

# Ambulance negotiation Stalemate

-Continued from PAGE ONE

district up to one million dollars per year to offset any cost-based reimbursement or other losses MCHD would suffer through the loss of the Boardman area.

While the health district had earlier expressed a desire to reach an agreement before March 12, when they have stated they will cease ambulance services to the county, members of the MCHD board were visibly unhappy with the proposition the county offered.

Throwing an additional wrench in the works, BRFD apparently informed the Irrigon fire district on Monday that it would no longer offer mutual aid to Irrigon, a move the health district said threw doubt on Boardman Fire's intention to cooperate regarding ambulance service areas.

Public comment at the meeting was split, with Jodi Ferguson of Lexington and Ray Akers of Boardman urging the health district to reject the county's proposal.

"I trust that while deliberating all factors of these complex issues, you will stand by Morrow County Health District's Promise of Excellence and will find a creative way outside of this contract to still be there for your community," said Ferguson.

Irrigon EMT Will LePage, on the other hand, asked the board to accept the contract option.

"I would like to ensure that you can see this from the community's perspective," he said. "If you turn your back on these options, it will seem to them that you turned your back on them."

Other audience members expressed general unhappiness with the district's direction. Janet Greenup, who has been vocal in support of the health district retaining all ambulance services, told the board

that MCHD's promise of excellence was false.

"There is no respect for employees. There is no integrity, no compassion and no excellence," Greenup told the board.

Greg Greenup questioned why qualified nurses who have been with the health district for years are suddenly "going away because they can't put up with management."

"Why would you replace someone who is very good at their job and then have someone else come in who knows nothing about the area, the people? It doesn't make sense," he said.

After a lengthy discussion in open session and even longer executive session regarding the county's ASA proposal, the MCHD board returned to Jensen and Morrow County Board of Commissioners Chair David Sykes with a unanimous rejection of the offer.

When reading the board's statement, MCHD board member Trista Seastone said the unreliabil-

ity of mutual aid from Boardman, both in light of BRFD's earlier announcement and its proposed staffing model, would raise the health district's costs by requiring more staffing by MCHD.

The board also stated that the county's proposal "did not adequately address the district's cost-based reimbursement." Aside from questioning the dollar amount, board members had earlier expressed concerns over what would happen to MCHD funding if Boardman decided to pull out of the health district altogether, severing district access to large tax sources.

The health district did state that, after the March 12 deadline, MCHD intends to provide support in the form of quick response teams and backup ambulances for the entire county, including four full-time staff members.

"Morrow County Health District will still be a safety net for everyone in the community," Seastone read.

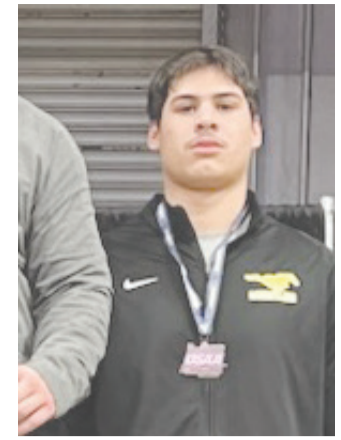
# Mustang boys take on state



Landon McMahon. - Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti



Zachary Brown. - Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti



Jaime Cavan. - Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti

The three Heppner High School Mustangs Boys' Wrestlers who qualified for state, traveled to Portland this past weekend to compete in the OSAA 2A/1A State Wrestling Tournament at the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum. Two days of intense wrestling saw Landon McMahon, Jaime Cavan, and Zachary Brown advance to the semifinals, winning all their matches in their weight classes on the first day. Each boy saw a day full of pins and wins, in the end, Heppner placed 7th out of 40 teams that were competing scoring 56.0 team points with only three wrestlers. The second day of the tournament brought their first sets of losses, but all three boys managed to secure spots in the top two and three of their class.

Landon McMahon (2A/1A 190) worked hard to secure a second-place win during the state tournament and scored 22 team points for the Mustangs. In his first match of the day McMahon won by fall over Landon Risseeuw of Willamina. McMahon then pinned Kye Bilyeu of North Douglas in his second and final match of the first day. The following morning McMahon opened with another big win against Mark Nusom of Regis winning by yet another pin in the

semifinal round. In his final bout for first place, McMahon unfortunately fell to Ash Blomstrom of Toledo (37-0), his only loss of the weekend. McMahon finished with a record of 41-7.

