



Photo courtesy Tanya Freeman  
Jaimee Baxter, left, and Emilee Freeman were the novice and JV girls champions.

# Championship aim

**By Ronald Bond**  
The Observer

Two members of the Union trap shooting team and a member of La Grande's squad were recently named state champions at the Oregon State High School clay target championship June 22 in Hillsboro: Jaimee Baxter and Emilee Freeman from Union, and Makenna Shorts of La Grande.

Shorts, who will be a freshman in the fall, dominated in winning the girls varsity division. In her third year on the team — all three years, in fact, that La Grande has had a team — she finished with a score of 96 birds, or targets, out of 100.

Baxter, a first-year competitor in the sport, earned the girls novice division title with a score of 82 birds out of 100.

Freeman, who is in her second year in the sport, won the girls JV division with 87 birds out of 100.

About 35 teams participated. "In Oregon, it has gotten popular," Union coach Dan Martens said of trap shooting. "A couple years ago when Oregon first started (having a state competition),



Photo courtesy John Shorts  
La Grande's Makenna Shorts was the varsity girls champion with a score of 96 out of 100.

there were about four teams and now there are 35."

Shorts entered state having turned in an average on the season of 23.8 targets out of 25, according to La Grande coach Buck Garritson.

"She has a great hand-eye coordination," Garritson said. "She is the best young shooter I have ever had the chance to coach, and I've been shooting trap for over 40 years. She is very talented, but she works at it."

Her father, John Shorts, is the coach of the Eastern Oregon University trap team, so shooting runs in the family.

But Makenna Shorts is not one to rest on her laurels.

"She's a determined person," Garritson said. "She's like a lot of young students who rise to the occasion when the chips are down. She is a worker. And she has the talent. She could go on

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# LGSC fares well in Pendleton



Courtesy photo  
Shown from left to right is the girls 200 medley relay team of Brianna Stadler, Sarah Koza, Riana Scott and Ary Bouten.

Observer staff

The La Grande Swim Cub had 35 athletes compete at the 53rd annual Pendleton Open over the weekend, with several landing high finishes. Listed are top five placers, in alphabetical order:

Ary Bouten, 15 and older girls: second in 50 backstroke (38.88), fifth in 50 butterfly (37.46).

Callie Fox, 8 and under girls: third in 100 backstroke (2:18.18), fifth in 50 breaststroke (1:24.71), fifth in 100 breaststroke (3:10.12).

Taylor Fox, 13-14 boys: second in 50 butterfly (31.82), second in 50 freestyle (28.28),

fourth in 50 backstroke (37.59).

Nora Garcia, 8 and under girls: eighth in 50 breaststroke (1:29.40), ninth in 50 backstroke (1:07.97), 10th in 100 freestyle (2:24.66).

Isla Howard, 9-10 girls: fifth in 200 freestyle (3:12.98).

Amelia Koza, 8 and under girls: fourth in 50 freestyle (51.47), fifth in 100 backstroke (2:30.77), fifth in 50 backstroke (1:00.20), fifth in 100 freestyle (2:06.06).

Becca Koza, 11-12 girls: first in 200 butterfly (3:06.61), second in 200 IM (2:52.46),

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# Elgin Stampede kicks off with bull riding



Ellen Morris Bishop / EO Media Group

Colby Demo gets a less-than-eight-second ride aboard the bull Fractured Jaw at the Thursday night Mark Nichols Memorial Bullriding event at the Elgin Stampede Thursday evening. Demo finished fifth in the event.

# Wallowa Valley claims state

**By Steve Tool**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

For the first time in the county's little-league history, the junior softball girls team, managed by Shane Kirkland, won the state championship after a 15-0 blow-out of Klamath Falls on its home turf on Sunday, July 7.

The Cubs traveled down to Klamath Falls early last week, first playing Klamath Falls on July 6, downing their opponents 19-9, with a team batting average of .642 and a .667 on-base percentage.

Wallowa Valley was down one run going into the fourth, but exploded for eight runs to take a commanding lead and added two more runs in the sixth and three in the seventh for insurance and the victory.

Pitchers Aimee Meyers and Alex Rowley combined for seven strikeouts on the day.

Later in the day saw WV taking on Redmond and squeaking by with an 11-10 victory. Coach Shane Kirkland said the team had an off hitting day, but they still batted .441 and had a .529 on-base percentage.

The game proved to be a see-saw battle with Redmond eventually scoring 5 runs in the top of the seventh, providing a bleak outlook for the Cubs ... for a while. Maci

Marr had a key base hit followed by Rowley with another.

Two walks forced a run and the top of the order came up. After an out, Meyers came to the plate with the bases loaded and hit a screaming rocket to left center that scored three and won the game for the Cubs.

Kirkland noted that both pitchers struggled at times, but when the chips were down, the Cubs infield turned their second 6-4-3 double play of the tournament to rally the ladies. Umpires told Kirkland they'd only seen one double play at that level all year. Kirkland also noted that Sydney Hopkins came off the bench and smacked two key base hits.

The championship game saw the Cubs again facing Klamath Falls and they proceeded to pound them mercilessly, 15-0 for the title. Hitting proved the decisive factor with the Cubs garnering a .685 slugging percentage and a .710 on base percentage.

Meyers and Cooper Knave each batted 1.000 for the game while three other hitters batted .750. The District 5 president awarded Meyers the player of the game trophy for her hitting and pitching performance in which she fanned six and walked only one.



David Jensen



# BREWS & VIEWS

from the Deck

DAILY 3:30 - 5:30PM  
Serving beer, wine  
& appetizers

Wallowa Lake Lodge  
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541-432-9821 • wallowalake.com