

Lady Cardinals place second in districts, headed for state



Ione Lady Cardinals played last Friday and Saturday in the Big Sky District tournament and came out in second place. The Ione varsity girls won against Arlington 47-33 on Friday but then lost Saturday to Condon/Wheeler by 37-47. They next hosted Helix Tuesday in Ione for their first-round state playoff game; results were unavailable at press time. Pictured back (L-R): Asst. Coach Kimmerly Burright, players Ivy Sandford, Katelyn Bass, Morgan Orem, Hannah Padberg, Katie Gilbert, Ashley Medina, Sydney Qualls, Maggie Flynn, Coach Nathan Heideman, Manager Breawna Teeman and Coach Dawn Eynetich. Front (L-R): Lady Cardinals Emily Taylor, Rachel Holland, Jessie Flynn and Susie Teeman. -Photo by Sylvia Sandford

Local 5k offers a springtime challenge for a good cause

By Andrea Di Salvo

Many locals are familiar with the Friends Helping Friends Remembrance Walk that takes place every year during the annual St. Patrick's celebration. Some may not be so familiar with the run that offers runners an early-spring challenge for a good cause.

Janelle Ellis of Heppner, who heads up the run, says the committee started the 5k run seven years ago, a year after the Remembrance Walk began.

"We had such a good turnout the first year in

support of Donna Schonbacher," Ellis explains, "and there were enough young people involved who are very active in the community who were starting to run, doing 5ks and 10ks in the area, that Susie (Hisler) thought we could appeal to both walkers and runners."

It turned out to be a good idea; participation in the run has grown each year, Ellis says.

"Each year we've gained more runners, more from out of town. I think

See REMEMBRANCE RUN/PAGE TWO

Riverside High School ed assistant, sports coach arrested

An education assistant and sports coach at Riverside Jr./Sr. High School in Boardman has been arrested as part of an ongoing investigation by the Boardman Police Department and Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

According to a statement by Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack, on Feb. 9, law enforcement began investigating a complaint that Matthew Ryan Summers-Johnson, 27, of Boardman was supplying alcoholic beverages to a

group of Riverside male athletes.

The Morrow County School District also placed Summers-Johnson on administrative leave at that time pending the investigation. Summers-Johnson, who coaches football and junior varsity boys' basketball at Riverside, was hired by Morrow County School District in July 2015.

During the course of the investigation, MCSO discovered Summers-Johnson also had a warrant for his arrest out of Clatsop County for a probation violation from a 2014 charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUII). On Feb. 16, MCSO arrested Summers-Johnson on the outstanding Clatsop County warrant. Thursday Summer-Johnson

was transported to Clatsop County and lodged at Clatsop County Jail on the probation violation charges; he remained in custody there as of Monday.

Summers-Johnson may still face multiple counts of furnishing alcohol to minors in Morrow County. Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson told the Gazette Tuesday that he had not yet reviewed the charges and so had not determined whether to pursue prosecution.



Matthew Ryan Summers-Johnson

Boardman man faces kidnapping, assault charges

A Boardman man is facing charges of kidnapping and strangulation, among others, after an apparent assault on a female in Boardman.

On the morning of Feb. 20, Morrow County Sheriff's Office that it received a report of a female outside a residence on Hill Top Road in Boardman. According to an MCSO press release, the caller informed law enforcement that the female had been assaulted, was covered in blood and was only wear-

ing coat.

Boardman Police Department Officer Matt Clinard and MCSO Deputy Matt Crowell were the first to arrive at the scene. Boardman Ambulance also responded and transported the female to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. She was then transported to Kadlec Regional Medical Center for a serious head injury.

However, before being transported, the female told officers that Travis Lane Thomas, 44, of Boardman had kidnapped her and forced her into his motor home. While inside Thomas's motor home, she said he bound her feet and hands and assaulted and strangled her for several hours before she was able

to escape.

Boardman PD and MCSO attempted to contact Thomas in his motor home on Kunze Road in Boardman, but no one would come to the door. The MCSO detective then applied for and obtained a search warrant for the motor home. When officers served the warrant, they report that they found Thomas sitting on the floor of the motor home. They then arrested Thomas without incident, as well as seizing multiple items for evidence.

Thomas was arrested and lodged at the Umatilla County Jail on charges of assault I, strangulation, kidnapping I, menacing and restraining order violation.

City council plans special meeting

The Heppner City Council will hold a special meeting Tuesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. to discuss the contractor for the Heppner Fire Hall Project and an application for a liquor license for the Mustang Diner.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held at city hall. For more information, call Heppner City Hall, 541-676-9618.

Mustangs take district championship



The Heppner High School boys' basketball team with the district championship trophy. Back Row (L-R): Coach Ken Grieb, Coach Mike Ehrsam, Coach Jeremy Rosenbalm and players Kevin Murray, Weston Putman, Patrick Collins, Logan Grieb, CJ Kindle, Caden Hedman and Wyatt Steagall. Front Row (L-R): Players Tommy Bredfield, Kaden Clark, Jake Lindsay and Kevin Smith. Not pictured: Kolby Currin and Saul Erickson. -Contributed photo

See full story PAGE SIX

Math students discover the human equation in Doernbecher fundraiser

By Andrea Di Salvo

Heppner High School math students don't do things by halves—especially not when it comes to helping sick children.

The students in HHS teacher Troy Morgan's classes recently took on the task of collecting donations for Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland. About 60 students participated in the collection of new school supplies, books, toys and games for patients at the



Pam Norton helps HHS student Gibson McCurry during one of the blanket sewing workshops held to benefit Doernbecher Children's Hospital earlier this month. -Contributed photo

See DOERNBECHER/PAGE THREE

On the Inside...

Obituaries...
PAGE TWO

Hazmat responds to garbage truck...
PAGE THREE

His Little Feet in concert...PAGE THREE

Real Estate...
PAGE FOUR

St. Pat's boxing cancelled...
PAGE FIVE

Letters...PAGE FIVE

Mustang Sports...
PAGE SIX

Smith appointed to advisory cabinet...
PAGE SEVEN

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 #2

So here we are, from last week's leads, ready for more, and here you will read Ahead lies a fork, right there in the street Do I Court with straight, or May I go right with my feet? On the corner a little ethnic pie shop, with a hint for you to pick the next stop.
Number five on the food list tells you what to cross If you want to continue and find the shamrock.
Now you are pointed and ready to move And number 19 keeps you right in the groove.
See you next week, even you shamrock beginners, Cuz maybe you'll be known as this year's big winner.

Sponsored by Bank of Eastern Oregon and The Heppner Gazette-Times

-- POLARIS SPECIAL --



\$2,500 OFF
600PRO155 W/ELEC. START
0% FINANCING ON OAC
ONLY 2 LEFT

ENDS FEBRUARY 29TH

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net