

## Smith, Flynn battle for state wrestling championships

Heppner athletes Ryan Smith and Cord Flynn will take to the mat this weekend, Feb. 26-27, at the OSAA/U.S. Bank/Les Schwab Tires 2016 Wrestling State Championships in Portland.

It will be Smith's third state tournament, while Flynn will be competing for the first time. Smith already has two state championships from his previous two trips to the state tournament.

The tournament will take place at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, where classes 1A to 6A will compete side by side on 12 mats. The tournament will culminate in the state finals on five mats in the 12,888-seat coliseum.



L-R: Mustangs Ryan Smith and Cord Flynn sit with Heppner wrestling coach Mark Lemmon as they study another wrestler's technique during the Pine Eagle Invitational recently. Smith and Flynn are headed to the state championship tournament this weekend in Portland. -Photo by Kirsti Cason

## Heppner students collect Pennies for Patients



Heppner Elementary students collected their pennies—as well as nickels, dimes and quarters—for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Pennies for Patients program. Leukemia and Lymphoma are types of cancer, and the pennies that were collected are intended to help people with the disease live a better life and hopefully to find a cure. HES was able to raise \$228.22 and show its Colt Compassion. Pictured (L-R): Student council members Derrick Smith, Landon Mitchell, Trevor Nichols, Cody Fletcher and Kason Cimmiyotti turn in the coins to Bev Crumb from the Bank of Eastern Oregon. -Contributed photo

## Elks announce state Hoop Shoot results



On Feb. 13, local District Elks Hoop Shoot winners competed in the state competition in Milwaukie, OR. Eight participants competed in each age group for both girls and boys, each shooting 25 shots. Every Heppner participant placed and received a trophy at the state level. Sydney Wilson placed third in the 12-13 year old girls' group, Brock Hisler placed third in the 10-11 year-old boys' group, and Hallee Hisler placed second in the 8-9 year old girls' group. Pictured L-R: Elks Northeast District Director Corey Sweeney, Sydney Wilson, Brock Hisler, Hallee Hisler and Elks Association Oregon State President Jim Alameda. -Contributed photo

## Chamber lunch meeting

The next lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be an all entities report on Thursday, March 3, at noon in Heppner City Hall conference room.

Cost of lunch is \$10; Mustang Diner will cater. Chamber lunch attendees are asked to RSVP at 541-676-5536 no later than the Wednesday before to guarantee a lunch.

The Heppner chamber also welcomes its newest member, Jason Haigh, owner of Haigh Heating and Cooling, LLC.

He is based out of Hermiston and can be reached at 541-720-2784.

Have a news story for the Gazette? Email [editor@rapidsolve.net](mailto:editor@rapidsolve.net).

## Mustangs take district championship

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The Heppner Mustangs boys' basketball team won the Columbia Basin Conference District Tournament with a 50-45 win over the Irrigon Knights. To reach the championship game on Saturday night the Mustangs first had to defeat the Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots. Heppner did that in convincing fashion by the score of 59-30.

In the game against the TigerScots, Heppner was looking to avenge a two-point loss they suffered just two weeks ago at Weston-McEwen. A win would also move the Mustangs into the OSAA State Playoffs for the second year in a row. Heppner came out of the locker room ready to go and played an inspired first quarter as the Mustangs jumped out to a quick 17-10 lead. Heppner continued to score in the second quarter and picked up the defensive intensity. They scored 15 points in the quarter and held W-M to only seven. The Mustangs led at half-time by the score of 32-17.

The Mustangs, who spent the entire week at practice concentrating on the defensive end of the floor, held W-M to only 21.7 percent shooting in the second half. The Tiger-Scots could only manage to score 13 points in the entire second half. Heppner continued to attack on the offensive end of the court and shot more than 42 percent. The Mustangs scored 27 points in the second half and won the game going



Mustang Kaden Clark looks for an opening in the TigerScot press during Friday's district game in Pendleton. -Photo by Sandra Putman

away by the score of 59-30.

