

# Mustang wrestlers take third in Jo-Hi Invitational

Just three points behind second place

The Heppner wrestlers traveled to Joseph for the Jo-Hi Invitational on Friday and Saturday. Thirteen teams competed in the two-day tournament that is one of the longest running tournaments in Oregon history. Heppner won third place with 109 team points, just three points behind second place, Elgin. Culver won the team title with 251 points.

The Mustangs crowned three individual champions after having four out of their seven wrestlers advanced to the championship semi-finals Saturday morning. Roen Waite (120-lbs), Conor Brosnan (182-lbs), Cade Cunningham (195-lbs) and Nathan Ellsworth (220-lbs) each advanced to the semi-finals.

Waite, Brosnan and Cunningham would go on to the finals and Ellsworth finished fifth.

Waite had to defeat two Culver wrestlers on his way to the finals and faced another Culver opponent for the championship. The bout was a tough skirmish back and forth with position and lead changes for two rounds. Ultimately heart and conditioning won out as Waite put him down for good late in the third round



Nate Ellsworth works toward a pin of a Crane opponent in the 5/6 consolation finals. -Photos by Damon Brosnan.

with a pin for the gold.

Brosnan entered the tournament as the number one seed and advanced to the finals dominantly with a pin over a Culver opponent in the semi-finals. In the championship bout he faced a Union opponent who had been seeded third but had overpowered and pinned the second seed. The match between the two brawny wrestlers was a battle for the full six minutes that saw several stoppages for blood time. Brosnan led the scoring the whole way and ultimately held on for a close 7-5 decision.

Cunningham had also been the first seed wrestler and advanced through the tournament, mostly on byes. The sophomore

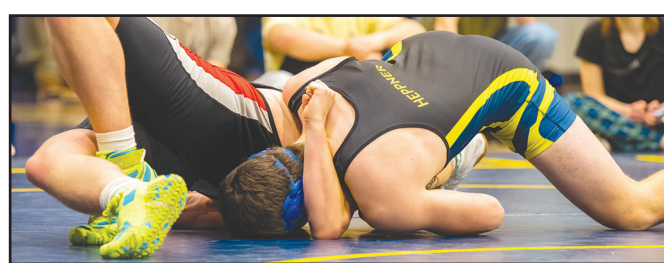
Mustang had been close to winning gold medals in previous tournaments this year but had come up just short each time in his first year as a Mustang. Eager to get on the mat in action, he was not to be denied gold this time as he dominated his Union rival from the beginning and pinned him in the second round.

Heppner's three gold medals was second only to Culver's four in the tournament. Heppner had a total of seven competitors while Culver had 23.

Edward Ellsworth finished fourth at 152-lbs and Saul Lopez finished sixth in a tough 145-lbs bracket. Tyler Boor also wrestled at 145-lbs and won a match in exhibition.



The Heppner wrestling team placed third out of 10 at the Joseph tournament. Pictured (L-R): Cade Cunningham, Jace Coe, Ty Boor, Saul Lopez, Nathan Ellsworth, Ed Ellsworth, Roen Waite and Conor Brosnan. -Photos by Damon Brosnan.



Cade Cunningham pins a Union opponent in championship finals.



Roen Waite with the takedown of Culver opponent in the championship finals.



Conor Brosnan on his way to escaping from Union wrestler in championship finals

## School board prepares for Dirksen retirement

The Morrow County School Board is gearing up for the search for a new superintendent in preparation for the retirement of current superintendent Dirk Dirksen June 30 of this year. The board selected the Oregon School Board Association to assist with the search. The board was cautioned, however, that the candidate pool, as of now, is small and, the search may be a difficult one.

The board is now in the process of selecting a superintendent search committee.

"This has been a challenging year," commented Dirksen, who added that he appreciates the support he has received and "appreciates everyone for the work you're doing for students."

Also at the meeting, the board revised and readopted graduation requirements for "awarding of a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma and an alternative certificate which meet or exceed state requirements."

"A high school diploma will be awarded to students in grades 9 through 12 who complete a minimum of 24 credits which include at least: three credits in mathematics, four credits in language arts, three credits in science, three credits in social sciences (history, civics, geography and economics, including personal finance); one credit in health education, one credit

in physical education, three credits in career and technical education, the arts or world languages; one credit in career education and five elective credits."

"A student may satisfy graduation requirements in less than four years. The district will award a diploma to a student fulfilling graduation requirements in less than four years if consent is given by the student's parent or guardian or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older or emancipated."

In other business, the board:

-heard from Marie Shimer, director of Educational Services, concerning translations for Spanish-speaking students. "At the school level, they try to translate as much as they can," said Shimer. "It's sometimes difficult to get it all translated," added Dirksen.

-heard a financial statement presentation from Dickey & Tremper, accountants.

-received the following enrollment report of January: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon, kindergarten through third grade-209; Sam Boardman Elementary, Boardman, kindergarten through third grade-333; Heppner Elementary, kindergarten through sixth grade-179; Irrigon Elementary, fourth through sixth grade-180; Windy River Elementary,

Boardman, fourth through sixth grade-242; Heppner Jr./Sr. High School, seventh through 12<sup>th</sup> grade-162; Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School, seventh through 12<sup>th</sup> grade-370; Riverside Jr./Sr. High School, seventh through 12<sup>th</sup> grade-482; Morrow Education Center, Irrigon, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade-75; total-2,232 kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

-approved the following employment action: Resignations-Richard Worden, HJHS junior high assistant girls' basketball coach; Retirements-Shelley Liscom, Morrow Education Center teacher, end of the school year; Employment/Promotions/Transfers-Lauren Bock, RJSJS ed assistant, William Dedrick, RJSJS ed assistant, Fabian Mezaa, RJSJS ed assistant, Sandra Zuniga, SBE ed assistant, Cheryl Taylor, SBE ed assistant; Extra Duty Contracts-Kersten Ellsworth, HJSJS temporary junior high assistant girls' basketball coach, Ivan Navarrete, IJSJS junior high head girls' basketball coach, and Kylie Wyant, IJSJS junior high assistant girls' basketball coach.

-adopted the following rescinded, new or revised policies: All Students Belong-rescinded; All Students Belong; Bidding Requirements and Graduation Requirements.

-adopted the following new, revised or rescinded

administrative rules: Bias Incident Complaint Procedures-rescinded; Bias Incident Complaint Procedure; Graduations Requirements-rescinded.

-received the following projected ending fund balance, listing revenues of \$28,302,014; estimated expenditures of \$28,092,874 with revenues over expenditures-\$209,140; a beginning fund balance of \$4,508,248 and a projected ending fund balance of \$4,717,388.

-received the following board meeting schedule: February 14, March 14, April 11, May 10 and June 12, 2022, all at the

North District Office at the Morrow Education Center, Irrigon.

-received the following announcement: January 13-end of first semester; January 14-eight-hour staff work day; January 17-no school, Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday

The district cites OAR 333-019-1050 that "face masks are required to be worn in all K-12 indoor and outdoor settings for the 2021-2022 school year. This includes our school board meetings. If you find you are unable to wear a mask, the option of joining the meeting online is available to you."

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