



the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

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Mustang football earns OSAA team of the month, rolls vs Weston McEwen



The Mustang offense awaits the call from Coach Grant. -Photo by Damon Brosnan

By Blake Carter

After having a season scrapped due to COVID 19, the Mustang football team has returned with a fire in their eyes. They have played well, and impressed many, including the state of Oregon. The Mustangs have earned the honor of the OSAA 2A classification team of the month. Every month of the school year, the OSAA selects a varsity team from each classification as the team of the month. The team of the month is chosen based on performance, dedication in the classroom and service to the community. Each team is recognized by the OSAA and Les Schwab Tires. The Mustangs will receive a commemorative trophy, along with a \$100 donation from Les Schwab.

Heppner enjoyed this accomplishment but quickly focused their attention to Friday night, vs Weston McEwen. Heppner looked dominant once again as

they rolled to a 39-0 victory. Weston McEwen came out energized, they were undefeated, and looking for their third league win. Not only were they playing the Mustangs, but this contest also lined up with the TigerScots homecoming. Weston McEwen students filled up the end of the grandstands and were creating noise all night.

The coin was flipped, and it was the Mustangs' opportunity to return. Heppner kicked things off with a bang, as senior Brock Hisler took the opening kickoff 55 yards and set the Mustangs up on Weston's 30-yard line. However, Weston wasn't going to give up that easily, they quickly forced a fourth down and held the Mustangs on their opening drive. Unfortunately for the TigerScots, this Mustang defense was relentless, Kason Cimmiyotti picked up a fumble and took it to the endzone, giving Heppner a 6-0 lead. Weston

stayed competitive for the first quarter, both teams traded punts. The Mustang offensive line opened the TigerScot defense as Brock Hisler and Caden George gashed the defense. Hisler opened up the drive with a 27-yard gain. George cashed in on a 24-yard run to put Heppner up another score, 12-0.

The Mustang defense has been talked about all year, and once again they helped produce points, George jumped in front of a pass from the TigerScot quarterback and returned it for a 47-yard pick six. Heppner wouldn't slow down, Blaine Mahoney forced another TigerScot fumble, Hisler swooped in and jumped on the fumble just two plays after the pick six. Hisler proceeded to follow his offensive line into the endzone on a 20-yard run. Heppner led 26-0 and took this score into halftime.

Heppner and Weston traded stops in the third

quarter, but the Mustangs found paydirt once again as Hisler scored on a two-yard run. Early in the fourth quarter, Heppner capped off the scoring as Jace Coe finished off an 88-yard drive with a 38-yard touchdown run. At this time the clock began to run without stoppage, and it was only a matter of time until the clock struck zero and gave the Mustangs a 39-0 win.

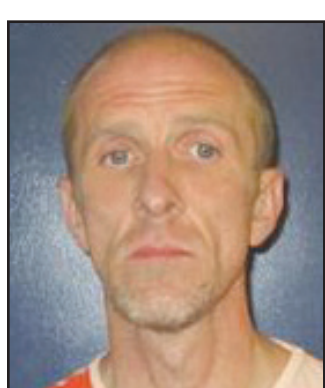
Week after week the Mustang defense has had continued success, and this game was no different. The stiff Mustang defense recovered three fumbles and intercepted a pass, scoring two touchdowns on the turnovers. The TigerScot offense only gained 51 total yards of offense and was forced to punt 10 different times this game. The TigerScots crossed the first down marker five times in the game.

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Suspicious person flees from law enforcement

Caught the next day in the mountains

A suspicious person who was reported at a residence near Ione and later fled from law enforcement has been captured and lodged at Umatilla County Jail. Jeremy James Combs, 42, was charged with unauthorized use of vehicle, unlawful possession of fictitious ID, attempt to elude/flee, providing false information, forgery, criminal trespass and reckless



Jeremy James Combs

endangering with total bail set at \$100,000.

Morrow County deputies were dispatched to Ione on October 2 shortly after 10 p.m. after the suspicious person was reported but he left in a vehicle headed towards Lexington. A deputy located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop near Heppner. When the subject was questioned about warrants he fled from the stop in the vehicle. Traveling

south of Heppner on to Shobe Canyon Rd. and then turning on to Sanford Canyon Rd, Combes lost control and crashed. He then ran on foot into the dark. Sheriff's office personnel searched the area but were unable to locate him.

On Sunday, October 3 at approximately 10 a.m. a four-wheeler was reported stolen on Upper Rhea Creek. All leads and sightings led the MCSO deputies searching in the Upper Rhea Creek area in the Blue Mountains. Around 5:30 p.m. some hunters found the four-wheeler, undamaged and out of gas. Then a call came in from a hunter who had eyes on Jeremy and gave deputies a location. MCSO was able to locate Combes and take him into custody without incident.

Local veteran visits Washington DC



Billy Gentry visits Washington, DC's monuments and memorials. Unfortunately, the Korean War Memorial (above) was under construction. -Contributed photos.



Billy Gentry pictured with the Washington Monument in the background.

Local veteran, Billy Gentry, recently visited Washington DC, traveling with other veterans on the Honor Flight. Gentry and five other men from Heppner volunteered for the Korean War 68 years ago and Gentry is the only one left. Bill was afraid he wouldn't be able to go on the trip because it had been cancelled twice before due to COVID and this trip was the only group from Oregon to travel this year.

Bill was excited to visit Washington DC monuments and memorials with the Honor Flight of Central Oregon out of Redmond, accompanied by his daughter, Janet Greenup. Roy Drago, former Morrow County Sheriff, and his son from Boardman also represented Morrow County. Veterans from the Korean and Vietnam wars were represented on the flight. The flight began in Redmond on an Alaska Airlines Airbus 321, specially painted for Honor Flights, with 23 veterans, guardians and staff on board.

"The reception when

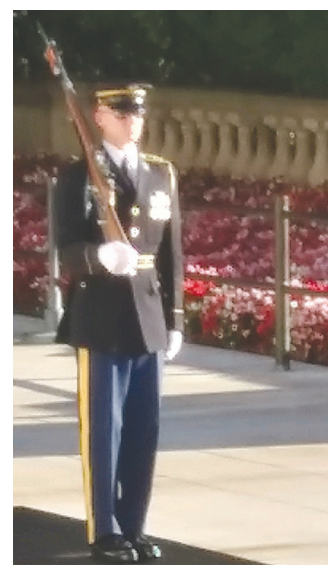
we landed at the Ronald Reagan Airport in DC was fantastic. Everyone in our part of the airport welcomed the veterans with a standing ovation and applause," Greenup told the Gazette. "The view from the hotel included the Air Force Memorial, the Pentagon, the Capitol Building and Arlington Cemetery," Greenup continued. Of all the sites visited, Gentry's favorite was the changing of the guard at the tomb of the unknown soldier. "It was reverent and moving," she said.

Bill was looking forward to seeing the Korean War Memorial and hoped to find the name of a very good friend he lost in Korea on the memorial wall, but the memorial was under construction. Bill is reminiscent of the men he served with and the countries where he was stationed during the war. Gentry said, "This trip should be on every veteran's bucket list."

When the flight returned and landed in Redmond, a group from the American Legion and VFW

Left: Billy Gentry visited the tomb of the unknown soldier and the changing of the guard.

-See VETERAN VISITS DC/
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