

# Heppner Mustang golf team begins season

The Heppner Mustang golf team started their season off at the Echo Hills Country Club Invitational. The first few holes were played in a steady rainfall but as the day progressed, it cleared off and warmed up to make it an enjoyable first outing for the teams in attendance. Scores were kept but there were no individual or team awards at the end of the day. It was more of a learning tournament to get the players ready for future competitions. Other teams participating were from Wallowa, Enterprise, Grant Union and Echo/Stanford.

The Heppner Mustang golf team has a total of 21 players on the team. Key returners for the girls include Sophie Grant, Claire Grieb, Madison Combe, Caitlyn Scrivner, Nicole Propher and Suzy Cason. The Mustangs also have four freshman girls on the team. They are Marlee Mitchell, Kayla McAninch, Kenisyn Wilkins and Sasha Keown. Sasha is from Arlington and is the daughter of former Morrow County School District Assistant Superintendent, Mike Keown.

Returners for the boys team include Kellen Grant, Cason Mitchell, Reno Fer-

guson, Logan Burrigh, Casey Fletcher, Charles Cason and Wyatt McNary. The boys team also has four first year participants, Gavin Hanna Robinson, Kevin Rea, Hunter Greenup and Drew Coe.

The girls' team has a tournament in The Dalles this week and then both teams travel to Hillsboro at the end of spring break. Both teams will play a prac-

tice round at Quail Valley Country Club. It is the site for both the girls and boys state championships. The next day the boys will play in an invitational tournament at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club and Drew Coe.

It should be an outstanding year for Mustang golf as both teams are strong and should contend for district and state golf championships.



Cason Mitchell lines up a putt. -Photo by Kirsti Cason



Sophie Grant follows through after a big drive. Photo by Kirsti Cason.



Casey Fletcher admires his putt. -Photo by Kirsti Cason

## Heppner students compete in Kid-Wind challenge

Students from Heppner Jr/Sr High School recently competed at the KidWind challenge at Riverside High School.

Two teams from Heppner participated, the eighth grade team "The Nerd Herds" consisting of Roen Waite and Hannah Finch and the seventh grade team "Mustangs" with Jacob Finch, Paul Lindsay, and Madison Palmer.

The competition contained two parts, the windmill challenge and an interview with a team of judges.

consisted of measuring the efficiency of the turbines by measuring the milliwatts of power the turbines could gather from wind tunnel test. The second part was an interview with the judges where students talked with people in the wind power industry to demonstrate their knowledge of wind energy and design.

The Nerd Herd placed second, qualifying for nationals in Chicago. The Mustangs placed third and qualified for regionals in Seattle.



KidWind competitors (L-R): Hannah Finch, Roen Waite, Paul Lindsay, Madison Palmer and Jacob Finch. -Contributed photo.

## MCHD recognizes employees

Morrow County Health District's employees, executives and the board of directors gathered for the district's annual employee recognition banquet held at the fairgrounds in Heppner on Mar. 9. Dinner was prepared by Pioneer Memorial Hospital's dietary manager Patty Rill and her crew. Dr. Russ Nichols served as master of ceremonies.

Chief executive officer, Bob Houser, FACHE and HR director Patti Allstott presented longevity awards to the following employees: chief financial officer, Nicole Mahoney and emergency medical services director, Rusty Estes - 20-

year awards. Mahoney was recognized for her contributions to the district's leadership team and her expertise in rural healthcare financial operations. Estes was cited for his work and prior volunteer service with the Emergency Medical Services department, which together total 33 years. Trish Maben, RN at Pioneer Memorial Clinic, received a 40-year award. She was recognized for her devotion and compassion to patients and her dedication to the health district. Dr. Kenneth Wenberg, who provides contracted services at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, received a 30-year award for his help in delivering healthcare services at the hospital and for filling in at the district's clinics in Heppner and Irrigon when needed. Carmelo Di Salvo, Home Health and Hospice Clerk and Hospital and Hospice Chaplain, was not in attendance, but was recognized for five-years of service and his compassion towards patients and families.

Three staff members were voted to receive the

district's Service Excellence award by fellow staff members. Dr. Nichols read the nomination information about each recipient and CEO Bob Houser presented the awards to:

Laboratory director, Betty Hickerson - Hickerson started in the lab at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in 1990 and became the director in 2001. She also managed the radiology department for a number of years. Hickerson's nominations cited her appreciation to her staff and other members of the district's team and pitching in to help with whatever is needed. Quotes include, "She is a supportive friend to lean on, she is there to mentor others, always allowing others to go into her department to learn." "Her humor and passion are very much appreciated by many of us." And "...she goes above and beyond her job on a daily basis."

Primary care services manager, Kris Jones - Jones started with the Health District at Pioneer Memorial Clinic in 2013 and began her managerial role in 2015.

pervisors/bosses a person could have. She makes us all feel appreciated. Her creative methods of training and role playing are truly enjoyable," and "There is never a dull moment with her in the building. The positive energy and joy she exudes is simply contagious."

Human resources director, Patti Allstott - Allstott joined the administration staff of the district in 2004 and became the HR director in 2005. She has also worn other managerial hats for Pioneer Memorial Clinic and in marketing for the district. Allstott's nomination states, "She does an excellent job and is committed to the district and its employees. She is always there to help with any activities that need help. She has always been a great support in helping answer questions that do not have an easy answer," and "Patti is one of those people you come across that truly has a caring heart."

In closing the evening's events, Houser gave a report on current activities of the district, including a new physician and physician assistant joining the Irrigon Medical Clinic staff, and a building expansion project that will soon break ground at that location. He also talked about the construction of the new procedures suite at the hospital to allow the hospital to again perform Endoscopy - upper and lower/colonoscopy testing. He also gave an update on the district's purchase of a building in Boardman that will soon house the district's Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice office, as well as the Eastern Oregon Physical Therapy office and Murray's Boardman Pharmacy. Houser told the group that there are good things ahead for Morrow County Health District and in healthcare services for the people of Morrow County.



Morrow County Health District recognized employees for longevity and service excellence at the district's annual banquet held Mar. 9. L-R: Dr. Kenneth Wenberg, CFO Nicole Mahoney, EMS Director Rusty Estes, Laboratory Director Betty Hickerson, Human Resources Director Patti Allstott, Trish Maben, RN and Primary Care Services Manager Kris Jones. Not pictured - Carmelo Di Salvo, Home Health & Hospice Clerk and Hospice and Hospital Chaplain. -Contributed photo.

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Jones oversees operations of the district's primary care clinics in Heppner, Irrigon and Ione. Her nomination states, "She juggles many deadlines and demands. Kris is one of the best su-

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