

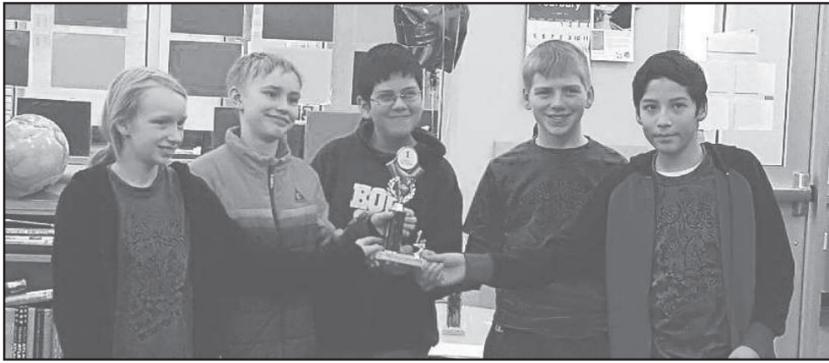
Heppner students advance to state chess tournament

This weekend, local youth will join hundreds of other young competitors hunched over boards, boys and girls from kindergarten up to high school, silently staring at their array of plastic royalty, plotting their next few moves. In fact, the Oregon Chess for Success state tournament, now in its 46th year, will pit nearly 600 kids against one another in what many call a game of wit.

“The chess players also learn life skills. For instance, once you touch a chess piece, you must play that piece. It’s one of the first rules kids learn in chess, but impulse control is something even adults struggle with sometimes. Students also learn delayed gratification and long-term planning, because chess strategy requires you to visualize your end goal to make your first move,” says Julie Young, Director of Chess for Success.

Like the game itself, it was not a quick or easy road that brought the Heppner students to the state tournament. On Feb. 11, 15 members of the Heppner Chess Mates traveled to Hermiston for the regional Chess for Success Tournament held at the Armand Larive Junior High School.

For some of these players, it was their first time to compete in a tournament. The coaches, volunteers and parents said they were extremely proud of their players’ accomplishments. In addition, this is an im-



Top: The regional champions for junior high students are (L-R): Mackenzie Dowel, Daemon Worden, Felix Matthew, Jacob Finch and Adan Guerra. Bottom: The regional champions for grades kindergarten through five are (L-R): Claire Lindsay, Isiah Martin, Mason Seitz, Owen Guerra and Maya Payne. -Contributed photo

portant tournament because players and teams must place at this tournament to qualify to play in the state Chess for Success Tournament.

Heppner’s junior high team had some tough competition from two Hermiston teams and still came away with the first-place trophy. Now Heppner’s junior high team will move on to the state tournament to be held March 10 at the Oregon Convention Center. Jacob Finch and Felix Matthew also qualified for the individual state tournament

as the top sixth grader and top seventh grader respectively. Owen Guerra also qualified as the top K-5 individual player.

The local elementary team was the lone competitor for the tournament; however, advisors said it was good experience for the players to be in the tournament atmosphere. For the state tournament the top five players will be Owen Guerra, Isiah Martin, Claire Lindsay, Mason Seitz and Maya Payne. The two alternate players will be Austin Willis and Joe McMasters.

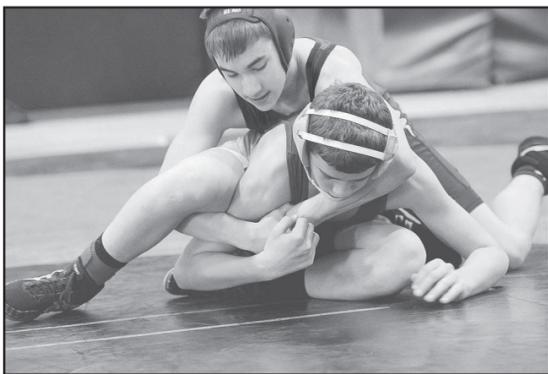
The advisors of Heppner’s Chess Mates—Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Matheny and Mrs. Elguèzabal—volunteer their time for this learning experience. They also say they would never be able to have the program without the expertise and many hours of help from volunteers Wayne Seitz, Dick Jones, Tomàs Elguèzabal, Joe Jones, Joe Armato, Bridget Waite, Logan Angell, Cherry Webber, Mary Haguewood. and Brandi Sweeney.

Junior high Mustang wrestlers compete in regional wrestling

Two wrestlers qualify for state tournament

Three seventh graders from Heppner—Roan Waite, Jace Coe and Conor Brosnan—competed Saturday at the Oregon Middle School Regional Wrestling Championships at Riverside High School. This was one of four regional championships held throughout Oregon to determine qualifiers for the 2017 Middle School State Wrestling Championships.

Roan Waite competed in the 75-pound bracket. He started his day with a loss, which dropped him into the consolation bracket. The next match saw Roan battle a wrestler from La Grande. Roan dominated his opponent and scored a technical fall in the third round by amassing a 12-0 score. The next match had Roan competing against an Elgin wrestler whom Roan had battled several times over the past season. Regrettably, the wrestler from Elgin went on to win after



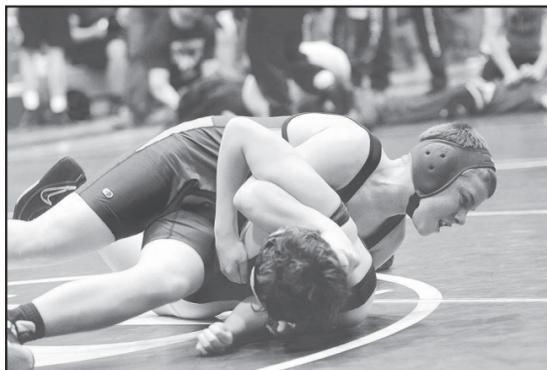
Mustang Jace Coe took second place in regionals, securing him a spot in the middle school state wrestling championships. -Photo by Damon Brosnan

a lengthy battle. Jace Coe competed in the 125-pound bracket. He had a banner day in which he pinned his first three opponents. His first victim was from Grant Union, the second from Ontario and the third, in the semifinals, was from Echo. This string of victories placed Jace in the finals for the 125-pound weight class. The finals match pitted Jace against a veteran wrestler from Grant

Union. The match ended with Jace losing by points. However, the second-place finish is sending Jace to the state wrestling finals in Woodburn on March 11.

