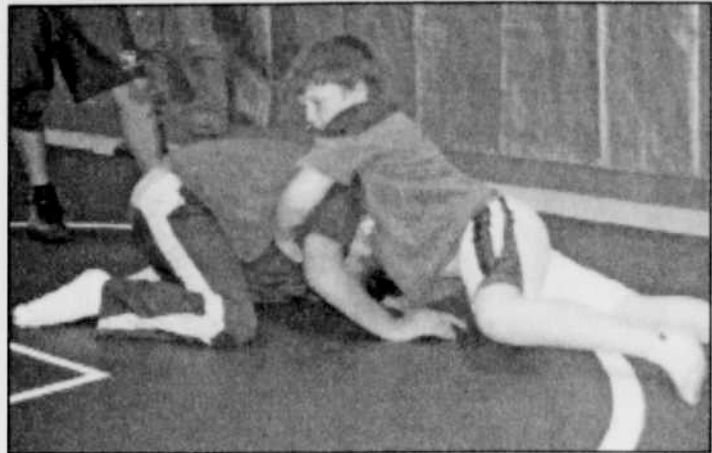


Colt wrestlers showcase what they have learned



Top Left: Will Lutcher attempts to take down Melissa Martin during their wrestling match.
 Bottom Photo: Patrick Collins (right) and John Propheter fight to take each other down.
 Top Right: Kaitlyn Martin tries to get away from Payton Lehman's hold during their wrestling match in the Colt Wrestling Tournament held this past Thursday. Another tournament will be held on Thursday, March 13. —Photos by Autumn Morgan

Ione Little League Baseball to hold sign-ups

Ione Little League Baseball will hold a one time sign-up session on Wednesday, March 12, at 5:30 p.m. at Wheatland Insurance. The cost is \$30 per player or \$60 per family. All new players need to bring a copy of their birth certificate.

Ione Little League Baseball is also looking for coaches and new board members.

For more information contact Gregg Rietmann at 422-7243.

Workshops on growing camelina for biofuel production offered

Growers interested in learning about the opportunities and rewards of growing camelina for renewable biodiesel are invited to attend one of two free workshops on Friday, March 7. The workshops will be held at 10 a.m. in Heppner at the SWCD Conference Room at 430 Linden Way and then at 3 p.m. in Pendleton at Blue Mountain Community College, 2411 NW Carden Avenue, Umatilla Hall, Room 100A.

Camelina is an exciting new oilseed crop that can be a profitable component of crop rotations with wheat or other small grains. According to a variety of researchers, it is well-suited to conditions in the Pacific Northwest, requires low inputs of water and nutrients, and reduces disease, insect and weed pressure in wheat fields planted the following year.

According to renewable fuel company Great Plains Oil and Exploration, camelina also presents a unique opportunity to provide a reliable, inexpensive feedstock for the expanding biodiesel industry. Great Plains is currently looking for contracts with growers in Central Oregon.

"We are all painfully aware of the recent cost increases of inputs to grow conventional crops. Glyphosate, for example, increased significantly last week. If you are concerned about these costs, you should look at a crop like Camelina. It can provide a net return equal to spring wheat without the high initial outlay of pesticides and a far lower need for nitrogen and we can harvest in July," stated Dr. Duane Johnson, Great Plains VP of Agricultural Development.

Great Plains representatives will be on hand at the workshops to provide growers with information on marketing opportunities.

The workshops will also feature discussions on cropping considerations as well as information on varieties, yields and field trials. Speakers will include Don Wysocki OSU Soil Scientist/Agronomist; Stephanie Page ODA Renewable Energy Specialist and Richard Cooley - Director of Operations Great Plains Oil Company.

The workshops are sponsored as a community service by the non-profit Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council. The Wy'East RC&D designs and implements sustainable agriculture and rural community development projects in the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon region.

"Wy'East RC&D is coordinating with a variety of businesses and agencies to jumpstart projects that will improve our communities," said Wy'East Coordinator Merlin Berg. "There is a tremendous opportunity for renewable energy to benefit local economies in an environmentally sustainable manner," he added.

Those who wish to attend are asked to pre-register by contacting the Wy'East RC&D at 541-923-4358, extension 104.

More information about the Wy'East RC&D can be found online at: www.wyeast-rcd.org.

For more information on Great Plains Oil and Exploration and camelina production, go to: www.Camelina-Company.com.

