

Mustang girls dominate season opener

The Heppner Mustang girls (#3 BMC, #23 2A) dominated their season opener against the Grant Union Prospectors (#6 BMC, #34 2A) on Saturday. The teams traveled to John Day for the games this weekend and returned with a big win. The girls outscored their opponent in 75 percent of the quarters, and even with no points earned in the fourth quarter, Heppner kept the lead and ended the game 45-11.

One big loss during the game was the injury of player Brooke Wilson. Wilson broke her collarbone during Saturday's game, explaining her mere five minutes of play time and zero stats.

Hallee Hisler led the Mustangs with 16 points. Hadlie Nation contributed eight points, and Arianna Worden

added six points to help the Mustangs with their win.

Stats: A. Worden: 6 points, 3 fouled. H. Hisler: 16 points, 1 assist, 1 foul, 1 steal, 2 turnovers, 1 fouled. H. Nation: 8 points, 1 foul, 1 turnover, 1 fouled. Z. Masterson: 4 points. A. Gerry: 2 points, 3 fouls, 1 steal, 2 turnovers, 1 fouled. M. Cutsforth: 1 steal. L. Nichols: 4 points, 1 turnover. K. Spivey: 1 assist, 2 rebounds, 1 foul, 1 steal, 1 turnover. H. Wenberg: 4 points, 2 rebounds, 1 foul, 1 turnover, 3 fouled. K. Henrichs: 1 point, 2 fouls, 1 steal, 1 turnover, 1 fouled.

This Friday, Jan. 13, the Mustangs travel to Weston-McEwen High School to play at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, the Mustangs will host Irrigon at 1 p.m.

Boor named 2A defensive player of the year

2A DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



The picture says it all: Heppner High School's Ty Boor (right), pictured with HHS football coach Greg Grant, was named 2A Defensive Player of the Year. The Mustang linebacker is one of the top 2A players in the state. -Contributed photo

Barrell race, dinner, auction to benefit local families

A barrel race, silent auction and benefit dinner are being planned for Jan. 22 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner. Proceeds will go to the families of Kellie Nelson of Heppner and Ronald and Tami Stutzman of Heppner, who were all killed in a fatal car crash at the end of December.

The barrel race will be at the Wilkinson Indoor Arena at fairgrounds. The barrel racing will begin at 1 p.m. with time only from 10 a.m. to noon. Open riding will take place from noon until 12:45 p.m.

Entry fee is \$20, which will be jackpotted back. All time only money and office fees will go to the families. A donation jar will also be

available.

In addition to the barrel race, Julie Baker is coordinating a silent auction and raffle, which will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. She is still accepting donations and hopes to have a list of donated items soon.

Jeannie Collins is planning a benefit dinner from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., which will be by donation back to the families.

More information will come out as available. All three women say they welcome any help or donations. Contact Tiffanie Greenup with questions about the barrel race, Julie Baker to donate to the silent auction or Jean Collins to help with the dinner.

Colt wrestling starts Thursday

Colt wrestling will begin this week at the Heppner High School cafeteria. Colt wrestling is for boys and girls ages kindergarten through fifth grade. The dates will be

Thursday, Jan. 12; Wednesday, Jan. 18; Monday, Jan. 23; Wednesday, Jan. 25; and Monday, Jan. 30. All times are 6-7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per child with a maximum of \$50 per family.

Mustangs fall to Prospectors in first league game

The Heppner Mustang boys basketball team travelled to the Grant Union Prospectors and lost their first Blue Mountain Conference game of the year. The Prospectors beat the Mustangs in overtime by the score of 50-45. That moves the Mustangs overall season record to 10-3. They are currently ranked eighth in the OSAA 2A State Basketball rankings.

Grant Union High School is always a tough place to play, and this year proved to be no different. Heppner started out trailing in the game 10-8 after the first quarter of play. The Mustangs then rallied and took the lead early in the second quarter and then pushed the lead to 23-16 at the half.