The third Mustang wrestler to compete on Saturday was Conor Brosnan. Armand Larive, a Hermiston middle school. These two victories put Conor in the semifinals against an older Elgin wrestler. This match ended Conor’s string of victories with a defeat and put Conor in the consolation bracket. His next match was against another wrestler from Armand Larive. This “do or die” match saw Conor pinning his opponent in the first round. This put Conor into the consolation finals to determine third and fourth place, in which he faced a wrestler from Baker City. Unfortunately, Conor lost this match and ended up with fourth place in the 140-pound bracket. The good news is that Conor will be joining Jace in traveling to Woodburn to com-

pete in the state wrestling finals since each weight class sends the top four wrestlers.



Conor Brosnan of Heppner took fourth in the middle school regionals to secure a spot in the state wrestling tournament in Woodburn. -Photo by Damon Brosnan

He, like Jace, had a career day, pinning his first two opponents. Conor’s first opponent was from The Dalles and his second was from

Community lunch menu

Heppner Church of the Nazarene volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, March 15, at St. Patrick’s Senior Center. Lunch will include corned beef and cabbage; potatoes, onions and carrots; broccoli salad; black bread; and cupcakes.

Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

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-Continued from PAGE ONE
The Heppner Elementary gym from 1:30-5:30 p.m. Also in the afternoon will be the Ceili, Ewe-Do-Bingo and the O’Ducky Race; a bus tour of Heppner’s Talking Rocks will begin at 2 p.m. (meet in front of City Hall to ride the bus).

The evening will close out with some special entertainment—the Old Time Fiddlers will perform at the fairgrounds dance hall starting at 6:30 p.m. At the St. Patrick’s Catholic Church parish hall there will be a local children’s talent show from 6-7:20 p.m. and The Gothard Sisters will perform starting at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday will bring the

final chance to watch the Sheep Dog Trials, as well as a chance to participate in the annual Road Bowling Competition—as a participant or spectator, there is something for everyone.

The St. Patrick’s Committee says it hopes everyone will participate in as much of the weekend as they can. For more information, call 541-676-5536, visit www.heppnerchamber.com or visit them on Facebook at “St. Patrick’s Celebration Heppner Oregon USA.”

Whether you are Irish when you come, you will certainly be Irish when you leave...so come and join us for a great weekend.

HAPPY CANYON

-Continued from PAGE ONE
side outside of Pendleton with a dog and a few horses. He’ll serve as Bar Director for Happy Canyon.

“Having the privilege to serve on the Happy Canyon Board with the selected individuals is an honor,” Evans said. “They are all driving in the same direction to keep the Happy Canyon Night Show and Pageant an amazing family event that everyone wants to attend. Thank you to all the volunteers who make this event a success.”

Hunt will serve as Court Director for Happy Canyon, overseeing the Happy Canyon Princesses. He has been involved with Happy Canyon since the age of 4. Hunt is a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Pendleton. He and his wife, Whitney, have two children, William, 4, and

Charlotte, 2. Waggoner will serve as Show Director on the Board. She is a fourth-generation Happy Canyon Show participant and Round-Up volunteer, and a fifth-generation Umatilla County resident, living in Pilot Rock. She began volunteering in the Happy Canyon Show at age 3, coming out of the trunk. She and her husband, Allen – a former Happy Canyon Show Director and Past President – have three children, Kyle, Kaleigh, and Riley, all fifth generation show participants.

The Happy Canyon Night Show and Pageant takes place each night after the Pendleton Round-Up, Sept. 13-16 at 7:45 p.m. For more information or tickets, visit www.happycanyon.com.

Heppner schools concert rescheduled for March 15

The Heppner Elementary and Heppner Junior Senior High School Irish Music Concert has been postponed until Wednesday, March 15, at 6 p.m. in the Heppner Elementary gym.

OTLD to offer ‘Ukalaliens’ workshop



Kate Power and Steve Einhorn will bring their Ukalaliens workshop to Heppner March 11. -Contributed photo

Ukulele instructors Kate Power and Steve Einhorn will be at Oregon Trail Library District branches for “Ukalaliens” workshops Friday and Saturday, March 10-11. The Heppner workshop will be the third offered that weekend, planned for Saturday, March 11, at 4:30 p.m. (not 4 p.m. as published last week) at the OTLD Heppner branch.

These workshops are structured for adults. Anyone bringing children should be prepared to help them with the instruments. Thirty instruments will be

available or the public is invited to bring personal ukuleles.

A grant from the Morrow County Cultural Coalition made these workshops possible.

Call Kathy Street, 541-481-3365, with any questions about the workshops. Visit the OTLD website at <https://oregontrail.ploud.net/> for information, or the Ukalaliens website has additional information about the instructors at <http://www.qualityfolk.com/>.

OREGON TRAIL LIBRARY DISTRICT

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MARCH 11TH 10:30AM BOARDMAN
MARCH 11TH 4:30PM HEPPNER

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