

Heppner Mustangs grapple to 5th at districts, send three to state

On Friday and Saturday, February 21-22, 2025, the Heppner High School boys' wrestling team traveled to Bend, Oregon, to compete in the OSAA 2A/1A Special District 3 tournament. HHS had a successful second weekend of district wrestling, with the boys wrapping up the season while still paving the way for the upcoming state championships. With seven wrestlers placing and three qualifying for state, the team proudly finished 5th overall, competing alongside fourteen other schools.

Zachary Brown, a senior and Landon McMahon, a sophomore, both placed first in their respective classes at districts. Brown was the top seed in his weight class, having placed third at state last year and qualified for state the year before. Brown is 36-0 this season with over 100 career wins. This marks the third consecutive year that Brown has qualified for state and the second year for McMahon. McMahon was also the first seed for his weight class this year. He placed 2nd at state last year and holds a record of 48-2 for this season.

Jaime Cavan, also a senior, is the third state qualifier for the Heppner boys' wrestling team, placing 2nd at districts. This is also Cavan's third year of being a state qualifier; he placed 3rd at state last year and 4th the year before.

Landon McMahon shared what he has enjoyed most about his wrestling career thus far: "My favor-

OSAA 2A/1A Special District 3 Tournament

Date: February 21-22, 2025

Location: Bend, OR

Team Result: Heppner placed 5th with 139.5 team points

Individual Results

Zachary Brown (157 lbs) - 1st Place Champ. Round 1: Defeated Bryce Cunningham (Culver), Fall 0:42 Quarterfinal: Defeated Mylen Bowen (Crane), Fall 0:23 Semifinal: Defeated Wyatt Thomas (Adrian), Fall 0:54 1st Place Match: Defeated Anthony Pallis (Imbler), Inj. 0:00 Team Points: 30.0

Landon McMahon (215 lbs) - 1st Place Champ. Round 1: Defeated Jesus Alvarado Disdado (Culver), Fall 1:14 Quarterfinal: Defeated Joseph Ralston (Joseph), Fall 0:33 Semifinal: Defeated Raymone Hawley (Crane), Fall 1:24 1st Place Match: Defeated Gavin Russell (Joseph), Fall 0:23 Team Points: 30.0

Jaime Cavan (190 lbs) - 2nd Place Champ. Round 1: Bye Quarterfinal: Defeated Tucker Magee (Union/Cove), Fall 1:19 Semifinal: Defeated Mason Bengel (Grant Union/Prairie City), Fall 3:41 1st Place Match: Lost to Gunnar McDowell (Enterprise/Wallowa), Decision 8-2 Team Points: 22.0

Hayden McMahon (144 lbs) - 4th Place Champ. Round 1: Defeated Sylar Carey (Union/Cove), Fall 1:29 Quarterfinal: Defeated Shane Wenke (Enterprise/Wallowa), Fall 1:54 Semifinal: Lost to Owen Parsons (Grant Union/Prairie City), Fall 3:07 Cons. Semi.: Defeated Kadin Allen (Elgin), Fall 1:24 3rd Place Match: Lost to Pearce Schnetzky (Enterprise/Wallowa), Fall 1:46 Team Points: 18.0

Owen Guerra (175 lbs) - 5th Place Champ. Round 1: Lost to Xander Olman (Irrigon), Fall 5:03 Cons. Round 1: Bye Cons. Round 2: Defeated Derek Faulconer (Adrian), Fall 1:59 Cons. Round 3: Defeated Josue Gutierrez (Culver), Fall 1:54 Cons. Semi.: Lost to Eli Maley (Crane), Fall 2:55 5th Place Match: Defeated Gabe McKaig (Union/Cove), Fall 2:34 Team Points: 14.0

Kaden King (165 lbs) - 5th Place Champ. Round 1: Bye Quarterfinal: Lost to Everett Vardanega (Grant Union/Prairie City), Fall 3:09 Cons. Round 2: Bye Cons. Round 3: Defeated Emilio Romero (Irrigon), Tech-Fall 19-2 (2:00) Cons. Semi.: Lost to Bear Doman (Crane), Fall 0:28 5th Place Match: Defeated Everett Vardanega (Grant Union/Prairie City), Fall 0:54 Team Points: 10.5

Conner Wilson (157 lbs) - 6th Place Champ. Round 1: Bye Quarterfinal: Lost to Anthony Pallis (Imbler), Major Decision 13-1 Cons. Round 2: Defeated Carlos Mendoza (Irrigon), Fall 2:21 Cons. Round 3: Defeated Adrian Cardoza (Crane), Major Decision 9-1 Cons. Semi.: Lost to Wyatt Thomas (Adrian), Fall 4:52 5th Place Match: Lost to Jasper Rutledge (Culver), Fall 4:30 Team Points: 8.0

