

"B" team Ponies sink to Vikings

By Larry Palmer

The "B" team Ponies invaded the Vikings in Umatilla, but it was the Vikings who turned the tide on the Ponies and nailed down a 35-22 victory.

The Ponies tried to mount a charge against their horned foe, but were denied and looked at a 12-3 deficit. But a defense was surmounted and the points ripped the twine as the Ponies trimmed the score to be down by four, 14-10.

The second half didn't allow the Ponies much time to munch as the oarsmen found their rhythm and began to distance themselves from the herd, outscoring the Ponies 8-3. The win whipped their sails in the fourth and the final score saw the Vikings winning 35-22.

The Ponies were led by Jared Huddleston with six points. Following close behind were Brent Eckman, Jordan Hatfield and Chris Wellington with five points each and Zach McCall dropped in one point. Also helping were Justin Key, Tomas Elguezabal, Grant Smith, Luke Young, Drew Johnson and Lane Wright.

Heppner 3 7 3 9-22
Umatilla 12 2 8 13-35

"A" team Ponies fall to Vikings

By Larry Palmer

The "A" team Ponies needed "Mr. T" against the Umatilla Vikings as the home team hammered the Ponies in a 43-17 victory. The Ponies needed a quicker kick start as they fell behind early 5-0 and by the half were looking at a 20-5 dubbing.

But like Rip VanWinkle, the Ponies did awaken and held their own in the second half scoring six and nine respectively in the third and fourth quarter. They finally got their offense going and didn't run away with their tails dragging. The Ponies defense showed in the fourth where the Vikings could only claim two points.

The contributors in this showdown were Braden Britt with four points and nine rebounds, Dalton Wellman sank in four, Spencer Palmer topped in four points and seven boards, Josh Shank had seven rebounds, Sam King connected for three points, Jared Huddleston made good for two and Brent Eckman, Joe Pranger and Matt Holland helped as well.

Heppner 0 2 6 9-17
Umatilla 5 20 15 2-43

FARM Foundation TV raffle to be held during Town and Country

Cliff Green donated a 32-inch Toshiba TV set to the FARM Foundation, with proceeds to go toward completion of the mural on the agricultural museum. Tickets for that drawing will be available at Heppner Hardware until the Town and Country Banquet in January. Last week's article incorrectly stated that the drawing would be held after the Light Parade on Dec. 2.

The raffle drawing for the quilted Christmas wall hanging made by Judie Laughlin and donated by the Willow Creek Valley Service Club to the mural effort will be held after the Light Parade on Dec. 2.

Raffle tickets for both items are also on sale at the Heppner TV Office and will be available from mural committee members. Ticket prices are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Electrical safety poster contest winners announced

Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op announces the winners of its annual Electrical Safety Poster contest. The competition is open to all fourth graders in their service territory. The year 2004 winners were announced at the CBEC annual meeting held in Heppner on Thursday night.

First place winners are awarded \$20 and second place winners are awarded \$10. Winners were as follows: Condon Grade School: 1st- Justin Irzyk and

2nd- Hannah Fatland; Fossil Grade School: 1st- MacKenzie Nelson and 2nd- Tallon Conner; Heppner Grade School: 1st- Bryce Fowler and 2nd- Garrett Robinson; and Ione Grade School: 1st- Stacey Halvorson and 2nd- Evan Rietmann.

The contest generated 46 entries. Electricity is like most tools: it can make our lives much easier and more pleasant, but if used carelessly, can be dangerous.

Garden Club now taking holiday décor orders

The Heppner Garden Club is taking orders for wreaths, candy canes and swags. To place an order, call Ida Farra at 676-9446 from Nov. 20 through Dec. 4. Orders may be picked up at the Fairgrounds from Nov. 30 to Dec. 4. Items are \$20 each.

The Greens Workshop, to make your own wreath, is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Greens and supplies are available.

A raffle is also being held for a fleece lap robe. Ticket prices at one for \$1 and six for \$5.

