

NAVY

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intensity fires," the Navy said.

Russell said he was disappointed with the response but not surprised. He said over the years there have been many attempts to work with the Navy for management of the bombing range almost always without results. Since the county has not made much headway on cooperation with the Navy over the years, Russell was asked what the next step might be? "We have contacted our elected representatives, our two senators and Congressman Walden about this. They haven't been able to get anywhere either," Russell said. "I think their (the Navy's) attitude is 'We just don't want to be bothered.'" "They just want to be out there and do what they do without any pressure from us on management," Russell said. The bombing range is used as a training ground for testing the EA-18G Growler aircraft and for drone testing. Commanders for the facility are located at the Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington. As part of the letter, the Navy invited the commissioners to visit Whidbey Island. "Every time we have a meeting, we slide further back," said Commissioner Jim Doherty about the county's relationship with the Navy. "Why would we go to Whidbey Island?" Commissioner Melissa Lindsay asked.

In other business at their Feb. 12 meeting the commissioners heard from former Morrow County Planner Tamra Mabbott who is now the Eastern Oregon Regional Representative with the State of Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.



Tamra Mabbott of DLCD

Mabbott went over her current projects and activities with the commissioners, including work on economic development. She said a 2018 bill allocated \$300,000 to provide assistance to eastern Oregon counties for economic opportunity analysis. Thirty cities in eight counties were helped with the grants, however Morrow County did not receive any funds because it was not designated as economically distressed. Mabbott was the second paid planner in Morrow County taking over from the first, Dean Seeger. From there she went on to be the planner in Umatilla

County before landing her current job with the State of Oregon.

In other business the commissioners said Jerry Rietmann has been appointed by the Ione City Council as director of development to study a new wastewater system there. It is a volunteer position that Rietmann says he is taking on to help the community find a solution to its wastewater needs.

The city has always been on septic systems and that can't go on. The Department of Environmental Quality wants Ione to get a new central system but in the past, it has just been too expensive for the small city to afford.

Rietmann told the Gazette-Times he has some ideas about lower cost systems that might satisfy the DEQ, and he is investigating something that may work in Ione. He points out that Ione has been working hard on providing housing and a good school system for potential new residents, and a new sewer system is needed to build on what has been done there.

In other business the commissioners appointed Glorine Lesperance from Heppner, and Maria Cambero from Boardman as new members to the fair board. They also reappointed Cody High.

Fair Secretary Ann Jones told the commissioners there have been some security concerns at the fairgrounds and they are hiring some security people to take care of it. She said there were issues of people messing with the small animals and they want to make the fair a secure place for everyone.

At a Feb. 5 meeting the commissioners had discussed the food concession at the county's OHV park in the mountains. The Landing Restaurant was closed last year because it could not find someone to operate it. The arrangement is for the contractor to pay the county 10 percent of gross revenue from the food facility. The commissioners discussed several ways to try and keep someone operating the food facility, which they see as a plus for the OHV park. It was suggested that maybe the county should just charge a flat fee to lease the facilities instead of a percentage of revenue. It was also discussed that maybe do a graduated fee schedule and let someone pay less initially and then increase the amount once they get the business established. The county advertised for people to submit proposals on operating the food concession.

Mustangs win last two conference games

Moving on to district tournament

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team won their last two Blue Mountain Conference games of the season. The Mustangs beat the Enterprise Outlaws by the score of 60-30 and then defeated the Weston-McEwen Tigerscots 73-48. The wins put the Mustangs in a second-place tie with the Pilot Rock Rockets. Both teams finished with 8-4 records in conference play. The Mustangs next game will be against the Rockets at the BMC District tournament on Friday at 2:45 at the Pendleton Convention Center.

After the long road trip to Enterprise on a school day last Tuesday, the Mustangs came out of the locker room and jumped all over the Outlaws early. Heppner went up 10-0 before Enterprise scored. The Mustangs then led at the end of the first quarter 15-4.

The Mustangs continued their fine play in the second quarter and outscored the Outlaws 19-9 to take a 34-13 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Heppner went on an 8-0 run to open up play in the second half. The Mustangs starters were pulled midway through the third quarter and did not play any more in the game. The Heppner bench players continued to dominate the action and they stretched the lead to 30 points at the end of the third quarter 50-20.

The final quarter was much of the same and the trip home got a whole lot shorter as the Mustangs won the game by the score of 60-30.

Leading the way in scoring for the Mustangs was Mason Lehman with

18 points. He also had two rebounds, a steal and he blocked a shot in limited playing time. Casey Fletcher was next with seven points, three rebounds, one assist, a steal and a he also blocked a shot. With six points each were Jayden Wilson and Kason Cimmiyotti. Wilson also had three rebounds, four steals and one blocked shot while Cimmiyotti recorded a steal and a blocked shot. With five points in the game was Roy Collins. He also had three rebounds and an assist for the team. Joe Sherman had four points, led the team with six rebounds, had one assist and two steals. Jackson Lehman also scored four points and had three assists, two rebounds and three steals while Brock Hisler scored four points, had two rebounds and blocked one shot. Jordan Sweeney recorded three points and three rebounds while Kellen Grant scored three and had one rebound and one steal. Kannon Wilkins grabbed four rebounds and Gavin Hanna Robinson had two steals in the game.

