

# Mustangs win opening conference game



Kellen Grant (33) leaps for the ball during last week's game vs. Weston-McEwen. -Photo by Susan Hisler.

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team won their opening game of Blue Mountain Conference play as they defeated the Weston-McEwen Tigerscots by the score of 56-44 last weekend. They also won a non-conference game against the Irrigon Knights by the score of 61-44.

The old gym in Athena is always a tough place to play a basketball game and this year was no different. The Mustangs were outscored in two quarters of the game against the Tigerscots, but a larger difference in the score of the two quarters that the Mustangs won was the key to victory for Heppner.

The Mustangs came out fast in the first quarter and outscored the Tigerscots 19-8. They were able to break the Weston-McEwen

press and score some easy buckets to take the big lead. It was closer in the second quarter as the teams were only separated by one point and the Mustangs had the lead at halftime 32-22.

Another big scoring quarter saw the Mustangs put up 17 points in the third period to lead 49-33. Weston-McEwen outscored the Mustangs 11-7 in the fourth period but it wasn't enough as Heppner got the win by the score of 56-44.

Jackson Lehman led the team in scoring with 15. He also had four rebounds, three assists and five steals in the game. Mason Lehman scored 10 points, had eight rebounds, two assists, three steals and blocked a shot for the Mustangs. Jayden Wilson scored nine points, blocked a shot and had 10 big rebounds for the team. Kason Cimmi-



Kason Cimmiyotti (12) led the team with 12 points in the game vs. Irrigon. -Photo by Susan Hisler.

yotti came into the game and racked up seven points, five rebounds, one assist and he also blocked three shots. Brock Hisler had a good all-around game with six points, five rebounds, three assists and two steals. With three points each were Kellen Grant and Casey Fletcher. Grant also had three rebounds and an assist while Fletcher had three rebounds. Kannon Wilkins, Jordan Sweeney and Roy Collins all scored one point in the game. Wilkins and Collins also had three rebounds and a steal for the Mustangs.

In the game with Irrigon, the teams tied in scoring in two of the quarters, but the Mustangs outscored

them in the other two quarters to get the win. The end of first quarter saw the Mustangs lead 12-7 and then 26-21 at halftime.

Both teams scored 15 points in the third quarter and the Mustangs still led the game by five points 41-36. The fourth quarter saw the Mustangs blow the game wide open. At one point, Irrigon cut the Heppner lead to one point at 43-42, but the Knights would not score again until the Mustangs had reached 58 points on the scoreboard. Heppner outscored the Knights 20-8 in the fourth quarter to get the win 61-44.

Cimmiyotti led the



Jackson Lehman (11) goes for a basket while Roy Collins (35) and Kason Cimmiyotti (12) are ready to assist. -Photo by Susan Hisler.

team with 12 points, four rebounds, one blocked shot and five steals in the game. Mason Lehman was next with 11 points, seven rebounds and an assist. Collins and Jackson Lehman finished with eight points each. Collins also had four rebounds while Jackson had two rebounds, four assists and two steals. Fletcher had six points, three rebounds, one assist and two steals for the Mustangs and Hisler also scored six points and had four rebounds, three assists, five steals and he blocked a shot. With four points each in the game were Grant and Wilkins. Grant also finished with four rebounds while Wilkins had one rebound for the team.

The JV boys' team won both of their games last weekend as they defeated the Tigerscots 43-30 and then beat the Knights 52-28.

Against Weston-McEwen, Derrick Smith led the team in scoring with 11 points while Cody Fletcher had 10. With seven points each were Tucker Ashbeck and Trevor Nichols. Brian Lindsay was next with four points and with two each were David Cribbs and Ty Boor.

Blake Carter led the team in scoring against the Knights as he finished with 15. Fletcher had another strong game as he scored 11. Ashbeck chipped in 10 and Nichols had eight points. Boor finished with four while Smith and Blake Wolters both got into the score book with two points each.

This weekend the Mustangs have two BMC Conference games. They will host the Grant Union Prospectors on Friday night and then they will travel to Pilot Rock on Saturday to take on the Rockets.

## Shooting sports program held



4-H Members Liam Heideman and Mary Ashbeck get coached by volunteer coaches, Donnie Griggs (left) and Adam Archer (right) while Mary's parents, Rob and Jennifer Ashbeck and volunteer pistol coach, Jeff Sak, look on.

Morrow County 4-H Shooting Sports had a play day last Sunday at the Lexington Gun Club. Over 60 kids and families participated in various shooting disciplines including shotgun, rifle and pistol.

The county 4-H shooting program began last year with 22 members. This year, 40 are registered to competition shoot in the 4-H program beginning in January and continuing through March. Those members who qualify, based on their overall score, will have the opportunity to participate in the state 4-H event in Albany in June.

"This program has really taken off and we are excited to start our second season," said 4-H agent, Erin Heideman. "The response for volunteers and help has been tremendous and it has now become the fastest growing 4-H program in our county."

In 2019, Morrow County only had a trap-

shooting option and sent seven representatives to the state 4-H shoot: Carter Eynetich (Ione), Owen Guerra (Heppner), Gage Heideman (Ione), Connor Wilson (Ione), Radley Griggs (Boardman), Aden Lathrop (Heppner) and Calvin Rietmann (Ione). Carter Eynetich earned the top junior trapshooting award.

Moving forward in 2020, the shooting sports program has expanded to include archery, pistol and rifle in addition to traditional trapshooting. Members can choose one or more disciplines to participate in thanks to dedicated volunteers Stan Cutsforth, Adam and Rachel Archer, Jeff Sak, Erin Heideman, Ed Rietmann and Donnie Griggs.

Additional information about Morrow County 4-H Shooting sports can be found on the county 4-H Facebook page and at [www.https://extension.oregonstate.edu/4h/morrow](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/4h/morrow).

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County Sheriff's Office, the Umatilla Tribal Police Department, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement Department.

"This is an incredible honor to keep serving the public," Diehl told the Gazette-Times. He said he was "excited to work with the schools, youth and Community Counseling Solutions on issues of mental health in the county" as he takes on the new job.

In other business the commission discussed its plan to reduce the county treasurer's salary. At a recent budget committee meeting committee looked at three different salary options. Leave everything the same for a \$127,152 per year salary and benefit package, 25 percent cut to \$101,609, a 50 percent reduction to \$76,066 and a 75 percent reduction to \$50,524 yearly pay and benefit package. The budget committee at that time did not take any action on the proposals, however, the commission said it wanted to make any changes now since there are two people running for the office. Long-time incumbent Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez is being challenged by Amanda Rea. The commission decided to send the decision

back to the next meeting of the budget committee for its decision. There was no reason given on why they wanted to change the salary. Gutierrez was in attendance at the meeting but did not comment when asked by the Commission.

In other action Commissioner Lindsay took over as board chair from Jim Doherty. "I would like to thank everyone for their work the past year in making our county a better place," she said in chairing the first meeting of 2020. "We worked together in doing good things in 2019 and it was a great year. 2020 will be even better," she said.

## Free movie to be shown

The monthly free movie, sponsored by Hopeful Saints Ministry, will be shown Friday, January 10, beginning at 7 p.m. at the All Saints Parish Hall.

This month's film, rated PG, is a winter adventure story that will captivate adults and kids alike. Ev-

eryone is welcome to enjoy pizza and spend an evening surrounded in virtual snow, in preparation for what might lie ahead in the local forecast.

Additional information is available by calling the church office at 541-676-9970.

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