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Umatilla-Morrow ESD participates in Child Find

Schools in Umatilla and Morrow counties are attempting to locate all persons between the ages of 0 (birth) through 21 not enrolled in public school who may have special needs due to concerns with the following: vision, hearing, speech, language, health, general development, behavior, body movement and learning.

If you have any of the above concerns regarding a child in your care who is aged 5-21, please contact your local school district special education department contact person listed below: Jack Johns, Morrow County School District R-1, 500 Tatone St., Boardman, OR 97818, (541) 481-4202; or Niki Brown, Ione School District R-2, 2100 SW Nye, Pendleton, OR 97801; (541) 966-3131.

If you have any of the above concerns regarding a child in your care who is aged birth to 5, please contact the Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Program, at the Umatilla-Morrow ESD, at (800) 927-5847 or, for Pendleton District residents, 966-3133. Or you may contact Niki Brown, EI/ECSE Program Coordinator at (541) 966-3131.

DA's Report

Nicholas Tony Ray Robbins was convicted of Attempt A/Felony Manufacture/Delivery of a Controlled Substance-SC 1, a Class B felony. Robbins driver's license was suspended for 180 days and he was sentenced to 18 months supervised probation, 30 days in jail, 80 hours community service and payment of \$166 in fines and fees. Robbins also admitted to violation of probation allegations for Robbery III. He was sentenced to six months in jail and 24 months probation. The two sentences will run concurrent.

William Dean Rill pled guilty to Criminal Mischief II, a Class-A misdemeanor. Rill was sentenced to 30 suspended days in jail, 24 months bench probation, no livestock on other property owner's lands and payment of \$214 in fines and fees.

Oregon Wheat Commission to meet

The Oregon Wheat Commission will hold a regular meeting on Sunday, Dec. 5, just prior to the Oregon Wheat Growers Convention in the Embassy Suites Washington Square located at 9000 Washington Square Road, Tigard, at 10 a.m.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. The ADA prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities. To request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities, please contact the Oregon Wheat Commission office 48 hours in advance at (503) 229-6665 or TTY (503) 986-4762.

The Commission meeting is open to the public and anyone wishing to attend is encouraged and welcomed to do so.

Public comment period for draft wolf plan extended

The public comment period for the draft Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan has been extended by a month and a third public hearing scheduled to ensure that all Oregonians with an interest in wolves have sufficient time to provide input, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced.

With the new timeline, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission is scheduled to make a final rulemaking decision on the draft plan and associated administrative rules Friday, Feb. 11, 2005, during a regularly scheduled meeting to be held in Troutdale. Final adoption was originally scheduled for early January. The seven-member Commission is the rulemaking body for fish and wildlife issues in Oregon.

The decision to extend the public comment period was made after the Union County Cattlemen made a formal demand as allowed under the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act.

The official public comment period for rulemaking began Nov. 1 and lasts through close of business, Thursday, Feb. 10, 2005. People wishing to comment on the draft plan and draft rules may submit written comments by mail, e-mail or fax, and may testify at any of three public hearings to be held in front of the Commission- Dec. 10, 2004, Jan. 6, 2005 and Feb. 10, 2005. Although all comments will be considered, the Commission has encouraged those with written comments are encouraged to submit them before Feb. 4, 2005, to allow Commission members the maximum amount of time to analyze the comments before voting on the plan.

The draft plan, minority reports, draft administrative rules and other information can be found on ODFW's Web site at www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/main.html. Copies also may be obtained by request at any ODFW regional or district office.

Written public comments on the draft plan will be accepted at the following locations: by e-mail at Odfw.Comments@state.or.us; by fax, (503) 947-6009; and by mail, ODFW Information and Education Division, 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97303-4924.

Public hearings will be held on the following dates and locations:

-Friday, Dec. 10, 2004: ODFW, Commission Room, 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97303-4924. The draft wolf plan is currently last on the Commission's day-long agenda and public testimony is expected to begin in the afternoon.

-Thursday, Jan. 6, 2005: ODFW, Commission Room, 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97303-4924. Testimony will be taken from 1-5 p.m.