In the home contest against the Tigerscots, the Mustangs came out fast and took a 5-0 lead before Weston-McEwen could score. The Mustangs continued to dominate play and led at the end of the first quarter 16-10.

During the second quarter, the Mustangs stretched the lead to as much as 14 points several times and they led at halftime 38-25.

Weston-McEwen could not get any closer in the third quarter. The Mustangs stretched the lead to 20 points and led at the end of

the quarter 57-37. All of the Mustang team members played extended minutes in the second half. In the fourth quarter, the team continued to stretch out the lead. The Mustangs ended up winning the game by the score of 73-48.

Once again, Mason Lehman led the team in scoring with 20 points in the game. He also recorded four rebounds and two assists. Wilson followed with 14 points, three rebounds and a steal. The third team member to finish in double figures was Hisler with 11 points, eight big rebounds, two assists and he had two steals. Fletcher had nine points, two rebounds, three steals and he blocked three shots in the game. Sherman chipped in eight points, had six rebounds, one assist and two steals on the night. Collins was next with four points, one rebound and one steal while Jackson Lehman scored three points, had one rebound, three assist and two steals. With two points each were Hanna Robinson and Grant. Hanna Robinson also had two rebounds, one assist and a steal while Grant ripped down six rebounds. Wilkins had three rebounds and one assist, Sweeney recorded two re-

bounds and a steal while Cimmiyotti had a rebound and a steal in the game.

The JV Mustangs didn't travel to Enterprise on a school night but they finished their season at home against the Tigerscots. The JV Mustangs won their final game of the season by the score of 59-35.

A balanced scoring attack was led by Roy Collins who scored 13 points in three quarters of play. Tucker Ashbeck was next with 12 points and Cody Fletcher had 10. Trevor Nichols scored 9 and Ty Boor finished with seven points. David Cribbs chipped in three points and with two points each were Mikel Jaca and Derrick Smith. Blake Carter scored one point to round out the scoring for the Mustangs.

With the win, the JV team finished the season with a 14-5 overall record and they were 9-2 in conference play. The team outscored their opponents of the season 871 points to 690. They averaged 46 points a game and allowed an average of 36 points per game. With the outstanding play of the JV team, the future certainly looks bright for the Mustang basketball program.

Annual Cruz-In scheduled

The 19th annual St. Paddy's Cruz-In will be held March 14 during the 39th annual St. Patrick's Celebration in Heppner. The car show will be set up on Willow Street between Heppner Market Fresh and St. Patrick's senior center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All classic vehicle owners who wish to join the show should register at 9 a.m., with the cost being \$20 per vehicle. Judging for awards will begin at 9 a.m. and winners will be announced at 3 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded for Leprechaun's Choice, Mustang's Choice, Best

Convertible, Best 1910's - 1920's Car or Pickup, Best Street Rod, Best Paint, Best Restomod Car, Best of Show and many more. The Participant's Choice award will be selected by all participating car owners. A participant's poker walk will be held through five downtown businesses, with a cash prize for the first- and second-best poker hands.

For additional information, to obtain an entry form or to volunteer, contact Heppner Chamber of Commerce at 541-676-5536 or Gary and Doris Jones at 541-676-5456.

Community lunch menu

Firelight/Christian Life volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, February 26 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will be meat loaf, roasted red potatoes, corn, Key West vegies, green beans and pineapple.

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

Heppner students sign letters of intent



Mason Lehman has signed a letter of intent with Eastern Oregon University.



Nicole Prophter signs her letter of intent with Lewis and Clark College.

Heppner athletes Mason Lehman and Nicole Prophter have both signed letters of intent to play sports for the colleges they plan to attend in the fall.

Mason Lehman has signed a letter of intent to play football at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. Mason is son of Andy and Jessica Stelk. Mason was a first team all-state offensive and defensive player for the Heppner Mustangs.

"Mason had a great career at HHS. I look forward to watching him continue to play the game he loves," stated his coach Greg Grant.

Nicole Prophter has signed a letter of intent to play golf at Lewis and Clark State College in Lewiston ID. Nicole is daughter of Gary and Nancy Prophter. Nicole is a returning all-state player who finished 8th at the state tournament in 2019.

"Nicole continues to grow into a fantastic player. She has worked hard to improve her game and she is a talented athlete to begin with. I look forward to watching Nicole continue to play the game she loves," stated coach Greg Grant.

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Lodge at 3:30 p.m.
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