

Ione community school attendance



The following students were awarded perfect attendance awards for February: Liam Heideman, Mason Orem, Destiny Yates, Karensa Jones, Cameron Proudfoot, Lewkus Burright, Carson Eynetich, Bryce Rollins, Charlie Smith, Daralynn Teeman, Armando Arroyo, Hailey Heideman, Eva Martin, Jordan Rollis, Madison Alldritt, Lilianna Chamberlin, Shaun Epperson, Mackenzie Heideman, Matt Orem, Emma Rietmann, Pedro Arroyo, Logan Burright, Gracie Crum, Lexie Garrett, Joshua Gray, Payton Miller, Susanna Teeman. —Contributed photo

Ponytail on the chopping block for Heppner music program

What could make Heppner Music Director Richard Drake part with his ponytail? Apparently, dedication to his program and his students.

According to Drake, things have been happening in Heppner's music department. As always, though, making things happen can cost money. That, Drake says, is where the Heppner community can play a part.

The high school choir has two upcoming trips to fund. First the high school choir is going to the district competition held in La Grande on March 20. Then, April 7-8, the choir is going to Salem to sing for the opening session of the Oregon State Legislature, thanks to a personal invite from Rep. Greg Smith. The trip will also include a grand tour of the Capitol, sitting in on a legislative session, and visiting the Oregon Supreme Court to see it in action.

Drake says these upcoming events are not budgeted, and it will cost somewhere between \$80 and \$100 per student to make this function happen, so the music program will hold several fundraising events to fill in the financial gaps.

While the choir is planning several fundraisers, the most interesting may be the raffle for a chance to cut Drake's hair during St. Patrick's weekend. Tickets are \$1 for one, \$5 for six or a stretch (as far as a person can reach) for \$20.



Heppner music director Rick Drake will sacrifice his ponytail for the music program.

Local farmer supports FFA

The Heppner FFA Chapter will now be able to continue its agricultural education efforts, thanks to the support of Heppner farmer, Barney Lindsay, and America's Farmers Grow Communities.

Sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, Grow Communities provides farmers in eligible counties the chance to win a \$2,500 donation for a local nonprofit organization of their choice.

Lindsay selected the Heppner FFA Chapter to

receive this donation.

The Heppner FFA Chapter will put some of the funds towards implementing a hydroponics system. The system will allow it to grow vegetables year

round for its community food bank.

"I am happy to donate to the local FFA chapter because agriculture and FFA is our future," said Lindsay.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk has issued the following marriage licenses:
February 28: - Javier Olguin Martinez, 42, of Boardman and Maria Elena Andrade, 36, of Boardman.

-Jose Antonio Rodriguez, 27, of Stanfield and Alejandra Sanchez, 20, of Stanfield.

-Abel Silva Morales, 35, of Boardman and Claudia Sanchez Levya, 32, of Boardman.

Mustangs battle for fifth place win at state tourney

The Heppner Mustangs played the first quarter-finals game in the girls bracket of the Oregon State Athletic Assn. (OSAA) 2A state tournament last weekend in Pendleton.

The Mustangs had early success, stampeding over the number-one ranked Lost River Raiders. The Mustangs played their best game of the year against a formidable opponent.

The Raiders scored first with a lay-up from the tip-off. After that it was Heppner all the way for the remainder of the first quarter.

Alana Wilson provided the spark the Mustangs needed, hitting her shots and drives to the rim, posting eight points in the first quarter. The Mustangs were in the lead 13-4 as they headed into the break.

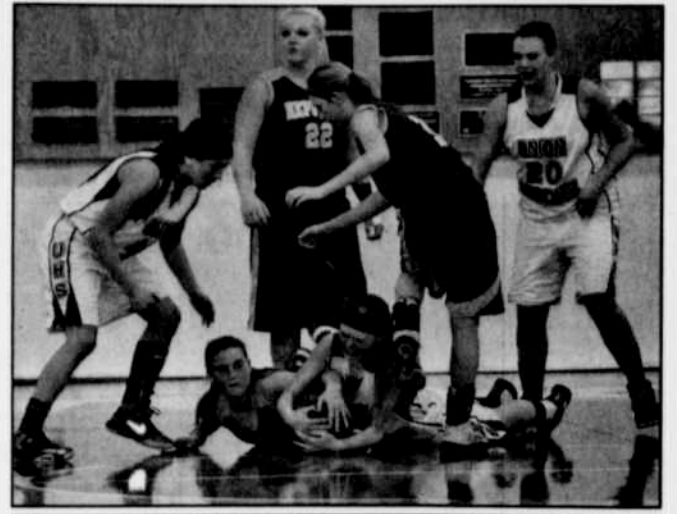
The Mustangs took control of the floor with solid shots and good defense to end the half up by 11, 30-19.

In the second half the Mustangs went to work down low, pulling in rebounds and making drives to the hoop. Near the end of the third quarter, Lost River put a run on the Mustangs, bringing them to within four points, cutting the Mustangs lead for a 43-39 end at the quarter.

