

ON THE SLATE

April 26 results

PREP BASEBALL

La Grande 12, College Place 0

PREP SOFTBALL

Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa 17, Echo/Stanfield 15
Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa 7, Echo/Stanfield 5

Friday, April 29

(Games completed after print deadline)

PREP BASEBALL

Riverside at Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa (2), 1 p.m.
La Grande at Ontario (2), 2 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Riverside at Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa (2), 1 p.m.
La Grande at Ontario (2), 2 p.m.
Union/Cove at Grant Union/Prairie City (2), 2 p.m.
Elgin/Imbler at Weston-McEwen (2), 2 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Elgin, Imbler at Don Walker Invite, 2 p.m.
Enterprise at Nike/Jesuit Twilight Relays, Portland, 2 p.m.

PREP BOYS GOLF

La Grande, Pendleton, Baker at La Grande Invite, 1 p.m.

PREP GIRLS GOLF

La Grande at Wildhorse, noon

Saturday, April 30

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Corban at Eastern Oregon (2), noon

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Eastern Oregon at Carroll College (2), 10 a.m.

PREP BASEBALL

Union/Cove at Grant Union/Prairie City (2), 11 a.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

La Grande at Legends Invite, Walla Walla, Washington, 10:30 a.m.
Cove, Elgin, Imbler, La Grande, Union, Enterprise, Joseph at Union Relays, 11 a.m.
Powder Valley at Saint Alphonsus Invitational, noon

Sunday, May 1

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Corban at Eastern Oregon (2), 11 a.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Eastern Oregon at Carroll College (2), 10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 3

PREP BASEBALL

McLoughlin at La Grande (2), 2 p.m.
Union/Cove at Weston-McEwen, 3 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

McLoughlin at La Grande (2), 2 p.m.

PREP TENNIS

Nyssa at La Grande, 4 p.m.

Aiming for success



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Union High School clay target team head coach Dan Martens looks on as Charleen Pepper fires a round at the Union Gun Club on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. The team will compete at the state championship in Hillsboro in late June.

Union High School Clay Target team focuses on teamwork, gun safety during spring season

By DAVIS CARBAUGH • The Observer

UNION — The spring clay target season is underway and the student athletes in Union are hoping for a strong conclusion.

The Union High School clay target team is midway through the 2022 season, serving as one of the local teams aiming for success in the state this year. In addition to skill training, the clay target team teaches participants gun safety and teamwork outside of the more standard sports programs.

“It’s a great activity for kids and a great opportunity to learn a practical skill they can take with them after high school,” Union Athletic Director Chris Dunlap said.

Union’s team consists of eight members, ranging from underclass newcomers to more experienced shooters. The program is in its fourth season, but is not an official activity associated with Union High School.

The Union program is spearheaded by head coach

Dan Martens, who has experience running clay target shooting with 4H for more than 10 years. The team has had a bit of turnover from recent years when roughly 20 students would compete, but Martens is aiming to continue building up the program and teaching safe gun habits to high school students.

“It’s been popular and it’s really growing in the state,” he said of clay target competitions. “The state has really grown some good teams.”

Union is ranked fourth out of six teams in the 1A Conference 2 standings after week one of the spring season with 115 total points. The team records weekly scores at its home base, the Union Gun Club on Medical

See, Target/Page A10



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

The Union High School clay target team stops for a photo after a competition at the Union Gun Club on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. The student athletes range from underclassmen learning the sport to more experienced upperclassmen.

SPORTS SHORT

Trails club hosting spring short track races, MERA cleanup workday

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — With spring in the air, the Blue Mountain Singletrack Trails Club is starting up its annual outdoor events at Mount Emily Recreation Area.

The club is set to host short-track races at MERA starting on Monday, May 2, with riders of all ages and skill levels encouraged to join. The Blue Mountain Singletrack Trails Club will host short-track races starting at the Owsley Canyon Trailhead every Monday night through June 25. Classifications are broken down by age and include 5 and younger, 7 and younger, 8-11, 12-17 years, adult class and a 50 and over group.

The races are free to the public, but donations are welcome. Interested com-

MERA SHORT-TRACK RACES

Where: Owsley Canyon Trailhead
When: May 2, check in at 5:30 p.m., races at 6 p.m.
When: Every Monday through June 25
Cost: Free
Age/Skill: All ages and skill levels welcome to participate

petitors should check in at the Owsley Canyon Trailhead at 5:30 p.m., before races start at 6 p.m. The track is roughly a half mile in length, combining gravel road and dirt single track.

The Blue Mountain Singletrack Trails Club saw approximately 30 participants per event last year, many of whom were youth participants. The club tracks a seasonal score over the spring months, with

awards and raffles at the conclusion of the season.

MERA cleanup day

In addition to the start of short-track races, the club will host an annual spring MERA cleanup event on Sunday, May 15. The cleanup efforts will include a variety of projects to benefit the users of the recreation area.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the Owsley Trailhead at 9 a.m., and free donuts and coffee will be available. Those looking to attend are encouraged to bring supplies, work gloves and weather-appropriate clothing.

Following the event, Blue Mountain Singletrack Trails Club will host an after party at the Anderson Cottage next to the trailhead.



Dick Mason/The Observer, File

Children participate in a short-track race at the Owsley Trailhead at the Mount Emily Recreation Area, near La Grande, on Monday, June 21, 2021. Several dozen kids took part in the event hosted by Blue Mountain Singletrack Trails Club, whose volunteers maintain the mountain bike trails at MERA. Beginning May 2 in 2022, the races will be held every Monday at 6 p.m.

Find up-to-date scores and additional game coverage for your local high school, available 24/7 at www.lagrandeobserver.com.