

Mustang wrestlers third in Pine Eagle Invitational tournament

The Heppner wrestling team traveled to Halfway, Oregon to compete in the Pine Eagle Invitational, their last regular season tournament for the 2021-2022 year. The Mustangs as a team placed third out of 13 teams.



Above- Kylie Holden working to escape from Imbler wrestler

Below- Zac Brown with takedown of Nampa Christian wrestler

-Photos by Damon Brosnan



Four out of the eight Heppner wrestlers, Roen Waite (120-lbs), Zac

Brown (126-lbs), Conor Brosnan (182-lbs) and Cade Cunningham (195-lbs), went undefeated into the championship semifinals of their weight class. Brown faced a two-time state champion in the semifinal bout and was the only one of the four to not successfully advance to the finals. Brown went on to finish in fourth place with a 2-2 record for the tournament.

Waite pinned all his opponents he faced for the day and started the Mustangs' roll through the championships, finishing off his Jo-Hi opponent in 1:54. Brosnan likewise pinned his way to the championship and was on his way to pinning his



The three Gold Medal winners at the Pine Eagle tournament: Roen Waite, Conor Brosnan and Cade Cunningham

Grant Union opponent in the final's bout when he was awarded the championship via injury default. Cunningham continued the Heppner dominance with an 18-1 technical fall over his Enterprise opponent. All three stood atop the podium to add another gold medal to their season's accomplishments.

Ty Boor wrestled up a weight class to 160-lbs and went 2-2 for the day, placing fifth. Edward Ellsworth scored team points at 152-lbs by winning his first match by fall. Nathan Ellsworth placed

sixth at 220-lbs. Kylie Holden also competed for the Mustangs in the boys' tournament as no girl's brackets were available.

The Heppner wrestling team will next compete in the Special District 4 championships in Adrian on February 19. The top two finishers in each weight class are guaranteed a ticket to the state championship tournament while the third placers enter a pool for one of the three wild card entries awarded from the four districts.

Colt Basketball is back



Colt basketball Champions, the Ducks

Colt basketball is back. This year over 50 second through sixth graders from Heppner Elementary participated in Colt Basketball.

Students were split up into six teams. The team names were Beavers, Ducks, Cougars, Bruins, Bears, and Huskies. This year the season lasted six weeks. Each Sunday teams would play two games and the season finished with a single elimination tournament on February 13.

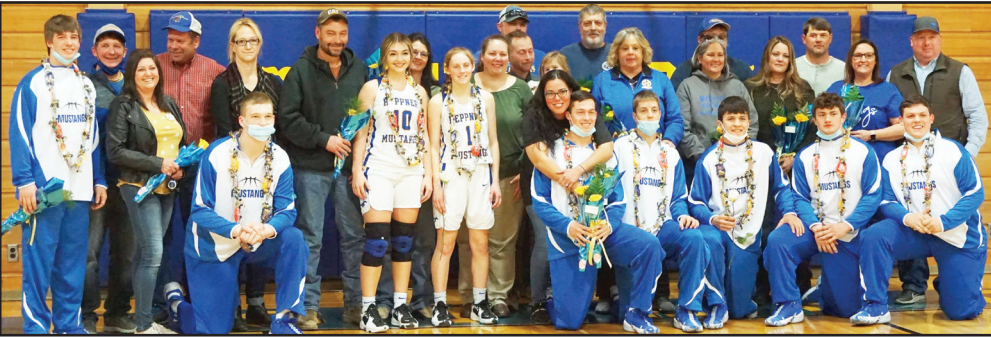
The Ducks took home the trophy for the 2022 season. Pictured are the

ducks with their trophies. Top row (L-R): Coach Josh Coiner, Joel Wilson, Addie Coe, Jace Wilson, Khloe Rodriguez, Paisley Cutsforth, and coach Jeromy Wilson; Front row (L-R), Harper Coiner, Katherine Knowles, Logan Rice, Leo Ashbeck and Jaiden Macias.

"All the teams played amazingly, had fun, and learned a lot," a spokesperson commented. "The coaches were very proud of how hard the teams played and can't wait for next year."