Heppner continued their strong play in the third quarter and led the game 38-26 after three quarters. Then the Prospectors pushed up the pressure and the Mustangs had a hard time scoring early in the fourth quarter. Grant Union cut into the Mustang lead and, with six minutes left in the game, only trailed the Mustangs 38-35.

The teams traded baskets and then Tucker Ashbeck hit two free throws with 2:36 left in the game to give Heppner a 43-39 lead. Grant Union scored

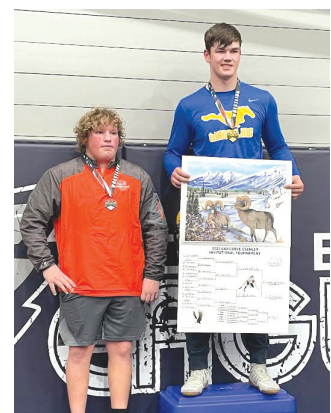
on a three-point play and that made the score 43-42 with just 30 seconds left. The Prospectors got the ball back from the Mustangs and were fouled with five seconds left in the game. A Grant Union player made one of two free throws to send the game into overtime tied at 43-43.

In the overtime period Grant Union scored first and then made a free throw to lead 46-43. Heppner fouled them again and they made two more free throws to now lead 48-43 with 2:40 left in overtime. Two more free throws by Grant Union pushed the score to 50-43 with 26 seconds left in the game. The Mustangs scored their only points of the overtime period with 6.1 second left in the game on a basket by Ashbeck. Grant Union took the win by the score of 50-45.

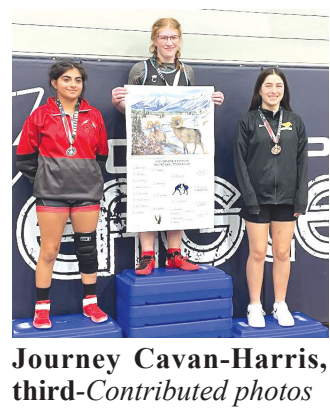
Leading the way in scoring for the Mustangs were Ashbeck and Landon Mitchell with 14 points each. Trevor Nichols had seven and Cameron Proudfoot finished with five points. David Cribbs added three points and Caden George two.

This week the Mustangs travel to Athena to take on the Weston-McEwen TigerScots and then host the Stanfield Tigers on Saturday.

Mustang wrestlers again take top spots at Joseph tournament



Cade Cunningham, first-Contributed photos



Journey Cavan-Harris, third-Contributed photos



Loren Trujillo, third-Contributed photos



Kylie Holden, first-Contributed photos

Heppner wrestlers participated in the annual Cosgrove-Eschler Wrestling Invitational in Joseph held Jan. 6-7, again claiming several top spots on the podium.

Eighteen teams from across Oregon and Idaho participated. Illness and injuries left the Mustangs a little short-handed, but those who wrestled gave it their all.

Placing for the Mustangs were Cade Cunningham, first; Zac Brown, fourth; Kylie Holden, first; Journey Cavan-Harris, third; and Loren Trujillo, third.

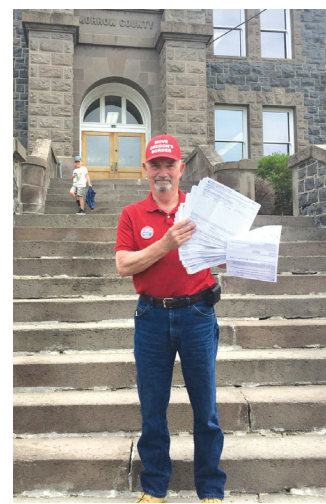
Holden wrestled Lucy Camacho from Imbler in the championship match. These two have met several

times on the mat this season, with Camacho always coming out on top. Holden ended that streak by pinning Camacho in the second round.

