

HEPPNER

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# Gazette Times

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## Mustangs first in state

Trojans 'feel the 'stang' in 48-0 stomping by Heppner



The frigid temperature last Saturday night couldn't lower the Mustangs' spirits as they raised their helmets in celebration under the lights on Hermiston's Kennison Field. The Heppner team secured the 2A state championship with a 48-0 win over Kennedy. -Photo by Sandra Putman

The Heppner Mustang football team won the 2015 OSAA 2A State Football Championship in convincing fashion with a 48-0 victory over the Kennedy Trojans Saturday. The game was played on Kennison field at Hermiston High School in front of a capacity crowd of mostly Mustang fans. Most of them did not even notice the cold temperature during the game as they cheered wildly for the Mustangs throughout the contest.

Both teams started the game slowly as they lost yardage on their opening drives and were forced to punt. The second time Heppner touched the ball they started from their own 31-yard line. A 10-play drive ended in a touchdown when CJ Kindle scored from three

yards out. Heppner led the game 6-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter began with the powerful Mustang defense again halting the Trojans. Caden Hedman intercepted a pass to give Heppner the ball in good field position near midfield. Quarterback Kaden Clark then threw a well-placed pass down the sideline to Logan Grieb, who hauled it in for a 37-yard gain. Four plays later Kindle scored when he punched it in from one yard out. Clark then threw to Jake Lindsay for the two-point conversion to make the score 14-0.

Once again, the Heppner defense forced another Kennedy three-and-out. The Mustang offense started a drive at their own 35-yard line. Several running plays

for positive yardage set up a sweep pass in which Grieb threw the ball to Kindle. The 32-yard pass completion set up a two-yard touchdown run for Kindle. Grieb ran the ball in for the two-point-conversion to make the score 22-0 with four minutes left in the quarter.

After the kick off, Kennedy fumbled the ball on their first play from scrimmage. Kevin Murray pounced on it to give Heppner the ball at the Trojan 15-yard line. On the very next play, Grieb took the handoff and raced through the line untouched for a touchdown. This score came only 20 seconds after the previous one and made the score 28-0.

The next Trojan drive ended when Grieb inter-

## Cold, wet November didn't make up moisture shortage

According to the National Weather Service in Pendleton, November saw more cold and more moisture than normal, but still didn't have enough precipitation to make up for this year's drought.

The average temperature was 38.2 degrees, which was three degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 46.7 degrees, which was 4.1 degrees below normal. The highest was 70 degrees on the first. Low temperatures averaged 29.7 degrees, which was two degrees

below normal. The lowest was 11 degrees on the 26th. November had 14 days with low temperature below 32 degrees. There were seven days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 2.04 inches during November, which was 0.44 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on 10 days with the heaviest, 0.50 inches, reported on the first.

Precipitation this year has reached 7.46 inches, which is 5.22 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 2.57

inches, which is 0.17 inches below normal.

Snowfall for November totaled three inches, all of which was reported on the 25th. The highest wind gust was 57 mph, which occurred on the 17th.

The outlook for December from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near- to above-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 44 degrees at the start of December to 41 degrees at the end of December. Normal lows fall from 28 degrees to 25 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.32 inches.

## Heppner Flood book signing at heritage museum Saturday

Eastern Oregon author Peg Willis will be at the Morrow County Heritage Museum this Saturday, Dec. 5, at 10 a.m. for a reading and signing of her later book, "Rise Above."



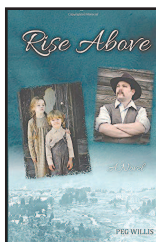
Peg Willis

The book, released Nov. 13 of this year, is a work of historical fiction that begins in Heppner's historic flood on June 14, 1903. The story details the post-flood struggles of several locals, including a father who spends seven years searching the Northwest for his two children who were lost in the flood.

"She (Willis) is a fine writer, and the characters in 'Rise Above' are unforgettable," says Joann Green

Byrd, author of "Calamity: The Heppner Flood of 1903." "You can't put this book down, except maybe to get a hanky."