Nickolas Wenberg (165 lbs) - Did Not Place Champ. Round 1: Lost to Larry McKaig (Union/Cove), Sudden Victory 12-9 Cons. Round 1: Bye Cons. Round 2: Defeated Felipe Marcom (Grant Union/Prairie City), Fall 0:51 Cons. Round 3: Lost to Larry McKaig (Union/Cove), Decision 7-6 Team Points: 4.0

Lane Critchlow (285 lbs) - Did Not Place Champ. Round 1: Bye Quarterfinal: Lost to Juan Rico (Adrian), Decision 13-10 Cons. Round 2: Defeated Blaine Medlock (Elgin), Fall 3:36 Cons. Round 3: Lost to Dominic Turner (Grant Union/Prairie City), Inj. 0:00 Team Points: 3.0

ite thing about the Heppner wrestling program is how close we are as a team. Our dynamic is fantastic, and we always find ways to have fun. What I love most about my coaches is how they hold me accountable for what I do or don't do. They tell me when I am wrong and help me fix my mistakes, but they are just as quick to praise me and point out what I did right. They always have fun with us and get involved. My coaches continue to help me overcome obstacles, like the pressure of the state tournament, and they help me stay focused before and during competitions. They always believe in me and let me know that they are proud of me, win or lose. I'm looking forward to hanging out with Jaime and Zac for one last time in wrestling, and I'm excited to finish the year strong and hopefully win a state championship. The biggest challenge I have overcome is the mental battle wrestling brings with it."

State-bound Mustang wrestlers will be sent off on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 2:30 PM. Boys and girls will be heading to compete in the 2025 OSAA/OnPoint Community Credit Union Wrestling State Championships at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Oregon, on the 27th and 28th of February. Wrestling brackets are already posted online on Track Wrestling under the tournament name for those who are interested. Good luck, Mustangs!

Heppner girls wrestlers shine at districts, secure state spots

Heppner High School girls' wrestling had a historic weekend at districts, with two female wrestlers qualifying for state and one becoming the first district champion in the history of Heppner's girls' wrestling program.

On Friday, February 14, 2025, Heppner traveled to La Grande, Oregon, for the OSAA Girls 4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 3 Championship, which featured 29 teams from across the state. Heppner brought the largest team they've ever had as a school—six female wrestlers. Three placed, two qualified for state, and one brought home a district championship title, marking a first in Heppner's history of female wrestling.

Journey Cavan-Harris, a junior at HHS, was seeded 2nd and has spent the past few years honing her technique, aiming to become one of the first female wrestlers from Heppner to qualify for state. Last year, she came close, placing 5th at districts. The team and coaches were hopeful for at least one qualifier this year. Cavan-Harris pinned her way through the tournament, secured a spot at state, and claimed the first-place title in her class. This makes her Heppner's very first female district champion. Additionally, Heppner had a second state qualifier when Keeley Nairns took fourth place in her class at districts.

Keeley Nairns, the team's senior class leader, moved up to a higher weight class before placing fourth and securing her spot for state. Nairns went 3-2 at the tournament, familiar with only two of her opponents, while giving up a thirty-pound advantage to her competitors.

Emilia Cavan-Harris, a freshman at HHS, went 2-3 and placed 6th in her class at districts. The team placed 9th overall, wrapping up a historic weekend for our small 2A program.

As the teams make their way to state this weekend, we are reminded that for many wrestlers, the journey to state is a culmination of years of hard work, dedication, perseverance, and support from their coaches and community. As they step

OSAA Girls 4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 3 Championship

Location: La Grande, Oregon

Date: February 14-15, 2025

Team Result: Heppner placed 9th overall with 63.0 team points

Individual Results

Journey Cavan-Harris (140 lbs) - 1st Place Champ. Round 1: Bye Quarterfinal: Defeated Taylor Narron (La Grande), Fall 1:38 Semifinal: Defeated Shelby Bunting (Culver), Fall 2:57 1st Place Match: Defeated Jacie Lathrop (Elgin), Fall 1:08 Team Points: 28.0

Keeley Nairns (235 lbs) - 4th Place Champ. Quarterfinal: Defeated Jolisa Mendoza (Crook County), Fall 1:45 Semifinal: Lost to Mallory Lusco (Grant Union), Fall 0:28 Cons. Semi: Defeated Grace Turpin (Crook County), Fall 2:26 3rd Place Match: Lost to Cinthia Madrigal (Irrigon), Fall 1:08 4th Place Match: Defeated Velma Spino (Madras), Fall 0:56 Team Points: 16.0

Emilia Cavan-Harris (145 lbs) - 6th Place Champ. Round 1: Bye Quarterfinal: Lost to Adysen Maupin (Vale), Fall 1:22 Cons. Round 2: Defeated Sara Akers (Irrigon), Fall 2:40 Cons. Round 3: Defeated Julia Williams (Riverside), Fall 1:28 Cons. Semi: Lost to April Lopez (Crane), Fall 4:42 5th Place Match: Lost to Emma Berry (La Grande), Fall 0:46 Team Points: 9.0