Cunningham wrestled Clancy Rutledge from Culver in the championship match. Rutledge beat Cunningham at the Culver Invite last month, and Cunningham evened the score, winning 6-4 in overtime during one of the night's most exciting matches.

This tournament has a unique award for the champions—a print from Joseph's own Dan Moncrief. He paints a new painting every year for this tournament and has been doing so for decades. The original is auctioned off at the tournament.

Greater Idaho bill read in Oregon State Senate



Mike McCarter submits a petition in Heppner on May 26, 2022. -Contributed photo

SALEM—A bill inviting Idaho to begin talks with Oregon on the potential to relocate the state line they share was read on the floor of the Oregon Senate Monday.

The bill, SJM 2, became public yesterday along with other pre-session filed bills. It states, "...we, the members of the 82nd Legislative Assembly stand ready to begin discussions regarding the potential to relocate the Oregon/Idaho border, and invite the Idaho Legislature, the Governor of Idaho, the Governor of Oregon to begin talks on this topic with this Legislative Assembly."

Oregon state senator Dennis Linthicum is the lead sponsor, and the initial cosponsors are Sen. Brian Boquist and Rep. Werner Reschke. Freshman representative Emily McIntire, sworn in Monday, has indicated to leaders of the Greater Idaho movement that she will sign on as a cosponsor when House rules allow.

The bill notes that, of the 15 rural counties of eastern Oregon that are proposed to become parts of Idaho, 11 have already approved ballot measures indicating voter support. Morrow County was one of those, approving a ballot measure in last November's general election. The bill also notes that Oregon slightly relocated its border

with Washington in 1958. The bill lists several reasons that the Democratic majority of the Oregon Legislature should want to relocate the boundary: support for the self-determination of the people of eastern Oregon, financial benefits of offloading eastern Oregon and concern about the interference of eastern Oregon into the politics of western Oregon.

The bill states that eastern Oregon is an economic drain on Oregon's state budget because of the high income taxes paid by the Portland area. The bill also references a poll that found that only three percent of the voters of northwestern Oregon are willing to pay what it costs to have rural regions of Oregon included in the Oregon state budget. The movement estimates the cost is over \$500 per northwestern Oregonian wage earner annually.

Along with all other bills filed prior to the beginning of the legislative session, the bill now lies on the desk of the new President of the Senate, Rob Wagner. According to rules approved yesterday, any progress on a Senate bill requires his approval. Spokesman for the Greater Idaho movement, Matt McCaw, pointed to the same January 2022 SurveyUSA poll that showed that 68 percent of northwestern Oregon voters thought that the Oregon Legislature should hold hearings on the idea, and only 20 percent opposed.

"Portland voters forced a gun control measure on the whole state, although eastern Oregon voters almost blocked it. And then an eastern Oregon judge blocked it. His injunction might stand for a couple years while he decides the case," he said. "It doesn't make sense for these two cultures to be dictating policy to each other."

Boys' JV basketball falls to Prospectors

The Heppner Mustang boys' junior varsity team lost its first game of the season to the Grant Union Prospectors by the score of 57-47. That makes the team's record 7-1 on the season.

Both teams started slowly after the holiday break, and the Mustangs led after the first quarter by the score of 9-8. Grant Union rallied and took the lead into half-time 24-20. The third quarter saw the Mustangs take control of the game at this point as they led 39-34 at the end of three quarters of play. The fourth quarter was a different story as the Prospectors out-

scored the Mustangs 23-8 to take the victory by the score of 57-47.

Leading scorer for the Mustangs was Mason Orem, who had 14 points. Joseph Albrite was next with 11, and with six points each were Thomas Bales and Cooper Wight. With four points each were Jackson Coiner and Owen Cunningham. Caleb George finished with two points in the game for the Mustangs.

The JV Mustangs have games this week at Weston-McEwen on Friday and then they host the Stanfield Tigers on Saturday.

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