Heppner Varsity Baseball Schedule

- March 11 - Pendleton JV in Pendleton, 4 p.m.
- March 14 - Grant Union Tourney, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- March 18 - at Baker, 2 p.m.
- March 21 - Dufur at home, 2 p.m.
- March 25 - Santiam at home, 1 p.m.
- March 29-30 - at Colfax Tourney.
- April 1 - Mac Hi at home, 2 p.m.
- April 5 - Irrigon at home, 11 a.m.
- April 8 - at Pilot Rock, 4:30 p.m.
- April 12 - at Weston-McEwen, 11 a.m.
- April 15 - Stanfield at home, 4:30 p.m.
- April 19 - BYE
- April 22 - at Irrigon, 4:30 p.m.
- April 26 - Pilot Rock at home, 11 a.m.
- April 29 - Weston McEwen at home, 4:30 p.m.
- May 3 - at Stanfield, 11 a.m.
- May 6 - Cross-over #3 vs. #2, TBA
- May 10 - District Tournament in Pendleton

Morrow Development Corporation approves \$820,000 small business loans

Four Morrow County businesses have been awarded loans totaling \$820,000 by the Morrow Development Corporation (MDC) this week. Jerry Healy, MDC President, said the loans are part of the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Business, Cooperative Services Intermediary Relending Program.

"Cascade Specialties, Inc., Northwestern Motel & RV Park, Lexington Auto Body and Bailey Heavy Equipment Repair and Machine have each been approved for financing through our USDA funded loan program," reported Healy. "We are pleased to make these awards. This is new money being circulated into our community."

In November 2007,

Morrow Development Corporation received a \$500,000 cash injection from USDA into its \$2 million loan fund. At that time Morrow Development Corporation set a goal of loaning \$1 million to Morrow County businesses before July 1. "We still have a block of capital available to lend to qualifying businesses, they just need to make application," stated Healy.

Over the last decade, Morrow Development Corporation has invested more than

\$4.5 million into 60 business and community development projects throughout Morrow County. "The United States Department of Agriculture is a great resource to small business owners," said Greg Smith, Officer to the MDC Board.

"Their application process is very streamlined."

"We appreciate the partnership we have in Morrow Development Corporation," said John Qualls, Bank of Eastern Oregon Loan Officer. Mike Nunez, Commercial Loan Officer for Banner Bank added "many small businesses in Morrow County have received financing as a result of our work together."

Morrow Development Corporation can finance business acquisition, purchase of equipment, supplies, leasehold improvements and machinery, startup operating costs, permanent working capital and debt refinance. The Corporation is a public-private partnership between the Port of Morrow and the U.S. Department of

Agriculture, Rural Business Cooperative Service.

For more information about the Intermediary Relending Program, Morrow Development Corporation encourages borrowers to contact their local bank or Morrow Development Corporation directly at (541) 676-8719 or go to their web page at www.morrowdevelopmentcorporation.com. Potential borrowers can also receive information and confidential small business advising from the Eastern Oregon University (EOU) Small Business Development Center (SBDC) which is funded in part by the United States Small Business Administration. Contact the EOU-SBDC Partnership at 541.962.1532 or email sbdc@eou.edu.

Ione School finishes Time Out For Reading Program

A month long reading program titled, Time Out For Reading started February 4 and ended March 3. In a packed Ione school library, prizes were given out to 35 readers who met their goal by Library Tech, Cathy Halvorsen.

The objective of the basketball themed reading program was for students in grades 4-8 to read at least 300 minutes to receive prizes. Those who read at least 90 minutes each week and turned in their reading logs on time, moved into a new quarter. Those readers who made all four quarters will be honored with a pizza party with root beer floats for lunch on Wednesday, March 12.

Top readers were: Lilly Sanford, Alisha Taylor, Julianne Carlson, Steven



Holland and Lauren Garrett. Those students who made it all four quarters to receive the pizza lunch were: Rachel Holland, Emily Rea, Ann Rietmann,

Joshua Stillman, Lauren Garrett, Daniel Holtz, Oskar Peterson, Emily Holland, Gus Peterson, Tim Emmel, Lilly Sanford, Joel Stillman, Julianne Carlson, Stacey Halvorsen, Shadow Kendrick, Alisha Taylor, Cassie Arbogast, Jeremy Coleman, Kaleb Dumler, Luke Em-

mel, Steven Holland, Jordan Peterson, Makenna Ramos, Mary Rietmann and Micah Stillman.

"It was a lot of fun and helped me get my literary evaluation done faster," said 7th grader Stacey Halvorsen. "I can't wait to do it again!"

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Thursday, March 6th Ladies' Night
Menu: Steak, Cheesy Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad and Roll.
Hosts are Tim and Beth Dickenson

OLD TIMERS NIGHT