

Mustang baseball takes second in districts



Carson Eynetich pitches in an extra inning during the district championship game in Heppner last week. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



Mason Orem sprints for second base. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



The Heppner Mustangs and Weston-McEwen/Griswold shake hands after tough battle. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

The Heppner/Ione Mustang baseball team took second in district playoffs after a close 3-2 loss to Weston-McEwen/Griswold in an extra-inning game last Tuesday in Heppner. Despite the loss, the Mustangs now head into state playoffs in a strong position. The Mustangs received a bye on round one of the 2A/1A state playoffs, which

happened Monday. They enter state playoffs ranked eighth in 2A/1A baseball with a 13-2 league record and 19-5 overall record. They face the North Douglas/Elkton Warriors in a home game Wednesday, May 24, at 3 p.m. The Warriors are ranked ninth in 2A/1A and have a league record of 12-2 with an overall record of 18-7.

Distinguished Service Awards Presented at Ione FFA Banquet



L-R: Yvonne Morter, Debbie Morgan and Peggy Doherty are recognized with the Ione FFA Chapter Distinguished Service Award from the Ione FFA Chapter during its annual banquet. -Photo by Erin Heideman

The Ione FFA Chapter recognized Debbie Morgan, Yvonne Morter and Peggy Doherty with the 2023 Distinguished Service Award from the chapter. Their partnership and contributions have guided the chapter significantly in the Ione School Backpack Program. Each year at the annual FFA banquet, typically held in May, chapter members vote and recognize individuals and businesses who support the chapter. The Distinguished Service award is presented to those who render outstanding service on behalf of the Ione FFA Chapter. For several years, the Ione Community Clinic, Peggy Doherty and Yvonne Morter have partnered with the FFA chapter to distribute

and connect with students and families of Ione school who experience food insecurity. Each week, Ione FFA members pack bags for 22 students in the school and deliver the bags to the clinic for distribution. This is a year-round project. Debbie Morgan communicates every other week with the chapter to find out what specific needs the FFA pantry has and always makes sure they have fresh fruit, pudding, mac-n-cheese and granola for distribution. "The chapter is extremely appreciative of the efforts of our community in our goal to support students in our school," said Ione FFA Advisor Erin Heideman.

Lexington residents hear update on town TGM project



Lexington Town Councilor Katie Imes, Lexington Mayor Juli Kennedy and DLCD representative Dawn Hert discuss priority areas as they look at the Lexington map. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



Community members gather around the Lexington map and talk about areas of concern and possible solutions. Pictured: Tumbleweeds owner Sheila Miller, center, discusses her concerns about the intersection where she parks her food trailer. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



Aimee Okotie-Oyekan of the DLCD gives a presentation on preliminary findings during the TGM Education and Outreach meeting in Lexington Monday. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

By Andrea Di Salvo

A small crowd showed up Monday evening at Lexington Town Hall to hear an update and give their input on Lexington's Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) Plan. The meeting was part of the town's education and outreach efforts, a precursor to planning improvements to Lexington's downtown area. The town has already been working with representatives from Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) and Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to conduct stakeholder interviews with town businesses and identify areas of concern.

DLCD Land Use and Transportation Manager Aimee Okotie-Oyekan was at the meeting to give an update on what the team has done so far. She said citizens and business owners had brought up concerns about gaps in safe infrastructure for walking and biking, vehicles driving at unsafe speeds and the need to prepare for public transportation. After the presentation, she gave audience members a chance to give input and discuss problems and possible solutions. Each attendee was given sticky notes they could put on a town map to identify areas they found most concerning. Residents brought up the need for better and more complete sidewalks, better bike lanes and more crosswalks. At the same time, those at the meeting also recognized the need to keep Main Street usable for trucks and agricultural equipment. Also of concern was getting vehicles to slow down through town and making sure drivers, especially truckers, slowed down enough to stop at the



Lexington residents used sticky notes to highlight problem areas on Main Street. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

intersection of highways 74 and 207.

One consensus at the meeting was the need to lower the Hwy. 207 speed limit through town to 25 mph. Because Hwy. 207 is a state highway, the town will need to go to the state to request the change. Another concern was getting vehicles to slow to the existing speed limits. Several people suggested rumble strips, as well as better signage and, possibly, flashing signs. Townspeople mentioned a number of intersections that need new or more crosswalks. Dawn Hert, DLCD Eastern Oregon Regional Representative, also told the group it is surprising how sidewalks, trees and lighting can help remind people to slow down through towns. She also urged the town to make the best use of ODOT's current sidewalk ramp re-do in its plans.

There was also extensive dialogue about the need to keep Main Street wide enough for commercial traffic, as well as things to avoid at intersections to keep them usable for big rigs. "This need for balance is really bubbling up as a priority," said Okotie-Oyekan. Okotie-Oyekan said the next step will be for the TGM team to develop a recommendation report and then hold another presentation. Lexington Town Council plans to hold that presentation June 13 at 6 p.m. at Lexington Town Hall. Meanwhile, more information can be found on the project website, lexingtonoregon.com/projects.

Dakota Rice named to SNHU President's list

Dakota Rice of Heppner has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2023 President's List. The winter term runs from January to May. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each term.

Jo Pettyjohn golf tournament planned for next month

The 30th annual Jo Pettyjohn Women's Golf Tourney will take place at Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner June 9-11. The tourney is open to all women out of high school and all skill levels. The event begins Friday, June 9, with free golf

all day and an optional scramble at 5 p.m. Saturday will begin with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. and conclude with a dinner Saturday evening. Another shotgun start will begin the day Sunday at 9 a.m., followed by Calcutta and awards.

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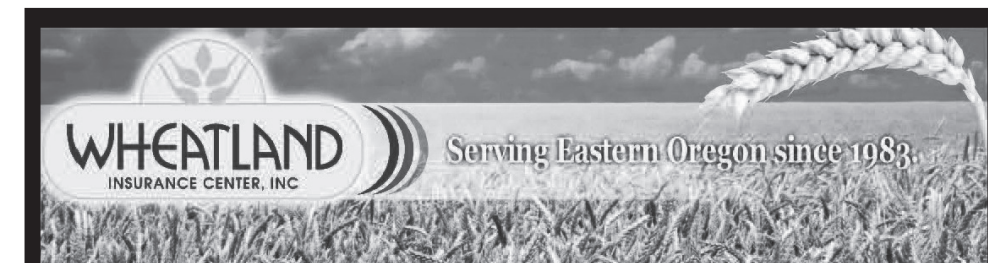
Lunch & Dinner Menu

- Specials 5/25 to 5/31
- Thursday:** Chicken plus with Mac n cheese for \$9
 - Friday:** Chicken Fry Steak, scrambled eggs, and hashbrowns for \$9
 - Saturday:** soup is tomato
 - Monday:** Sweet n sour chicken, fried rice, egg roll for \$9
 - Tuesday:** Bacon and tomato salad with croutons for \$9
 - Wednesday:** Popcorn chicken bowl for \$9

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