In the final quarter, the Mustangs answered every Raider point to maintain a cushion for a 57-46 final, which sent Lost River to the consolation bracket.

The Mustangs finished with some impressive stats. Wilson led the scoring attack with 16 points, 14 in the first half, 6-8 from the field and 4-5 from the charity strip. Baily Bennett doubled again with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Micha Hintz had a great game posting a season-high 11 points. Blake Greenup had eight points and was six for six from the foul line. Maddie Lindsay contributed eight points from the post and Makenzie Correa and Kelly Wilson both added two points for the Mustangs.

In game two, the Mustangs took on the Union Bobcats. This is the fourth time the two teams have met this year. The Mustangs were successful against Union in the first quarter, leading 14-8 at the quarter. With three minutes left in the second quarter, the Bobcats tied the game at 18



Top: Mustang Blake Greenup fights for possession during the Union Game. —Photo by Sandy Matthews Bottom: The Mustang girls' basketball team took fifth place during the state tournament. (Back L-R): Coach Jeromy Wilson, Kayla Kindle, Paige Grieb, Blake Greenup, Kelly Wilson, Macy Gibbs, Jessica Kempken, Maddie Lindsay, Emma Osmen, Maggie Collins, and Assistant Coaches Missy Lindsay and Mike Ehrsam. (Front L-R): Alana Wilson, Baily Bennett, Makenzie Correa and Micha Hintz. —Contributed photo

each. By the end of the first half the lead changed eight times but Heppner was ahead 28-23 at the break.

The Bobcats picked up three quick scores at the beginning of the third quarter when Heppner's Bennett and Wilson ran into foul trouble. With three minutes left in the quarter the Bobcats tied it up again 35-35. Wilson went out of the game on a flop by the defense with her fourth foul.

The Heppner team held together for the remainder of the quarter with Union ahead by two, 44-42, at the quarter's end.

In the final quarter, the Bobcat offense stepped up and with six minutes left on the clock, Union held the lead 54-45. Bennett went out with four fouls and teammates Maddie Lindsay and Kelly Wilson were playing with three apiece.

With three minutes left to play, Heppner's seniors hit the floor but Union's momentum kept churning out the points for a final score of 64-51. The Mustangs were outscored 20-9 in the fourth quarter. Senior Bennett scored 19 points and had 17 rebounds. Wilson scored five and Greenup contributed three for Heppner. The Mustangs shot 11 for 23 from the line.

Fighting disappointment following the loss to the Bobcats, the Mustangs picked themselves up, got back into play mode and took on the Mennonite Pioneers on Saturday for third-

and fifth-place trophies.

The Pioneers boasted two 6'2" posts with good ball-handling skills, and shutting them down was a Mustang priority. Pioneer nabbed rebounds in the first period but the Mustangs were able to hold them in check with their pressure defense allowing just five points for the Pioneers. The buzzer sounded the end of the first quarter and thanks to a three-pointer by Greenup, the score was tied, 11-11.

The Pioneers easily handled the Mustangs in the second quarter, out-shooting the Heppner team 17-7. The Pioneers led the Mustangs 28-18 at the half.

Wilson led an early third-quarter charge driving hard to the hoop in an attempt to spark some Mustang fire. The Heppner team held on, but was unable to gain on the half-time score. Down by 16 points in the fourth quarter, the Mustangs fought back with an 8-0 run to come within nine against the Pioneers. The contest ended 56-46. The Mustangs took the fifth-place trophy.

Missed free-throws hurt the Mustangs, who hit 18 or 32 overall. Wilson was six for nine from the field and four for six from the line for 14 points. Bennett scored 11 and Greenup added 10 points to the Mustang total.

Wilson was selected for the All-State First Team and Bennett was honored with a second team award.

COACH OF YEAR

—Continued from PAGE ONE
 teaches junior high math, as well as coaching the Knights.

McElligott and his team received the award, along with several other BMC awards, at the end of districts in Pendleton. While recognizing the honor of the title, he's quick to write it off as a team effort.

"It's just one of those things that the boys put in all the work," he said. "It's a perk of the job but the credit goes to the boys. It's usually an award that goes to the team, not just the coach. It's nice, but it's nicer to have the team success."

"We had kids on the first team and kids on the second team, and we try to celebrate all those successes. We were more pleased with our league title and district awards than with the individual awards," he finished. "We try to celebrate team awards more than the individual stuff."

McElligott's team, undefeated in districts, took a 58-32 win over Myrtle Point in the Class 2A boys quarterfinals and a 49-39 win over Western Mennonite in the Class 2A boys semi finals, but lost to Oakland, 60-54 in the Class A boys finals.

Spring break March 25-29

Spring break for the Morrow County School District and the Ione Community School is Monday, March 25, through Friday, March 29.

29th Annual EASTERN OREGON SPORTSMAN SHOW

Featuring Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Sports at the Pendleton Convention Center March 8-10

Fri 5pm - 9pm • Sat 10am - 6pm • Sun 10am - 4pm
 Adults \$5.00 • Students \$3.00 • Kids under 12 are FREE!

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