Mustang Boys Lock Up Number One Seed at Districts

Lady Mustangs also win two games and earn last spot in Districts



Heppner senior basketball players were honored Saturday vs Pilot Rock, Picture L-R; Cody Fletcher and his parents Andrea and Andy, Brian Lindsay and his parents Kim and Barney, ZABrena Masterson and her parents Betty Joe and Mike, Hannah Finch and her parents Julia and Tripp, Kason Cimmiyotti and his parents Tylynn and Jeremy, Derrick Smith and his parents Melanie and Rick, Joe Sherman and his parents Donna and Andy, Brock Hisler and his parents Stephanie and Shawn, and Blake Carter and his parents Kim and Scott. - Photo by Susan Hisler

By: Blake Carter

With the postseason looming, the Heppner basketball teams played two final regular season games this weekend. Heppner traveled to Athena to battle the TigerScots, and then had the opportunity to host one last home game after four games on the road. These two games were monumental to both squads. With two wins, the Lady Mustangs would have the opportunity to compete at the district tournament this weekend. The Mustang boys looked to lock up the regular season district title against two scrappy teams.

First task on the weekend was a tough road test in Weston-McEwen, the girls team faced a squad who is currently battling for the last spot in districts. Both the Lady Mustangs, and Lady TigerScots sat at two wins, and needed this victory to be able to fight for a spot in Pendleton at the district tournament. Heppner pulled out a huge victory, 40-26. Heppner put together a very complete game, a strong press at the beginning of the game frustrated the TigerScots. An early lead was built, the Mustangs gained the early six-point advantage. A 12-2 second quarter broke the game wide open. Heppner would maintain that lead for the rest of the game as Weston couldn't close the gap.

Girls Stats vs WM; Hannah Finch, one point; Zandra Masterson, 12 points; Hadlie Nation, 10 points; Brook Wilson, four points; ZABrena Masterson, six points; Hallee Hisler, seven points.

The boys team faced a TigerScot Squad who just lost to Union on Tuesday. With that crushing defeat,

the TigerScots are trying to preserve a fourth-place spot at districts. Heppner on the other hand is looking to lock up that number one seed in districts, and a playoff berth. Heppner held off a late push to grab a 68-61 victory. Heppner fell behind early, as Weston was feeding into their home crowd. Heppner would battle back and keep the game neck and neck headed into halftime. Heppner began to take the game over in the second half, extending the lead out to 59-40. Weston turned on the jets late as they quickly got the game down to 59-50. Heppner would trade buckets and push the lead out to 64-53. Weston wasn't done yet though; another strong run brought the contest to within three points at 64-61. Heppner would get some late free throws and a couple solid stops to hold off a hungry TigerScot squad.

Saturday was a heavy day for all of the Mustang Basketball players. Heppner said farewell to nine seniors across both teams, two girls, and seven boys. Although this wasn't the end of their season, it was possibly the last time these seniors would play at home with their crowd behind them. The Mustangs would play with their hearts as the Lady Mustangs dominated all night long in a 53-26 win. Heppner put together one of their most complete games to date, hot shooting in the first quarter built the Mustangs an early lead. The press was working once again as Pilot Rock struggled to sustain any offensive rhythm. Heppner built a 16-point lead at halftime, and only grew that lead in the second half.

Girls' stats vs PR; Hannah Finch, five points;

Zandra Masterson, eight points; Hadlie Nation, eight points; Brook Wilson, six points; ZABrena Masterson, 13 points; Hallee Hisler, four points; Morgan Cutsforth, five points; Hailey Wenberg, four points.

The Mustang boys looked strong in a 77-35 win and clinched the Blue Mountain Conference regular season title. Heppner started hot, using a big 24-9 first quarter. Heppner continued to shut down the Rocket attack as they held the Rockets to just 17 points in the first half as Heppner built a 22-point lead at the half. Another 24-point quarter blew the game wide open as Heppner dominated in a blow-out win. Kason Cimmiyotti scored 20 points on the night as the Mustang seniors combined for 53 points.

Boys stats vs PR; Tucker Ashbeck, seven points, two rebounds, one steal; David Cribbs, five points; Trevor Nichols, three points, one rebound; Caden George, three points; Landon Mitchell, six points, two steals; Derrick Smith, three points, one steal, one block; Kason Cimmiyotti, 20 points; Blake Carter, nine points, one assist, two rebounds; Cody Fletcher, five points, two rebounds; Brock Hisler, eight points, one assist, one rebound, one steal; Joe Sherman, six points, two assist, two rebounds, four steals; Brain Lindsay, two points, two rebounds.