Willis is a lifelong resident of the Pacific Northwest, and now lives with her husband Jim in Eastern Oregon. She is best known as a teacher of traditional, old-time fiddle music, having played and taught for a number of years. After many years of raising children and teaching music, Willis has turned to writing about the places she knows and loves. Her work



Rise Above

has been published in a number of magazines and regional newspapers. "Rise Above" is available through Amazon.com.

## Heppner festive with lights Thursday

Mustang meet and greet added to event lineup

This Thursday, Dec. 3, Heppner will again enjoy holiday lights and holiday specials with the annual Parade of Lights, as well as special activities and extended hours by local merchants to kick off the Christmas holiday season.

The Parade of Lights will begin from Green Feed about 5:30 p.m., so find a spot on Main Street (between Center and May) to enjoy the lighted entries; the entries will come through twice.

Immediately after the parade, at Heppner City Hall, Mustang fans are invited to a meet and greet with the new 2A state champion football team. The team will be hanging around until 6:30 or 7 p.m. Hot cocoa and cookies will be provided.

Beginning earlier in the day, the Bank of Eastern Oregon will serve refreshments from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Community Bank will also

be serving refreshments. Heppner Family Foods will offer free Home Town coffee for customers all day and will have Santa set up in the store for pictures from 6-7 p.m. with hot chocolate and candy canes; make sure you bring your camera to take pictures.

Murray's will be having hourly door prizes, cookies and punch, and the wish list treasure hunt. From 5-7 p.m. there will be a mini wine tasting.

Peterson's Jewelers will be open until 7 p.m., so stop by and check out something "shiny" for someone special on your Christmas list.

Finally, Home Health and Hospice will hold a Lights of Hope ceremony at St. Patrick's Senior Center in memory of loved ones who have passed away. Lights of Hope will begin around 6 p.m., following the Parade of Lights.

## Houser hired as health district CEO

Interim executive agrees to sign on as permanent CEO, Tarnasky announces resignation

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board hired interim CEO Bob Houser as its permanent CEO at the board's regular meeting Monday night.

Prior to the meeting Houser had told the board that he would accept a five-year contract as CEO under the district's previous administrative contract. The board and Houser agreed to work on his contract details at a Jan. 4 meeting. The board cancelled the next meeting, which was to be held on Dec. 28, due to the holidays.

Houser had indicated that he would sign the "old contract," which was in the revision process.

The board has been without a permanent CEO since the resignation of Dan Grigg in June. Houser's first meeting as interim

CEO was Oct. 26. Houser has had extensive hospital administrative experience, recently retiring as CEO of the Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day.

The district is still seeking a provider to replace Dr. Betsy Anderson, who left the district for a position in La Grande in August, and Sheridan Tarnasky, PA-C, long-time physician's assistant, who recently tendered her resignation. According to the board, Tarnasky has indicated that she would stay on until a replacement is found, until November of 2016 if necessary.

Houser and the board said that they were hopeful because two mid-level providers had recently indicated interest in the positions and had interviewed with the district, but both subsequently took employment elsewhere. As a result, the

board updated their search criteria to indicate that they would accept two mid-level providers, such as a nurse practitioners or physician's assistants, or a doctor and a mid-level provider. They had previously specified that they were seeking a doctor and a mid-level.

In other business the board:

-learned that the Ione Clinic has received a rural health accreditation. Medicare certification for the Ione Clinic was received and is retroactive to Oct. 15.

-heard from Houser that the hospital sewer project was completed on Nov. 9 with no overages and the hospital's front parking lot was again usable on Nov. 10.

-agreed to put the sewer project for the district's house on hold until early spring, after receiving bids

that were greater than anticipated. Bids were as follows: WindWave/Blake Lawrence-\$48,298; Cougar Excavation-\$35,550; Silver Creek/Michael Duncan-\$27,750, with conditions and exclusions.

-heard good news following receipt of a property condition assessment for Pioneer Memorial Hospital conducted by Marx/Okubo Associates on what is

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