

Mustang girls take top spot at BEO Wrestling Tournament

It was a day of mixed fortunes for Heppner High School at the **Bank of Eastern Oregon Wrestling Tournament** on Saturday, January 27, 2024. The Mustang boys showed some grit and determination to finish fifth among 13 teams with a total of 100.0 points, while the Mustang girls dominated their competition and claimed the top spot with 24.0 points out of five teams.

The annual event, hosted by Heppner High School, showcased some of the best wrestling talent in the region. Other schools in attendance were Hood River Valley, Irrigon, Elgin, Grant Union, Riverside, Pine Eagle, Crane, Imbler, McLoughlin, Echo, Joseph, and Umatilla.

Jaime Cavan (215) dominated his division at the wrestling tournament, winning all his matches by fall. He started with a bye in the first round, then pinned Dominic Turner of Grant Union in the quarterfinals. He continued his impressive performance in the semifinals, where he took down Dylan Castaneda of Hood River Valley. In the final, he faced Taylor Thomas of Grant Union. Cavan wasted no time and secured the victory and the title with a fall. He scored 28 points for his team.

Zachary Brown (157) had a remarkable run finishing as the runner-up and earning 20.0 points for his team. He advanced to the semifinals without breaking a sweat, as he received byes in the first two rounds. In the semis, he pinned Zachary Parton of Irrigon, setting up a clash with Gen Wintersteen of Elgin for the title. However, Brown could not overcome Wintersteen's superior technique and lost by an 8-2 decision.

Landon McMahon (175) finished fourth in his weight class and earned 20.0 points for his team. He started strong with a quick pin over Luis Mejia of Irrigon in the first round, but faced a tough opponent in Alex Finley of Grant Union in the quarterfinals, who defeated him by a wide margin, decision 11-4. McMahon bounced back in the consolation rounds, winning three consecutive matches by fall, including a stunning upset over Leif Mortenson of Hood River Valley in the semifinals. However, he could not repeat his success in the third-place match, where he was pinned by Connor Tennant of Hood River Valley in the final seconds.

Gino Gallegos (285) finished fourth in his weight class and earned 15.0 points for his team. He bounced back from a tough loss in the first round against Antonio Cuevas of Riverside, who beat him 7-3. Gallegos took advantage of a bye in the consolation bracket and then pinned Aaron Berry of Crane and Aiden Marquez of Hood River Valley in quick succession. He advanced to the consolation final with a 4-0 decision over Omar Jimenez of Riverside, setting up a rematch with Cuevas for the third place. Unfortunately, Gallegos could not avenge his earlier defeat and fell to Cuevas by pin.

Hayden McMahon (144) finished fifth and earned 7.0 points for his team. McMahon got a bye in the first round but then lost by fall to Froylan Mendez of Hood River Valley in the quarterfinals. He bounced back with two more byes in the consolation rounds, setting up a match with

Jacob Smith of Hood River Valley in the consolation semifinals. McMahon did not give up, however, and showed his resilience in the fifth-place match against Tristan Clarry of Grant Union. McMahon pinned Clarry, securing his spot on the podium.

Junior Gallardo (190) finished fifth after receiving two byes in the first rounds. He faced a tough challenge in the semifinal, where he was pinned by Reese Reiersen of Hood River Valley. He then lost to Logan Arnold of Elgin by fall in the consolation semifinal but bounced back with a decisive victory over Harley Olney of Irrigon, pinning him to secure fifth place and earn 7.0 points for his team.

Kaden King (157) had a tough day at the wrestling tournament, finishing sixth in his weight class. He got two byes in the first two rounds but then lost three matches in a row by fall. He was pinned by Gen Wintersteen of Elgin in the semifinal, by Bryan Camacho of Grant Union in the consolation semifinal, and by Masyn Lindsey of McLoughlin in the fifth-place match.

Owen Guerra (165) had a mixed performance in his division, finishing with 3.0 team points. He advanced to the quarterfinals with a bye but was pinned by Hood River Valley's Samuel Blosser. He bounced back with a quick fall over Echo's Marley Blanchet in the consolation bracket. Still, his tournament ended with another loss by fall to Riverside's Devon Wiltberger in the third round of consolations.

Brayden Desclos (132) had a tough day on the mat, finishing with no wins and no points. He got a bye in the first round but was pinned by Conner DelCurto of Pine Eagle in the quarterfinals. He got another bye in the consolation bracket but then fell to Austin Moore of Irrigon in his final match.

