

# Ione FFA announces Mustangs storm Pendleton and the 2A state degree recipients state tournament

By Blake Carter

2016 was the last time the Mustangs boys' varsity squad found themselves at the state tournament. Six years later, they're back. Heppner has taken a long road to get here to Pendleton, and the 2A state tournament. After winning their first game of the year, Heppner suffered their first loss to Umatilla, a team who also punched their ticket to their classification's state tournament.

Heppner rebounded well with a win over the reigning 1A state champion, Nixyaawii. They then took on the 2A preview in Pendleton where they came out a clean 3-0. Heppner added another win to go on a five game win streak, before suffering their second loss to Warrenton. Heppner then went on a tear, winning nine games in a row, seven of which were league contests. After starting 7-0 in league play, Heppner fell at the hands of Stanfield, suffering their third loss of the season. Heppner used the loss as motivation and won the final four regular season games, leaving them at an impressive 19-3 record. Heppner wasn't satisfied, they followed up with a dismantling of the only league opponent who had beaten them this year, Stanfield. Heppner guaranteed themselves a home playoff game, and a district championship. They still wanted more, the Mustangs returned home and took down the Tigers for the second time this year and found themselves in Pendleton. This year the Mustangs returned to Pendleton with a chip on their shoulder. Just last season they were bounced from the tournament by the same team they were facing in the quarter finals, the Knappa Loggers.

Pendleton High School was the spot to be for all Mustang fans, the 21-3

Blue Mountain Conference when the champion Heppner Mustangs took on the 25-1 Northwest League District champion Knappa Loggers. Heppner would fight all night long but fall 63-50. Knappa raced out to an early 7-0 lead in the first quarter, the Loggers built the lead to 16-7 at the end of the quarter. A 19-11 second quarter led to a 35-18 Knappa lead at halftime. Heppner was able to cut the lead down to 12 during the third quarter but still trailed 50-36 at the end of the third quarter. Knappa retained the lead in the fourth quarter and handed Heppner a loss in the quarter finals. Joe Sherman scored 14 points as Tucker Ashbeck followed with 13. Ashbeck was also named the Moda Health Player of the Game for Heppner.

Stats vs Knappa: Tucker Ashbeck, 13 points, eight rebounds, one steal; David Cribbs, two points, seven rebounds, two assists, one steal; Trevor Nichols, five points, one rebound, one assist, one block; Caden George, two rebounds, one assist; Landon Mitchell, four points, five rebounds, two assists; Derrick Smith, three points; Blake Carter, two rebounds; Cody Fletcher, one rebound; Brock Hisler, nine points, four rebounds, two assists, one block, four steals; Joe Sherman, 14 points, four rebounds, two assists, one block, two steals.

After taking a tough loss, Heppner returned to action the following morning at the Pendleton Convention Center, where they took on a stout Regis Rams squad who were coming off a loss at the hands of the Salem Academy Crusaders. Regis pulled off the upset of the Jefferson Lions to take the Central Valley Conference title and punched their ticket to Pendleton. Behind 28 points from freshman

Isaiah Koehnke, Regis defeated Heppner 67-49. Regis raced out to an 18-6 lead in the first quarter. Heppner battled back and got the lead down to two points with the scoreboard reading 22-20, with Regis leading early in the second quarter. The Rams would extend the lead back out and lead 38-29 at halftime. Heppner once again cut into the deficit early in the third, trailing by just four before Regis took control again. Regis led by 15 after the third quarter and maintained the lead to end Heppner's incredible season. Tucker Ashbeck earned player of the game honors once again for the Mustangs.

