

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$15 Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Goat Flu

Got the bug. Feeling poorly enough that it might even be The Man Cold... but maybe not. I'm still able to walk and nobody's bringing me chicken soup. Besides, I figure as long as I can still crochet, it can't be that bad.

It's kinda funny, though. It used to be that you either had a cold or stomach flu. That was the choice. Not COVID, type A or B, Bird Flu, or any other popular bug. You treated the symptoms. You might even remember your mom slathering Vicks Vapor Rub on your chest. Yuck.

I noticed that Newsom declared a state of emergency due to the Bird Flu. This falls on the heels of the non-destructive earthquake emergency relief. I guess fighting the Trump Effect costs more than he planned.

Got to thinking. Maybe I have the Goat Flu. All my symptoms became more severe this morning as I watched nearly a dozen goats break through the fence and head for the alfalfa.

That's when the delirium hit. I lost all control and began screaming at the top of my lungs "I hate you! I'm getting the gun!"

Next came physical violence. The grain scoop was the handiest weapon, and I connected several times with Billy the Perv (whom I'm sure led the escape). The effect on Billy was minimal (I think he enjoyed it), but I did feel a little better post-attack. Fact is, it probably staved off a mass slaughter.

Beware of the Goat Flu, folks. Pretty sure I need to declare a State of Emergency, because I could

sure use Federal funds to fix the fence.

So, do you ever wonder why God doesn't just heal everyone? I wonder about that sometimes. Jesus healed a bunch of people when He walked the earth. Many witnessed these healings, including the Apostles, who never backed down on these claims even as they faced death because of their faith.

Remember, some may die for a lie they think is true, but nobody dies for a lie they know is a lie. They died knowing the truth. I witnessed a miracle years ago when he healed my daughter's heart. She was three months old when diagnosed with a hole in her heart. I was told she would need surgery at six months.

God had other plans. A friend prayed for a new heart for her. I remember listening to her heart with a stethoscope and hearing an obvious swishing sound. A week later, the doc intently listened to her heart, then said words I will never forget... "You need to go celebrate. There's not a thing wrong with this child's heart." Yes, God still heals.

But I do wonder what people would be like if they never experienced sickness or adversity. Would we even give God a second glance? A preacher told me once that God puts us on our backs to get us to look up. Makes sense. So look up, pray, and trust God with the results. Healed or not... He knows exactly what we need when we need it.

"And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose" (Roman's 8:28).

Mustang varsity boys score two wins at Holiday Hoop Fest

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team won two games this past weekend at the Heppner Holiday Hoop Festival. The Mustangs (5-3) defeated the Vernonia Loggers 53-22 and the Echo Cougars 60-49.

Against the Loggers, the Mustangs started out scoring quickly and led at the end of the first quarter 18-6. The Mustangs continued to dominate the pace of the game and led 31-13 at halftime.

In the third quarter, Heppner scored 15 points, and their defensive pressure held Vernonia to only four. Heppner stretched the lead to 46-17 as the fourth quarter started.

Heppner held the Loggers to single-digit scoring in each of the four quarters of the game. In the final quarter the Mustang defense held the Loggers to only five points. Everyone on the Mustang team got to play significant minutes in the game and Heppner came away with the win by the score of 53-22.

Keaton Coiner had a double-double (scoring and rebounds) on the night and led the Mustangs with 19 points. He also hauled down 12 rebounds in the game. Freshman big man Gage Heideman was next

with nine points for the Mustangs and he also had three rebounds. Joseph Albitre had eight points, two rebounds and three assists on the night. Scoring five points each were Mason Orem and Caleb George. Mason also had three rebounds and one assist while Caleb recorded two rebounds. Jace Wilson scored three points, had one rebound and dished out two assists. Jackson Coiner scored two points, had two rebounds and two assists in the game. Caylan Proudfoot also scored two and he also had three assists. Tripp Stewart recorded three rebounds and one assist, Marty Medina had one rebound and Alakae Rodriguez had one rebound and one assist. Darby Spivey contributed two rebounds and one assist for the team.

On the second day of the Holiday Hoop Festival, the Mustangs played the Echo Cougars. Heppner started the game out fast again as they scored the first 13 points of the game. The Mustangs led at the end of the first quarter 18-5. Heppner kept the defensive pressure on the Cougars and continued to stretch the lead even more. Heppner led at halftime 38-16.

The third quarter saw Echo come out of the locker

Heppner Chamber, WCVEDG plan annual luncheon

Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) and Heppner Chamber of Commerce have announced their annual luncheon will take place at the Willow Street Innovation Hub on Wednesday, Jan. 22, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

This is a free luncheon. Grant recipients,

WCVEDG and Chamber members, and all other community partners and leaders are encouraged to attend. RSVP to reserve a lunch at <https://shorturl.at/HpDmU>. Tacos Hometown will cater.

