb barbecue at the fairgrounds.

O'Golfer Challenge—the Willow Creek Golfers are challenging golf cart owners to decorate their vehicles for the parade. Of course, extra points just might be given if there happens to be a leprechaun at the wheel. Sounds like an event that might grow each year.

Shuttle Service—the Senior Center will be offering a shuttle service from the St. Patrick's Senior Center to the craft fair located at All Saints Episcopal Church and on to the sheep dog trials. The shuttle will run from 10 to noon and 2-4 p.m. on the half hour. Donations to the leprechauns pot will be accepted.

Concert—returning this year will be the Whammadiddle Dingbats from the valley. They will be featured at the junior high Friday

County health care a good deal according to study

A research report by Mountain States Health Corporation and the University of Idaho has determined that the health care system in Morrow County is economically viable. According to the report, there is a \$380,908 return to the community on the \$173,901 taxes invested in Pioneer Memorial Hospital. "For the amount of money the county puts into it, you're getting two for one," said Neil Meyer, economist from the University of Idaho. "You're getting more out of it than you're putting in."

Out of total revenues of \$2,380,675, \$173,901 came from taxes and \$380,908 was returned to the community.

While most health care givers at a meeting Tuesday evening in Heppner were pleased with the results, others felt it did not reflect the changes since the study began.

"I'm happy with the results," said Heppner physician Jeanne Berretta. "Having Western Health Resources (hospital management firm) come in was an incredibly big boost. The study educated people in both the north and the south areas of Morrow County."

Jay Straley, PMH laboratory clinician, however, said that he felt the study did not adequately take in to account the changes at the hospital since the study was initiated. More lab work is done in county, he said, and a new physical therapist at PMH will keep more money in the county. Two physicians now operate the PMH Clinic while in 1987 there was only one physician in Heppner, Dr. Wallace Wolff.

Meyer said, however, that while the study model was based in 1987 the figures are from 1990.

The study also did not take into account the social value of the hospital, said Meyer, which cannot be measured.

Meyer suggested to hospital and clinic officials that "you buy what you can locally. Give local people the opportunity."

According to data from the study the county's entire medical system, including the hospital, nursing home, doctors and dentists, are eleven out of 20 county wide in terms of value added at \$3,100,000, ranking behind food production, food processing, government industry, electric services, communications, cattle production, wood products, owner occupied dwellings, general retail trade, and road con-

struction. Value added is defined as wages and salaries, capital income and direct business taxes.)

Roger Cash, medical board member from Boardman, commented however, that many of the people who work at the food processing plant and PGE in north Morrow County do not live in Morrow County and do not return money to the Morrow County economy.

In terms of employment, the county's health care system ranks ninth out of 20 in employment, with 106 and tenth out of 20 in employee compensation at \$2,500,000.

According to the report, for every dollar that Pioneer Memorial Hospital spends to provide services, 42 cents is paid

directly to employees salaries and benefits, four cents is used to purchase goods and services from within the county (including building maintenance, utilities, postage, printing, etc.) and 54 cents is used to buy goods and services from outside Morrow County (including laboratory and medical supplies, medical equipment and maintenance.)

For every dollar that PMH Medical Clinic in Heppner and the Boardman Health Care Center spends to provide services, 50 cents is paid directly to employees as salary and benefits, six cents is paid to purchase goods and services from within the county and 44 cents is used to buy goods and services from outside Morrow County.

Get your St. Pat's button

A lucky person with the right "Pot O' Gold" button can win \$500 during the Heppner St. Patrick's celebration.

The St. Patrick's Day buttons, created by Judie Laughlin, are available for \$5 each at Murray's

Drug, Heppner TV, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Shoe Box and First Interstate Bank.

Anyone 18 or over is eligible to win. The drawing will be Sunday, March 15 during the lamb barbecue at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

Wallace files for district judge



Jeff Wallace

Jeff Wallace, Morrow County District Attorney, announced that he has filed with the Secretary of State's office to become an official candidate for Umatilla-Morrow County District Court Judge. The position will be on the ballot in the May primary election.

Wallace also announced that former legislator Stafford Hansell and Milton-Freewater farmer

Martin Buchanan will serve as co-chairmen of his campaign steering committee. The committee also includes Pendleton realtor Calvin Garton, Dan Daltoso of Boardman, former Riverside High School principal, Weston farmer Chuck Price, Umapine farmer Marvin Key and Bob Cooper of Hermiston, a former member of the Umatilla County Fair Board, Keith Lewis of Heppner will serve as campaign treasurer.

Wallace has served as Morrow County District Attorney since 1987. He was also a deputy district attorney in Umatilla County and was in private law practice in Milton-Freewater and Pendleton for four years. He served as city administrator for Weston from 1981 to 1983 and is a former state FFA officer and a lifelong Eastern Oregon resident.

"I believe that my broad base of experience in criminal prosecution, municipal law and private practice will be assets on the district court bench," said Wallace. "I would also bring a solid background in both agriculture and law enforcement, as well as years of experience as a trial lawyer, to the district court."

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