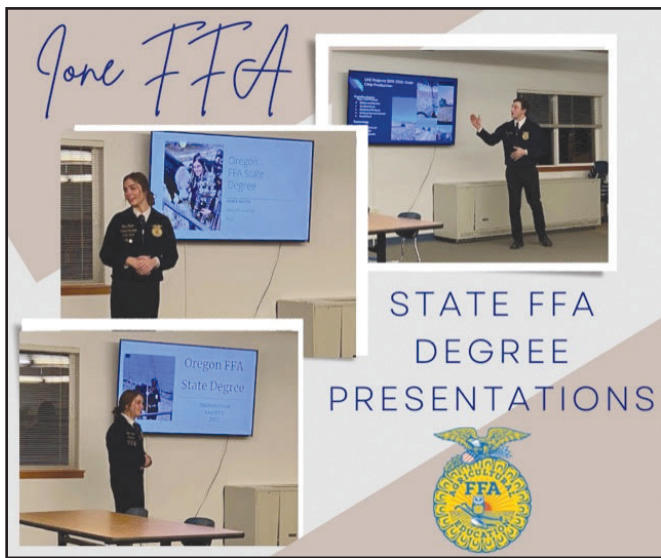
Stats vs Regis: Tucker Ashbeck, nine points, 11 rebounds, two steals; David Cribbs, six points, four rebounds, three steals; Trevor Nichols, four points, five rebounds, one assist; Caden George, four points, five rebounds, three assists, one steal; Landon Mitchell, seven points, one rebound; Cameron Proudfoot, one steal; Derrick Smith, one

point; Blake Carter, three points; Cody Fletcher, one assist; Brock Hisler, seven points, four rebounds, two assists, two steals; Joe Sherman, eight points, two rebounds, two assists, five steals.

Heppner ended their season with 21 wins, and just five losses. Heppner captured their first league title since 2019 and appeared at the state tournament for the first time since 2019. The Mustangs will graduate seven seniors and look to their younger players to continue the success next year.

Two other Blue Mountain Conference opponents appeared in the girls' tournament in Pendleton this weekend. Stanfield placed sixth, while the Union Bobcats captured their first state championship in girls' basketball.

The Mustangs will begin their spring seasons within the next few weeks, baseball, golf, softball and track and field will all be competing shortly. Good luck to those competing.



Pictured top right to bottom left: Gary Walls, Grace Ogden and Madison Orem. -Contributed photo.

Three members of the Ione FFA Chapter have earned their state FFA degree, the highest award a state FFA association can bestow upon its members. Grace Ogden, Madison Orem and Gary Walls will accept this prestigious honor during the State FFA Convention over spring break in Redmond.

Some of the requirements include having earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 in their project and worked a minimum of 500 hours in the last two years, performed 10 procedures of parliamentary law, given a six-minute speech on an agricultural topic and serviced as an officer. Additionally, each student must have a satisfactory scholastic record, participate in at least 30 FFA activities

and 10 school/community activities and at least 25 community service hours. Once record books and the application are complete, each member must present to a panel of community members and field questions about their project. FFA appreciates Jay and Sue Gibbs and Eric Orem for volunteering their time to listen to the presentations of all the degree recipients in Morrow County.

"I am very proud of these members," said FFA Advisor, Erin Heideman. "This is a tremendous accomplishment and honor"

FFA, once known as Future Farmers of America, is the largest youth leadership organization in the United States. Go to [www.oregonffa.com](http://www.oregonffa.com) to learn more about this organization.

## Birthright to hold open house

Birthright of Morrow County, located on Willow Street and around the corner from Murray's, will be hosting an open house on Saturday, March 12 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the staff for some refreshments and to

see what they're all about.

Birthright is a free, non-judgmental support, for women who are pregnant or think they might be pregnant. They invite everyone to come visit before, after or during the parade on Saturday.

## HHS outdoor club visits ski area



The Heppner High School Outdoor Club recently took a trip to Anthony Lakes Ski Area. The weather was crisp, but the snow was fast. Pictured: Brian Lindsay, Joe Sherman, Trevor Nichols, Owen Cunningham, Maya Payne, Isabel Payne and our newest advisor Petra Payne. Not pictured Advisor Dave Fowler. -Contributed photo.

**ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**

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**\$300,000**  
**SOLD**

A classic beauty in Heppner. From the front sitting room thru the woodworked dining room and open kitchen with island, this 4 bedroom 3 bath home is a unique find. The large living room is overlooked by a balcony upstairs where three of the bedrooms are located. Master bedroom is on the main floor with bath and walk-in closet. Skylights give natural light to the interior. Home includes a two car garage and basement for storage along with a big utility room.

Call for an appointment to see this!  
195 N GALE ST Heppner

**\$365,000**  
**SOLD**  
**INVESTMENT PROPERTY**

Brand new two unit duplex. Two total units with 3 bedrooms 2 baths in each unit. Located in Ione, Oregon. Each unit rented for \$1150 per month. Will make a great investment. Strong rental market has given this duplex an almost 100% occupancy rate. Live in one and rent out the other one..  
DELBERT ST Ione

**buy both \$750,000**  
**buy one \$375,000**  
**SALE PENDING**  
**INVESTMENT PROPERTY**

New Two -3 bedroom 2 bath 1,270 sq ft duplexes (four total units) in Heppner, OR. Each unit rented for \$1150 per month. Will make a great investment. Strong rental market has given these two duplexes an almost 100% occupancy rate. enters pay own water and sewer. Quality construction. P&Ls reports available. Buy one or both! If you want owner will separate lot & sell each duplex separately at \$375,000 ea. Live in one unit, rent out the other..  
515 E COWINS ST Heppner

**\$235,000**  
**SALE PENDING**

Large living room, 2 bedrooms and bathroom upstairs, one bedroom and bath downstairs. The workshop has a cold storage room for the hunter and a great workspace. Renters are currently in the process of moving out.  
535 ELDER ST Heppner

**\$125,000**  
**PRICE REDUCED - MAKE AN OFFER!**

You've always wanted the white picket fence house. Well here it is. From the light airy kitchen, to the comfortable living room, this three bedroom home would be perfect for your family. Has a fenced yard for the kids and pets, and a patio for those summer-evening barbecues with friends and family. You'll like the nice sized laundry room with lots of storage, and the master bedroom has a walk-in closet. And as an added bonus - this property is not in the flood zone. Call me today for a showing!  
340 E HILL ST Heppner

**\$150,000**  
**SALE PENDING**

Nice 3 bedroom 1 bath home in good condition located on quiet street in Heppner. It comes with all the appliances: stove refrigerator, washer and dryer. Fully carpeted basement. Fenced yard for pets or kids. Place for a garden out back. Has a covered patio for barbecuing. If you are interested call and set up a showing before it's gone.  
385 W UNION ST Heppner

**\$199,000**  
**SALE PENDING**

Lots of really nice work just completed on this clean 3 bedroom 1 bath home in Heppner: New carpet, New laminate flooring, New front porch and New hot water heater. All appliances included: Microwave, Built in Dishwasher, Stove, Refrigerator and washer/dryer. A fresh coat of paint throughout has given this home a bright new look. Come and see for yourself.  
340 W WATER ST Heppner

**\$130,000**  
**SALE PENDING**

Cute little two bedroom one bath home on a quiet street in Heppner. Has been completely redone and is in good condition. Will make a good home or a rental unit. Stove and refrigerator included so it is ready to move in to. As a bonus it comes with a .11 ac city lot next door.  
340 E AIKEN ST Heppner

**Buyer Agent Services**  
Buying a home in a For Sale By Owner can be complicated. I would like to help you through all the details involved in the purchase. I can handle Negotiations, Sales Contract Preparation, Inspections, Sale Contingency Protections, Setting up Escrow, Working with your Lender etc.  
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**I Have Buyers Looking!**  
I have buyers looking for homes in the Heppner, Lexington and Ione area. Now is the time to sell! Call, text or email me.