-Thursday, Feb. 10, 2005: Testimony will be taken from 1-5 p.m. at a location to be announced in Troutdale.

The draft wolf plan does not call for actively reintroducing wolves from other states or provinces, but to manage wolves that naturally disperse into

Oregon. No wolves are confirmed in Oregon at this time, but biologists expect wolves to establish a permanent Oregon population as the Idaho wolf population grows and disperses. Wolves are currently protected under both the state and federal endangered species acts.

A 14-member Wolf Advisory Committee met monthly November 2003 through August 2004 to develop a plan that addresses concerns raised in a series of town hall meetings held throughout the state in late 2002 and early 2003. Committee members were appointed by the Commission to represent a broad range of Oregonians, including tribal members, eastern Oregon county commissioners, range and forestland conservationists, trappers, rural Oregonians, educators, wildlife biologists and researchers, hunters, livestock producers, economists, wolf conservationists, public land managers and citizens at large from eastern and western Oregon. Twelve of the 14 members of the committee support the final draft plan and two members filed minority reports.

The draft plan approaches wolf conservation by allowing wolves to migrate into Oregon, promoting social tolerance and dividing the state into eastern and western wolf management regions with population objectives for each region. The boundary between the two management regions follows Highway 97 from the Columbia River south to La Pine, Highway 31 south to Lakeview, and Highway 395 south to the California border.

The draft plan proposes using an adaptive management approach with three phases of wolf protection. Phase 1 focuses on achieving the "conservation population" objective of four breeding pairs for three consecutive years and protects wolves from lethal removal unless livestock losses are severe. Phase 2 focuses on achieving "management population" objectives of seven breeding pairs for three consecutive years. Phase 3 ensures the wolf population does not decline below Phase 1 levels or reach unmanageable levels that cause conflicts with other land uses.

The draft plan also calls for initiating the process to consider removing the gray wolf from the state Endangered Species Act list once a "conservation population" is established in eastern Oregon. It also proposes changing the species' legal status to a "special status mammal" within the state's game mammal category and allow the use of a range of management tools including controlled take of wolves through hunting or trapping. Any proposed change in legal status would require legislative action.

A key portion of the draft plan is the proposed establishment of a state-run compensation program for confirmed and probable losses of livestock and some working or hunting dogs due to wolf predation. The program could include funding all or part of the costs incurred by private

individuals implementing non-lethal wolf control methods and potential reimbursement for financial losses of lost or missing livestock. Any compensation package would require legislative action.

Questions regarding the rulemaking process or the draft plan may be directed to ODFW by calling Craig Ely at (541) 963-2138 or Anne Pressentin Young at (503) 657-2000, ext. 285.

Neiffer earns All-MWC honor

Adam Neiffer, of Ione, a junior linebacker at Beloit College in Beloit, WI, received an honorable mention in the All-Midwest Conference.

The linebacking trio of Neiffer, David Bilek and Dan Marsh combined to make 316 tackles. Neiffer's 122 tackles and 45 solo tackles led the Bucs. He also recorded two quarterback sacks, one interception and one fumble recovery.

Ione Legion and Auxiliary to host Christmas potluck and Bingo

Bring yourself, your family, a friend and your favorite food to share in the Ione American Legion and Auxiliary Christmas potluck on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ione Legion Hall. Bingo to follow dinner.

December projects include: "Christmas Shop" for the Vets- unwrapped gifts need to be delivered to Helen Crawford's or June Crowell's home by Dec. 1; "Support Our Troops"-Magnetic Ribbons, Jean Jepsen; and Community Christmas- gifts and cookies for individuals in the community.

Armed Services support group to start in Heppner

A "Support Our Troops" support group is beginning in Heppner. The first meeting will be held on Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. at Evelyn Sweek's home, 405 Water St., Heppner.

The group is meeting to offer support to families and friends who have someone in the Armed Services in any branch and to offer support to troops with supplies and care packages.

For more information, contact Evelyn Sweek at 676-9483 or Kay Qualls at 676-9705.

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