

## Ione students win regional Battle of the Books



Ione High School students won the regional tournament in the Oregon Battle of the Books last Saturday at Blue Mountain Community College. The winners will proceed to the state tournament in Salem next month. America's Battle of the Books is a reading incentive program for students in third through 12<sup>th</sup> grades in which students read books and then come together to demonstrate their abilities and test their knowledge of the books. Ione team members include Frances Knop, Karsen Dumler, Henry Padberg, Breawna Teeman and Meighan Hall. Their coach is Lea Mathieu. -Contributed photo

## FFA holds petting zoo



The Heppner FFA chapter had a petting zoo at the Morrow County fairgrounds last week to celebrate FFA Week. The petting zoo was attended by elementary and infant center children, as well as many children who were brought by their parents. FFA advisor Beth Dickenson said the petting zoo was successful because of the participation of several FFA members as well as the help of community members Angie Hughes, who loaned a calf, Terri Gentry, who loaned ponies, Amy Kollman, who also loaned ponies, Staci Osmin, who took pictures, and student teacher Kelsie White. Pictured are FFA members Emily Cecil, Kolby Currin, Patrick Collins, Jacey Evans, CJ Kindle, Rylee Kollman and Shayna Osmin. Not pictured: Jaiden Mahoney. -Contributed photo

## Heppner TSA dominates winter competition



Front: Ethan Holmgren, Bryan Fowler, Kane Sweeney, Tim Gould, Elijah Fetter, Caitlyn Scrivner. Back: Charles Cason, Taylor Hamby, Will Lutchter, Daichi Walters, Leo Waite. Far back: Kai Arbogast. -Contributed photo

Both the middle school chapter and the high school chapter of the Heppner Technology Student Association (TSA) competed in six events recently at the Oregon TSA Winter Competition at BMCC in Pendleton.

In catapult design, Jordan Spaulding, Gavin Robinson and Casey Fletcher took first, with Jason Rea and Kael Osmin taking second and, making it a cleans sweep, Kenneth Troxell and Kevin Rea taking third.

In the Junior Solar Sprint (a model electric race car) Kenneth Troxell and Kevin Rea took first and Casey Fletcher and Gavin Robinson took third.

For Children's Stories (writing and illustrating a children's story based on marine life), Madelyn Nichols and Sage Ferguson took first and Gracey DeLoach, Aimee Doherty and Hanna Palmer took third.

In Architectural Renovation, which involves designing a manufactured house and building a model, Kane Sweeney and Tim Gould took first with Kai Arbogast, Daichi Walters,

Will Lutchter and Taylor Hamby taking third.

Promotional Graphics involves designing a poster encouraging someone to go into the teaching field for technology or engineering. Elijah Fetter took first and Caitlyn Scrivner took third.

It's been a busy year for Heppner TSA. In January

and February, Heppner TSA attended two VEX Robotics Competitions. The group also plans to have a float in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

The next state event is April 21, after which the group will attend the National TSA Conference in Nashville TN in late June.

## Heppner YCC crew offers summer job opportunities for local youth

Heppner—The Heppner Ranger District is recruiting for four students between the ages of 15 and 18 for summer employment in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Work will include field-going activities on the Heppner Ranger District.

The program begins June 20 and will last six weeks. Youth are paid the Oregon minimum wage rate of \$9.25 per hour. No previous experience is required.

Applicants must: obtain parental or legal guardian consent to enroll in the program; have transporta-

tion to and from the Heppner District Office; have a social security number, or made application for one; and be at least 15 and not turn 19 during employment.

Applications are available at the Forest Service Office in Heppner and at local high schools. Applications will be accepted through 2 p.m. on April 15 and successful applicants will be selected by random draw at 4 p.m. April 15. Applicants will be notified of selection status by mail.

For more information, contact the Heppner Ranger District at 541-676-9187.

## Mustangs end bright season with state tournament losses

The Heppner Mustangs boys' basketball team had their season come to an end at the OSAA 2A State Basketball Tournament. They lost to the Bandon Tigers by a score of 41-33 and were beaten by the Burns Highlanders 49-29. The Mustangs finished a successful season with a 21-5 record and a number-three state ranking. Of the more than 40 teams that compete at the 2A level in Oregon, only five other teams in the state won more games than the Mustangs. Only three teams in the state lost fewer games than the Mustangs.

