

Lady Cards defeat all for first in league



Above: Ione Lady Cardinal player Morgan Orem scrambles to get ball possession as Sydney Qualls (40) comes to help her. Below: Ione's Hannah Padberg (20) guards against two of the Lady Hawks as teammate Ivy Sandford (34) comes to assist. -Photos by Sylvia Sandford



The Lady Cards started off strong Tuesday evening at home against the Mitchell/Spray Eagle Loggers. Despite ending up with two players down due to injuries, they rallied and came back to hold out for the win, 54-21.

Friday's game for the Ione Lady Cardinals was an edge-of-your-seat, action-packed game right up to the last eight seconds. Ione and South Wasco were

neck-and-neck by the third quarter but Ione held on to secure the win, 51-50.

After Saturday's win against Horizon Christian Lady Hawks, Ione is still tied with Condon/Wheeler for the lead in the Big Sky League with six wins to one loss. The Lady Cardinals were still playing with two players down, and worked hard for their 33-30 win in the last quarter of their game.

Cardinal JV girls take down Loggers, Redsidies



The Ione JV girls came out hard against the Loggers to win 12-1 in their two quarters Tuesday. The girls then had a great game against the South Wasco County Redsidies on Friday, winning 41-34. Pictured: Ione fights for the ball in their game against Mitchell/Spray last Tuesday in Ione. L-R: Ashley Medina, Hannah Flynn, Sydney Qualls, Rene' Peterson, and Emily Taylor. -Photo by Sylvia Sandford

Cardinal JVs split week of play



The Cardinal JV team dominated the loggers during their short game last Tuesday, taking the win 24-16. The JV boys then had a close call at South Wasco's home court, but still managed to pull out the win 44-40. Ione's young team was surpassed by the Hawks' experience in Saturday's game in Ione, however, dishing out the JV team's only loss of the week, 26-43. L-R: Ione's Alessandro Panozzo (5), takes the ball from Tyler Carter (32), as Sergio Marin (40) and Colton Hollis (11) get ready to take the ball down the court. -Photo by Sylvia Sandford

Livestock producers reminded to report forage losses by Feb. 1

LFP covers eligible grazing losses due to drought and wildfire

Heppner—Morrow County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Kyle Carmine reminds livestock producers who suffered grazing losses that occurred throughout 2015 due to drought or wildfire that they have until Feb. 1 to report their losses and to enroll in the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately-owned or cash-leased land or fire on federally-managed land. Producers in Morrow County are eligible to apply for 2015 LFP benefits on native pasture and improved pasture. Livestock producers are encouraged to contact the Morrow County FSA Office with any questions regarding specific forage crops that are eligible.

"Prolonged drought conditions have created a

need for livestock disaster assistance programs in Morrow County," said Carmine. "I encourage all affected livestock producers to contact the Morrow County FSA Office to schedule an appointment to enroll in the program before the Feb. 1 deadline."

Livestock producers must complete the LFP application and required supporting documentation no later than Feb. 1, 2016, for losses that occurred throughout 2015. Producers who already have appointments scheduled require no additional action to meet the deadline.

Eligible livestock includes alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep or swine that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland.

For more information about LFP, contact the Morrow County FSA Office at

541-676-9011. Visit www.usda.gov/disaster to learn more about FSA disaster assistance programs.

Disappointing week for Cardinal boys



Ione's Wyatt McNary jumps against Mitchell/Spray in last Tuesday's game. -Photo by Sylvia Sandford

Ione fought hard but just couldn't pull out the win last Tuesday night against Mitchell/Spray; losing 49-51 in the last few seconds of the edge-of-your-seat game.

Friday against the Redsidies, the boys just couldn't get their teamwork to mesh; they lost on the court 64-19.

However, a technicality

regarding a Redsidies player playing too many quarters caused Ione to win the game by forfeit.

Ione varsity boys finished their week with a strong second half on Saturday night, but it wasn't quite enough to pull the win out against Horizon Christian; Ione lost 33-62.