The Willow Street Innovation Hub is located at 188 W Willow Street, Heppner, OR.

Heppner TSA Shines at Competition



Pictured L-R: Austin Willis, Iker Bunce, Kaden King, Landon Tuttle, Havin Gray, Hayden Stills, Lizzy Finch and Rylee Palmer. Not pictured: Lily Nichols and Darby Spivey. -Contributed photo

Heppner High School's Technology Student Association (TSA) chapter delivered an impressive performance at a recent competition, bringing home awards in all three events.

One of the standout achievements was Lizzy Finch and Rylee Palmer in the Manufacturing Prototype event, earning first place with their innovative and practical design.

This category required students to identify a problem, develop a solution, and present a fully realized prototype, showcasing creativity and technical skills. They made toys to donate to charity.

Kaden King and Landon Tuttle also excelled in the Structural Design and Engineering category, claiming second place. The competition challenged participants to build and test a structure for maximum efficiency and durability under

stress. The team's success highlighted their mastery of engineering principles and teamwork.

Darby Spivey earned third place in Flight Endurance. He demonstrated his expertise in aerodynamics and engineering by designing and constructing a lightweight rubber band-powered model aircraft capable of sustained flight.

The Heppner TSA team's strong showing reflects the hard work and dedication of both students and their advisor. These achievements not only bring pride to their school but also underscore the importance of STEM education in preparing future innovators and problem solvers.

The Heppner Junior High TSA chapter also competed in gliders and towers. They won all three places in towers, and first and second in gliders.

room fired up. They put on a press to speed the game up and scored the first 10 points of the quarter. Echo continued the fast pace and cut the Mustang lead down to only six points at 40-34. The Mustangs then found their footing at that point and went on a scoring run of their own to take back control of the game. The Mustangs outscored the Cougars 11-6 from that point on to take a 51-40 lead into the fourth quarter.

Heppner scored the first nine points of the fourth quarter to push the lead back to 20 points at 60-40. Echo then finished the game on a nine-point run that made the final score 60-49.

Recording the second double-double of the year for the Mustangs was Mason Orem. Mason had 15 points and ripped down 11 rebounds in the game. Scoring 11 points each were Keaton Coiner and Gage Heideman. Keaton also had eight rebounds and one assist while Gage recorded four rebounds. Finishing with 10 points, five rebounds and two assists in the game was Caleb George. Joseph Albitre scored six points and had two assists, Marty Medina tallied five points and two rebounds while Caylan Proudfoot

scored two points, had two rebounds and two assists. Jackson Coiner had two rebounds and four assists on the night, Tripp Stewart recorded one rebound, and Alakae Rodriguez had one rebound and one assist for the Mustangs.

This week, December 27-28, the Mustangs will co-host, along with Weston-McEwen, the 2A Preview, which will be held at the Pendleton Convention Center. The other teams that will be participating are the Enterprise Outlaws, Knappa Loggers, Kennedy Trojans and Oakland Oakers.

The Mustangs will play the Knappa Loggers on Friday night at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, the Mustangs will take on the Kennedy Trojans at 3:30 p.m.

The Mustang girls' team will play the same teams in games starting at 6 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday.

MCHD December board meeting canceled

The December board meeting for Morrow County Health District Board of Directors has been canceled due to board member availability. The board will meet for its regularly scheduled

January meeting. Board member applications for the vacant position will be accepted through Jan. 17 for review at the Jan. 27 meeting.

Lexington community development group seeks inaugural board applications

Lexington has announced the launching of a new Lexington Community Development Group (LCDG), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The town is looking for interested residents to form the inaugural board.

The LCDG primary purpose is to promote the wellbeing, growth and sustainability of Lexington and the surrounding area. The inaugural board will set the vision, mission and strategic goals and will act as an important link to the community's needs.

In October of this year, the Lexington Town Council hired consultant Alison Hart and Associates to facilitate the development of the LCDG. Hart has more than 30 years of experience leading and developing organizations. Her client portfolio includes chambers of commerce and small businesses, as well as supporting small business development networks around the country.

She says she is living her passion of helping leaders sharpen their focus,

evolve the conversation, drive consensus and ensure lasting change.

Hart's scope of work consists of six major components: 1. Governance and policy development in tandem with 2. Board development, recruitment and succession planning, 3. Vision and mission development, 4. Leadership and board training, 5. Strategic planning, 6. Strategic plan progress and process consulting, and 7. Grant program development.

Applications are available on the Town of Lexington website at lexingtonoregon.com/projects. Lexington Town Council will select a sub-committee that will evaluate the applications and provide recommendations for appointments.

For more information, call 541-989-8515. Applications can be dropped off at Lexington Town Hall in person or in the water payment deposit box or emailed to lexington.oregon@gmail.com. Applications are due by Jan. 24, 2025.



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