It was extremely close throughout the game with the Tigers. Bandon had the lead at the end of the first quarter 8-7. The teams then traded leads in the second quarter five times and the score was tied 16-16 at halftime.

Heppner held the lead in the third quarter until the Tigers made a three-pointer with five seconds left to tie the score at 32-32. The Mustangs took a lead in the fourth quarter at 33-32, but that would be the last point they would score in

the game. The Heppner defense did a good job in the quarter, holding Bandon to only three points, but then the Mustangs began to foul to stop the clock with just under a minute to play. Bandon made several of their free throws to make the final score 41-33.

Patrick Collins and Logan Grieb led the team in scoring with 8 points each. Collins also had 7 rebounds and 2 blocked shots. Grieb hauled down 4 rebounds and had an assist. Weston Putman contributed 7 points, 7 rebounds and 2 steals. CJ Kindle netted 4 points, had a team high 8 rebounds, 6 assists and 2 steals in a good all-around game. Kaden Clark had 3 points, 1 blocked shot and 1 steal. Caden Hedman scored 2 points and had 1 assist. Kevin Murray had 1 point in the game.

The Mustangs only shot 29 percent from the field for the game and they held Bandon to 36 percent shooting. Heppner did rebound the much taller Tiger team 31-27. Heppner was 3-5 from the free-throw line while Bandon was 13-17.

The hard-fought loss to Bandon moved the Mustangs to a morning consolation game with the Burns Highlanders. The shooting woes continued in this game for the Mustangs as well. They only connected on 23 percent of their field goal tries. Burns was not much better, only shooting at a 35 percent rate, but Burns hit the big shots when they needed to and ran away with the win.

Heppner was in the lead at the end of the first quarter 9-8. They were outscored 15-4 in the second quarter and trailed the Highlanders 23-13 at halftime. Burns stretched the lead out several times in the third quarter only to see the Mustangs trim it to single digits three times. Burns then pulled away late and made the score 39-23 at the end of the third quarter. Heppner was again outscored in the fourth quarter 14-6, and that made the final score of the game 49-29.

Putman scored 10 points to lead the team. He also had 5 rebounds and a blocked shot. Collins had 7 points, 9 rebounds and a steal in the game. Grieb chipped in 5 points, had 4 rebounds, 3 assists and a steal for the Mustangs. Murray had 4 points and 2 rebounds for the team. Wyatt Steagall came into the game and scored 2 points and had 2 rebounds. Kindle had 1 point and 7 rebounds. Clark contributed 2 rebounds and Kevin Smith 1. Hedman had a steal in the game.

The losses brought a disappointing end to a successful season. The Mustangs won the Columbia Basin Conference regular season title and the District Tournament Championship. Heppner coach Jeremy Rosenbalm told his team after the game, "We can't let these two games define our whole season. Going 21-5, winning the conference and the district titles and playing in the state tournament is quite an accomplishment." He also stated that, "This is a special group of young men that doesn't come along very often. They are even better men off of the court than they are on it."

He noted that there was some sadness in the locker room after the final game. "These guys have been together almost every day since the start of football practice in August. The losses did hurt, but what hurt them the most was the realization that this would be the last time they would all be together as a team.

"This group has a special bond that will last them for the rest of their lives," Rosenbalm said.

## Area students get set for Google Wind Challenge

THE DALLES, Ore.—The third annual Google Wind Challenge is blowing into the Gorge on April 30 at the Civic Auditorium in The Dalles.

Area high school and middle school students are encouraged to sign up before the March 18 deadline. The Wind Challenge is free to attend and participate, with all materials provided.

Teams of high school and middle school students throughout the local area have a chance to race against the clock to build

the strongest, fastest wind turbines and compete for exciting prizes, such as trips to OMSI, pizza parties and drones. A fun, hands-on STEM fair will also be on site with activities to engage students and the general public.

Volunteers from the community are also needed to assist students and help with judging and event day coordination.

Students and volunteers may register online at [www.windchallenge.org](http://www.windchallenge.org).

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