USDA expands microloans

WASHINGTON—Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden last week announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. The department says these microloans will be especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

"Many producers, especially new and underserved farmers, tell us that access to land is one of the biggest challenges they face in establishing and growing their own farming operation," said Harden. "USDA is making it easier for new farmers to hit the ground running and get access to the land that they need to establish their farms or improve their property."

The microloan program, which celebrates its third anniversary this week, has been hailed a success by

the USDA, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans for a total of more than \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have gone to help farmers and ranchers with operating costs such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact the local FSA office.

ODFW hunter rep position open

SALEM, Ore.—Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is recruiting for a hunter representative position on the statewide Access and Habitat Board. Applications are due by Feb. 29.

Those with an interest and experience in hunting and wildlife conservation are encouraged to apply. Contact Isaac Sanders at 503-947-6087 or visit http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/get_involved.asp

for application forms and more information.

Board members, who are appointed to four-year terms by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, meet four times each year in various communities throughout the state to review project funding applications, hear public testimony and act as liaisons between the program and the public.

Sheriff's Report

December 2: -A driver advised Morrow County Sheriff's Office that he had slid off the right side of I-84 East. He advised he was stuck but did not need medical attention. A deputy responded but the driver already had help on the way.

-An MCSO deputy advised of another slide-off on I-84 West involving three vehicles. No injuries were reported.

-MCSO received reports of various non-injury weather-related accidents throughout the county.

-A person in Heppner advised someone was sitting on their neighbor's porch in a coat and hat, all bundled up. MCSO responded and the subject was given a courtesy ride to her residence.

December 3: -A person in Irrigon reported that they had returned home after three days to find their house had been broken into. The gun case and safe had been broken into, cupboards were broken, and somebody had cooked food. It looked like somebody had spent a couple nights. They advised they would not touch anything until someone responded.

-A female in Irrigon reported that her husband was missing; she had last spoken to him an hour before, when

he advised her he got stuck while hauling, and she was concerned he was lost. The male was located by the daughter and advised they would return for the vehicle the next day.

-A person in Irrigon advised that a male had sent messages to him saying he would burn his trailer down and that he was coming for him and his dog. The caller advised the message said he stole something but he didn't steal anything. He advised the male was always on drugs.

-A male in Irrigon advised that his nephew took his phone and then his nephew advised him another male had taken it from him.

-Victor Flores Martinez, 37, was sanctioned to 30 days in jail per the parole and probation officer.

-A female in Ione advised that a subject who had been trespassed from her residence was there taking pictures.

-A subject in Boardman advised that his pregnant wife was bleeding. Boardman ambulance responded and transported the female to Good Shepherd Hospital.

December 4: -A person in Irrigon advised a subject in a blue Toyota came through and flipped him off and called

him a foul name and spun out their tires. The caller advised it was uncalled-for and that it was the same guy the caller thought tried to run him over before.

-A person in Irrigon advised there were three subjects in the area shooting off guns at clay pigeons. A Morrow County Sheriff's deputy responded.

-MCSO received report of a domestic in progress in Irrigon; a female's boyfriend had been putting hands on her and had broken her phone while the parents were at the store, and the neighbor saw it.

-MCSO was advised that a vehicle drove off Hwy. 74; the backup lights were on, but it was unknown how many people were in the vehicle. The caller advised they may have been checking their mail, because they were gone and there were mail boxes at that location.

-Milton-Freewater PD arrested Colleen Kelly Barton, 51, on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for

Failure to Appear on Contempt of Court.

December 5: -Oregon State Police advised Morrow County Sheriff's Office that they arrested Richard Kieth Fisler, 35, on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant.

-A female in Irrigon advised MCSO that someone was harassing her by text message; she had asked her to stop but she had yet to do so. The caller had questions about her options. MCSO made contact with the female and Hermiston PD contacted the other party in Hermiston; HPD advised the other party not to contact her again.

-Irrigon ambulance responded to a call concerning a male with a dislocated shoulder at Irrigon High School. The male was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

December 6: -MCSO received report of a domestic that took place in Irrigon. Two subjects were arrested and lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace Ann Spicer has released the following Justice Court report:

-Yezmin Verduzco, 22, of Ione was found guilty of Violating the Basic Rule 79/55 mph and was fined \$260.