

HEPPNER

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Mustang wrestling crowns district champs, heads to state



Two Mustang wrestlers have taken championships in the 2A/1A Special District 4 finals and will be heading to the state tournament in Portland in two weeks. Above left: Ryan Smith grapples with an opponent at the district finals in John Day. Above right: Cord Flynn prepares to wrestle his way into the state championship during the district tournament last weekend. -Photos by Kirsti Cason

The Heppner Mustang wrestlers competed in the OSAA 2A/1A Special District 4 championships on Saturday. Thirteen teams met in John Day to qualify individual wrestlers for the state tournament on Feb. 26 and 27 in the Portland Memorial Coliseum. The top two wrestlers in each of the 14 weight classes advance to the state championship. -See WRESTLING DISTRICTS/PAGE SIX

Basketball heads to districts



Heppner High School's varisty boys' basketball team is headed into Columbia Basin Conference playoffs in the number-one slot this week. Meanwhile, Ione's varisty girls are second seed going into the Big Sky League district playoffs, and the Cardinal varisty boys will face off in the Big Sky crossover games Wednesday for their chance to battle it out at districts in Madras. Above left: Heppner's Caden Hedman looks for an opening in the Rocket press. -Photo by Sandra Putman Above center: Ione players Ivy Sandford (left) and Hannah Padberg fight for the ball as Rachel Holland (32) and Maggie Flynn (24) stand ready to assist. Above right: Cardinals Jason Juarez (24) and Wyatt McNary (23) watch as teammate Austin Carter jumps to block a Hawk shooter and Donald McElligott (10) helps. Colton Hollis (11) waits for steal. -Photos by Sylvia Sandford

-See Cardinal sports PAGE FOUR and Mustang sports PAGE SIX

Ione teacher receives award

EOU announces recipients of Inspirational Teacher Awards

LA GRANDE, Ore.— Doherty, 2015 graduate of Dale Holland, Ione High School math teacher, has been honored with an Inspirational Teacher Award from Eastern Oregon University. Holland was nominated by Joseph



Dale Holland

and son of Brian and Peggy Doherty. First-year honor students at Eastern Oregon University nominated 26 educators from Oregon, Washington, Cali-

fornia and Nevada to receive Inspirational Teacher Awards.

Students who maintained dean's list standing during fall term were given the opportunity to nominate a teacher who influenced them on their road to higher

education and academic excellence.

EOU presents these awards annually in recognition of outstanding high school teachers who encourage and represent the importance of higher education to their students.

Get ready for 'Boots in the Air' 2016



A young participant prepares to throw the boot at last year's Welly Toss. -File Photo

The boots are set to fly during the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Saturday, March 19, at the annual "Welly Toss" in Heppner. Everyone is invited to enter teams or, if preferred, come by and throw as an individual. Children are welcome to participate.

As in past years, the event will be held on Willow Street between Murray's Drug and the Artisan Village. Team play begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 12 p.m. Teams are invited to come when they can, and the Welly crew will work them in. Team registration forms are available at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce office and can be returned to the chamber by Thursday, March 10, or brought to the event and

turned it in at the registration desk.

A \$20 registration fee will be charged for team play. The fees collected fund the prizes and supplies for the event.

Individual play is free and begins for all participants at 10:30 a.m., continuing until 12:30 p.m. Age brackets are: kids, two to 12; teens, 13-17; and adults 18 and over for both men and women.

All kids will receive a gold coin for playing; prizes also will be awarded for the man and woman winners and for youth. The top teams will receive a prize, and the first-place team will have its name engraved on the Traveling Boot Award, currently on display at Peterson's Jewelers.

Electric consumers warned of scam phone calls

The Hermiston Police Department is warning area residents to be aware of a scam circulating in the area.

According to HPD officer Erica Sandoval, Umatilla Electric Cooperative customers are receiving phone calls from a service claiming to be from Pacific Power Electric and asking for payment to prevent their services from disconnection. Sandoval said customers are directed to call 1-888-582-0003 to

"resolve" the issue.

Sandoval described her interactions with the scammer in a message to UEC:

"When I Googled the number, it came back to a variety of sources, so I decided to call," she said. "Upon calling the number, it was picked up by an auto-attendant that gives you a menu of options. For example, press one for payments and billings, two for service, three, etc. I pressed one and after a few seconds

of hold music, a 'customer service representative,' who would later tell me his name is 'Jesse Cross,' answered and asked me for my address.

"As the call continued, I attempted to get information to verify who he was and where he was calling from, which he provided calmly and, for all intents and purposes, professionally and courteously. However, most of the information—which included his location at a call center for Pacific Power at 638 S. Highway 395—was false. Even when confronted with some of the discrepancies and after I identified myself as a police officer and the purpose of the call, the rep did not break character and responded to my questions and concerns."

Sandoval said that if

she had gone along with pretending to make a payment, she would likely have been asked to either go to a local Western Union or MoneyGram outlet to wire the 'payment' or asked to purchase loadable payment cards like the GreenDot or Visa gift cards then contact them again with those numbers—if they didn't just try to get debit/credit card information from her directly.

Sandoval added that, though there is no Pacific Power office located at the address given, it is a real address—coincidentally close to Western Union and MoneyGram outlets.

While neither Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative nor Morrow County Sheriff's Office have re-

-See PHONE SCAM/PAGE TWO

Ranger district seeks comments on site boundary adjustments

Heppner Ranger District has announced that it is beginning an analysis of the proposed Administrative Site Adjustments Project.

Boundary adjustments are being considered for the Black Mountain Communication Site and the Madison Butte Lookout. Both of the sites were designated in the 1980 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Umatilla National Forest. The forest service says

that, over the years, trees have grown up surrounding the sites, creating a potential for damage to the facilities, obstruction to the line of sight for the lookout, and increased threat of wildfire.

The proposed action is to implement a new administrative boundary around

both areas, and would result in changing 16 acres of C1 land to C4.

Comments will be accepted until Feb. 24. Written comments should be submitted to Ann Nielsen, District Ranger, PO Box 7, Heppner, OR 97836, faxed to 541-676-2105 or emailed

to comments-pacificnorthwest-umatilla-heppner@fs.fed.us.

Questions about the project can be directed to Jeromy Wilson, Project Team Leader, Heppner Ranger District, at the above address or by calling 541-676-2103.

FIND THE SHAMROCK!

Win \$50 Gift Card



The Shamrock Hunt is back! The first person to find the hidden shamrock will win a \$50 Visa Gift Card donated by the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

RULES

1. A new set of clues to guide you to the hidden shamrock will appear in each edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times.
2. A total of five clues beginning with the Feb. 17 edition will be published each week on the front page.
3. The hidden shamrock is not on private property and no digging or moving of objects, dirt or other materials is necessary to find the shamrock.
4. The first person to find the shamrock and bring it to the Heppner Gazette-Times office will claim their prize.

CLUE #1

The clover's concealed, the prize revealed, So who's ready to find a shamrock this year? Four more weeks, and many more clues, So all you great thinkers, let's see what you can do. Be at your best, cuz this year's a test. We'll see if you're smart, more than the rest? So we start this hunt at last year's locate, you remember, the Groshens Place. Then go west, then south on the sraíd, 0.65 km, but don't you stray Next week we continue, from this spot an easy find? This shamrock is not.

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