Joe McMasters (150) also had a tough day at the wrestling tournament, losing both of his matches by fall and scoring no points for his team. The Heppner wrestler got a bye in the first round but faced a formidable opponent in the quarterfinals. Jack McLoughlin of Hood River Valley pinned McMasters. McMasters got another bye in the consolation round, but his luck did not improve in his final match. He was matched up against Carlos Mendoza of Irrigon, who had a 3-6 record and fell victim to another pin.

Connor Wilson (165) had a mixed performance on the mat, finishing with a 1-2 record and no place. He got a bye in the first round but then lost by fall to Mason Bengé of Grant Union in the quarterfinals. He bounced back with a win by fall over Chasyn Draper of McLoughlin in the consolation round but then was eliminated by Max Thomas of Pine Eagle, who pinned him in the third round.

Tyelor Moore (175) started with a tough loss against Leif Mortenson (Hood River Valley) who pinned him. He bounced back with a bye in the consolation round and then a quick victory over Gabriel Witt-Inman (Hood River Valley) whom he pinned. However, his run ended in the next round when he faced Xander Olman (Irrigon) and was pinned.

Christopher Hum-

Spiritually Speaking Father Thankachan Joseph



MOVED BY EMPATHY, JESUS TOUCHED HIM

This Sunday's Gospel (Mark 1:40-4), begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy, a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by social and religious taboos throughout history. Now leprosy is no longer a threat in society, but this story took place thousands of years ago when it was considered one of the worst diseases, worse than corona, which we witnessed recently. We heard about quarantine during the time of Covid-19. Leprosy sent a person into a long quarantine to a secluded place.

Our first reading (Leviticus 12:1-2,44-46) and the Gospel have a lot in common. Both refer to the hopeless situation caused by leprosy. In Jesus's time, leprosy was a dreaded disease, a matter of life and death. Though it was a physical sickness, according to Jewish religious beliefs, leprosy was broadly associated with sin. That is, leprosy was a punishment for a sin committed by its victim. Hence, the immediate consequence of suffering from leprosy was that the patient automatically became an outcast and was isolated. "As long as the disease lasts, the patient must live apart" because it was believed that the person would contaminate others. Sadly, according to the law, the victim had to identify and stigmatize himself by announcing "Unclean, unclean." Is this different from the stigma we subject people to today? It seems that more sick people die due to stigma than from the actual disease they suffered. Yet, the truth is that unlike physical leprosy, because of our sins we are all lepers and outcasts. However, Christ touches and heals us through His mercy. In the second reading, Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (10:31-11:1), Paul implores us, "Take me as your model as I take Christ." He presents himself to us as a model of sacrifice and care. Being a model means being close to people, especially in their weaknesses and sicknesses, and ensuring that they do not feel rejected. He is a model that rejects exclusion, favoritism, racial segregation, profiling, stigmatization of anyone at all. In Mark 1:40-45, we see that the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus was a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus's ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend Himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus's compassion and an important statement about Jesus's interpretation of the Law of Moses. The time of Lent nears, a time to examine ourselves and diagnose whether any of us are affected by spiritual leprosy that needs to be healed. Sometimes, like the isolated lepers, persons who have broken all the precepts and commandments of the Lord may be feeling the same isolation and loneliness. Such people may be driven by worldly thought and desires. Lent is a time of turning away from our evil ways, to turn towards God. Each one of us needs to make an examination of oneself and his or her spiritual status. The leper had the courage to approach the Lord and beg Him: "a virulent skin-disease man came to him and pleaded on his knees saying, 'If you are willing, you can cleanse me' (v 40). Feeling Sorry for him Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, 'I am willing. Be cleansed'" (41). As we approach the 40 days of lent, we are invited to examine ourselves and our spiritual status and do as the leper did: Recognize and acknowledge the spiritual leprosy that we are all caught up with. Let's also go down to our knees and plead with the lord to heal all our spiritual ailments and make us well. After this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus's breach of social and religious norms. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus's movement was hampered by His popularity. Despite His instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus's healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought Him out in search of His healing.

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A beautifully remodeled 2-story home in Heppner. This spacious residence boasts approx 2,400 square feet of space, featuring 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. This house has undergone extensive renovations, with almost everything being brand new. New dry wall, paint, flooring, bathrooms, kitchen, water heater, windows. 510 S Main St. Heppner MLS#: 23687525



This single family home, spanning 1641 square feet, boasts a spacious dining room and living room along with a family room 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms and lots of storage. Situated in a peaceful neighborhood, it is conveniently located close to the swimming pool, high school, baseball park, and downtown area. The property sits on a large lot with street access, with lots of parking and also features a shop. Large covered deck, patio and a carport. The total land area is 0.25 Acres. MLS#: 23224220



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