Harlee Cotton (125 lbs) - Did Not Place Champ. Round 1: Lost to Aly Qual (Grant Union), Fall 5:32 Cons. Round 1: Bye Cons. Round 2: Defeated Lexi Flores (Irrigon), Fall 4:16 Cons. Round 3: Defeated Isabella Guillory (Enterprise/Wallowa), Fall 1:13 Cons. Round 4: Defeated Emily Villagomez (La Grande), Fall 2:27 Cons. Round 5: Lost to Angelina Santana (Nyssa), Fall 2:16 Team Points: 10.0

Loren Trujillo (115 lbs) - Did Not Place Champ. Round 1: Lost to June Connor (Crook County), Fall 3:10 Cons. Round 1: Bye Cons. Round 2: Lost to Hailey Johnson (La Grande), Decision 9-7 Team Points: 0.0

Sarah Munkers (170 lbs) - Did Not Place Champ. Round 1: Lost to Kaylyani Estimo (Madras), Fall 2:34 Cons. Round 1: Bye Cons. Round 2: Lost to Hailey Wright (Union/Cove), Medical Forfeit Team Points: 0.0

onto the mat, they are met with many emotions: nervous excitement, anticipation, and a profound sense of pride. The weight of their dreams rests on their shoulders, and they are well aware that every move and every decision could be the difference between victory and defeat. The support of their coaches, teammates, and families fuels their resolve, reminding them that they have the strength and skill to succeed. As they face their opponents, they draw on their abilities and spirit, ready to overcome emotional and physical obstacles to give it everything they've got for a shot at glory.

Heppner's Journey Cavan-Harris and Keeley Nairns know these feelings firsthand as they prepare for state this coming weekend.

Nairns had this to say about her time as a wrestler in the program: "Despite having only two years of experience, I believe my biggest accomplishment is the noticeable improvement from last year. My record and confidence have increased as I've spent more time in the environment. The most enjoyable part of the program is getting the chance to advocate for myself on the mat. In wrestling, effort in practice directly translates to performance, unlike other sports where only a few can showcase their skills at a time. My coaches, Tyler and Zac, are the backbone of my success. Without their support through wins and losses, I wouldn't be where I am today in my wrestling career. They are always happy to see me grow, no matter the outcome of the match. Wrestling has helped me grow as a person and an athlete. It keeps me accountable in school, ensuring my grades are up and my work is done to remain eligible to compete. The sport pushes me past my limits every day and has taught me to embrace defeat, using it as fuel and motivation for my next match. This season has made me feel happy and accomplished. I believe this is the best way to end my final season—with my favorite coach, Tyler, and my best friend, Journey, heading to state."

**DEADLINE:
MONDAYS
AT 5PM**



177 N. Main
P.O. Box 337
Heppner, OR 97836
Chris@sykesrealestate.net

Broker
Chris Sykes
541-215-2274



**2 Lots
Approx 38 acres**
\$180,000
Bare land to build!

Expansive 38-Acre Property Heppner with Two Tax Lots – Endless Possibilities! Unlock the potential of this remarkable property, offering approximately 38 acres of prime land ready for your vision. Two adjoining tax lots are being sold together, providing incredible flexibility and value for buyers seeking a blend of opportunity and space. Property Highlights: Total Acreage: ~38 acres across two parcels. Parcel 1: 35.44 acres Tax ID: 370: located within Heppner city limits. Parcel 2: 3.23 acres Tax ID: 1752: situated just outside city limits. MLS#:597267719



**For Sale
Approx 20 Acres**
\$139,000

Beautiful 20-acre property in Eastern Oregon, zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU). Along Willow Creek Rd. MLS#: 24056686



New Listing
\$425,000

This 0.77-acre property offers everything for animal enthusiasts, with a livestock pasture, year-round creek, two chicken houses, a barn with a lean-to, and a deer-proof garden with a greenhouse for year-round produce. A 10x12 storage room. The 5-bedroom, 2.5-bath home, including a master suite, features modern updates like new flooring, hardy plank siding and new windows. Energy-efficient ductless heating and cooling. Outside, rock retaining walls, a tool shed, and a partially finished basement add function and flexibility. Located within city limits, it's a short walk to Main Street. Perfect for animal care, gardening, and quiet living, this move-in-ready property is a rare find. 580 S MAIN ST Heppner. MLS#: 629913772



For Sale
\$240,000

Discover a timeless treasure with this beautifully preserved Craftsman-style home, featuring 1,174 sq ft on the main level and an additional 1,008 sq ft in basement, perfect for storage or extra space to customize. This 2-bedroom, 1-bath gem combines classic charm with modern comforts, including a newer furnace, forced air heat, and a freshly painted exterior. Located in a prime spot near the school and within walking distance to downtown Heppner, this home provides both convenience and a sense of community. Experience small-town living with easy access to downtown. Don't miss the chance to make this spacious, character-filled home your own! 240 N COURT ST Heppner MLS#:24652848