The district tournament is now set, and we officially have a bracket. The district tournament is set up in this manner, on Friday the number two, and three seeds will compete with the winner advancing to the championship game

with the number one seed. The number four, and five seeds will also compete on Friday, with the winner facing the loser of the number two, and three seed game. This matchup will be for third place, the loser of the four and five seed game will go home empty handed. On Saturday the event will open up with the third-place games, before shifting to the district championships. However, with there being ties in the league standings, there will be one game played for seeding purposes on Tuesday.

The girls bracket shakes out like this. On Friday at 2:45 PM; number three seeded Enterprise Outlaws vs number

Lott's Fitness Center opening soon

By Hanna Finch

You may remember back in May of 2020 when the antique Green's Feed Store sign was uncovered at Lott's. It's been nearly two years and the construction in that area is finally coming to a close, presenting what will soon be Lott's Fitness Center.

Here, you'll be able to work out and hire a personal trainer. There will also be fitness classes hosted in the Gilliam and Bisbee Building through Lott's as well.

"We'll have a lot of different equipment: both cardio and strength training," says Katie Siri, director of Heppner Community Foundation. Siri says there will be two ellipticals, treadmills and recumbent bikes, as well as weight training equipment. There will also be a stretching space, complete with mirrors and bars.

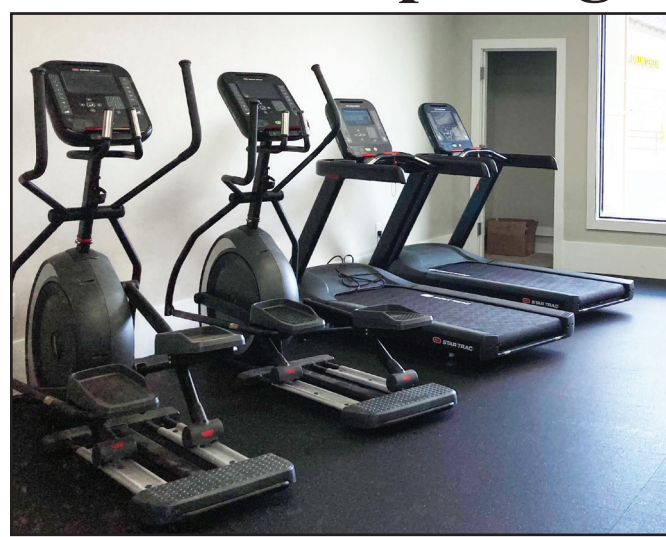
"When the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation started, everyone kept telling me that we needed a fitness center," says Kim Cutsforth, president of Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group and manager of the project. "For years, we've been told we should invest in one."

Cutsforth admits that there have been many hiccups along the way. When the Heppner Community Foundation bought the building on Main Street

from Lott's, they quickly set to remodeling, only to discover that the building was actually a barn. "Nobody knew. There were no studs in the walls, no foundation... It was crazy. We had to tear it down and rebuild it."

Along with this, Covid has hindered the process that was originally supposed to take a short six months, but has now been a project that has been ongoing for more than a year. With spring right around the corner, the finishing touches are finally underway.

Lott's Fitness Center opening soon



A sneak peek at the interior of the new fitness center.

Regular membership is 30 dollars per month and 300 dollars per year. By paying for the yearly membership, you would save 60 dollars, or two months' worth of membership. There will be a discount for students and first responders. It is important to note that membership does not include any classes.

"We've opened the gym to any personal trainers in town that would like to utilize the facility with clients," Siri says. "We're partnering with some trainers and are looking for instructors that are interested in hosting fitness classes." Shelby Matthews will be managing Lott's Fitness Center once it opens, and there are plans to have an open house once the center opens in the spring. If you are interested in hosting a fitness class or have any questions, you can contact Katie Siri at (503) 504-8508

There will be a door system put into place that utilizes an app called Glofox on your phone, so that only those with a membership will be able to enter. You can sign up for membership and classes within the app, and there will also be a phone number designated for people