CJ Kindle led the team in scoring with 21. He also had 5 rebounds and 1 assist. Logan Grieb followed with 14 points, 3 rebounds and 3 assists. Weston Putman recorded a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Caden Hedman chipped in 7 points and 3 rebounds for the team. Patrick Collins had 3 points, 2 rebounds and 2 steals for the Mustangs. Kaden Clark and Kevin Murray each scored 2 points in the game. Clark also had 3 rebounds and 2 steals in the game while Murray hauled down 7 big rebounds. Every player that dressed down for the team

got into the game and contributed in the victory.

With the win against W-M, it moved the Mustangs to the CBC title game against the Irrigon Knights. The teams had split their games in the regular season by a total of only nine points. This game started out with the Knights taking an early lead. The Mustang team kept their cool and slowly cut into the Irrigon lead. Heppner went on a 7-0 run and tied the score at the end of the first quarter 12-12. Irrigon made an early run in the second quarter but the Mustangs responded. They pulled to within one point midway through the quarter. The Knights made another run late and ended the first half with a 28-21 lead.

The Heppner team came out and grabbed the momentum early in the third quarter. The Mustangs picked up the defensive effort and held the Knights to only seven points in the quarter. Heppner was able to score 15 points and led the game at the end of the third quarter 36-33. The Knights fought their way back into the lead at 42-41, but the Mustangs quickly regained the lead and pushed it to 45-42. Irrigon then tied it up with a three-pointer before Heppner scored again and took the lead for good with only 30 seconds left to play. The Mustangs made three free-throws to close out the game and win the championship by the score of 50-45.

It was another outstanding defensive effort by the Mustangs that made the difference. After Irrigon shot 46 percent from the field in the first half, they shot only 28 percent in the second half. Heppner shot 42 percent for the game and dominated the glass. Heppner outrebounded the Knights 36-18, with many of those being on the offensive end in the second half.

Collins had a big game and a double-double. He scored 21 points and had 13 rebounds. He also recorded 1 assist and he blocked a shot. Putman had 12 points and 6 rebounds to go along with an assist. Grieb contributed 9 points, 4 rebounds and 3 assists. Kindle and Hedman each scored 4 points in the game. Kindle also hauled down 7 rebounds and had 1 assist and 2 steals. Hedman also had 1 rebound, 1 assist and 2 steals in the game.

With the win the Mustangs, now 20-3 for the season, will host a first-round playoff game Saturday at 2 p.m. against the Lost River Raiders. The Raiders are 15-10 and the second-place team from the Mountain View Conference.

## Mustang players, coach receive all-conference honors



Receiving all-conference honors at the Columbia Basin Conference District Tournament were (L-R) Logan Grieb, Weston Putman, Coach Jeremy Rosenbalm, Patrick Collins and CJ Kindle. -Contributed photo

Four members of the Heppner Mustang basketball team and their coach were honored at the Columbia Basin Conference District Tournament last weekend.

Weston Putman received an honorable mention award for his outstanding play this season.

Three other members of this year's team were

first team all-conference award winners. Patrick Collins, CJ Kindle and Logan Grieb were selected to the first team by a vote of the coaches in the BMC.

Coach Jeremy Rosenbalm was selected by his fellow coaches as the Coach of the Year. This is the second year in a row that Coach Rosenbalm has won the award.

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**8AM - 11AM**

Lexington Road Department Yard  
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ACCEPTED DURING THE EVENT:

Used oil, Oil filters, Spent Antifreeze, Automotive batteries, Alkaline & recharge-able batteries, Propane Tanks (smaller than 25 gal.) Oil based paint, Paint thinners and solvents, Roof and asphalt patch, Adhesives, glues and contact cement, Caulks sealers and joint compounds, Lawn and Garden chemicals and fertilizers, Pool chemicals, Household cleaners (including bleach, ammonia, furniture polish, toilet bowl cleaners, carpet shampoo) Sludge (soil contaminated with oil) Mercury thermometers, Fluorescent lamps, All types of aerosol cans, Used cooking oil, Road flares, PCB ballasts, Organic peroxides (hardening agents)