Jaime Cavan (2A/1A 215) placed 3rd in his class at the state tournament and scored 19.0 team points. Friday opened with Cavan winning both his first round and quarterfinal round with pins against Howard Lewelling of Glendale, and Ben Imdicke of Colton. The semifinal round was Cavan's first and only loss, losing by fall to Thomas Bischoff of Regis. Cavan took the win by a major decision 9-0 in his consolation semifinal round over Jonathan Padgett of Myrtle Point. In his third-place match, Cavan saw himself pitted against Howard Lewelling of Glendale for a second

time this weekend. Cavan won by fall securing his third-place finish at State. Cavan finished the season with a 39-6 record.

Zachary Brown (2A/1A 157) Started his first day at the state tournament with a bye and a win by fall over Orrin Reid of Willamina in the quarterfinal. The following day, Brown also saw his first loss in the semifinal round against Gen Wintersteen of Elgin losing by decision (6-5) with just a single-point deficit. Brown then won by decision (7-3) over Nolan Timeus of Gold Beach in the consolation semifinal. In his final 3rd place match Brown secured his place in the top three of his weight class, winning by fall over Quinn Hill of Nestucca. Brown finished his season with a record of 32-6.

# Fiddles the Leprechaun Contest



Fiddle the Leprechaun

Visit select Main Street locations in Heppner, March 1st-14th and look for "Fiddles the Leprechaun" for a chance to win \$100! Each day the 4.5" tall leprechaun will be hiding in a different business. All you need to do is take a picture of yourself with him in the background and text it to 541-256-2300 with your first and last name. You may enter once each day until the contest ends on March 14th. The drawing winner will be announced on Friday, March 15th! Check the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for a schedule of locations!

SUBMIT NEWS, ADVERTISING & ANNOUNCEMENTS  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SEND US PHOTOS  
START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION

**boost INFINITE**  
Brought to you by DISH

Get Boost Infinite  
1-844-955-3417

INFINITELY BETTER WIRELESS!

- Plans starting at \$25/mo
- Unlimited Talk, Text and Data
- America's Smartest Network
- Smart Switching Between 3 Wireless Networks

Get the latest iPhone every year with unlimited wireless for **\$60/mo**

- iPhone 15 included with no trade-in needed to get started
- Unlimited Talk, Text and Data
- Free upgrade to the latest iPhone EVERY YEAR.



**EXIRATION DATE**  
**04-30-24**

**Call Now**  
**541-667-9364**  
**No Money Down\***

when you install your new system by April 30, 2024

## Sell Us Your Oil Fired Furnace

Our company, **Eclipse Heating and Cooling**, will provide up to \$10,327 in discounts and rebates towards the purchase and installation of a new Premier Home Comfort system. This is the best time of the year to exchange your old oil fired furnace for a new high efficiency system that can save up to 70% on your utility bills. And here is the best part, you can do it all with, **No Money Down\*** when you intall your new system by march 9th, 2024.

### Here's why!

**Federal HEEHRA Tax Credit\*\*\* up to .....\$2,000**

**Utility savings** - a 10-year or older system cost you 30% to 70% more per year to operate than a new system. A high efficiency system will provide utility savings up to \$6,000.

**Utility Savings up to..... \$6,000**

**Trade-in & Recycle System Discount** - We offer a trade-in discount for the recycling for your old unit. In addition we are passing the savings on to you fro installing a complete system at one time\*\*.

**Trade-in & Recycle System Discount up to..... \$2,327**

**TOTAL OF ALL INCENTIVES up to..... \$10,327**

Your savings could even pay for your new system. We promise our high efficiency systems will keep money in your pocket with thier energy saving features. we have many payment plans available to fit your budget.

Call us at **509-572-9364** to schedule an appointment to give you an exact quote on how much you will save in your home.

**Act now before these rebates and incentives expire.**

\*With approved credit. Some plans may be tax deductible.

\*\*With the purchase of a complete home comfort system.

\*\*\*Federal HEEHRA tax credit on qualified Energy Star equipment. cannot be combined with other offers.

*Ty Zeller*

Ty Zeller  
President  
Eclipse Heating and Cooling