



Contributed photo/Bryan Nelson

Hunter education student Laken McKay is ready to test her skills with supervision from volunteer Gordon Black at the March 7 field day held at the law enforcement shooting range west of Prairie City. In back, Zach Mobley, left, and Justin May help Sierra May get started.

Students ready to aim and fire

No. 1 hunter ed lesson is safe gun handling

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Hunter education students demonstrated their safe gun-handling skills with a March 7 field day at the law enforcement shooting range.

The event capped a two-week class for the 18 students in the class taught by Bryan Nelson.

The course is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

“The No. 1 skill taught is being responsible and safe in gun handling,” Nelson said. “Treat every firearm as if it’s loaded – and ask, ‘Where is the bullet going to go if I miss my target?’”

He noted they also teach about wildlife habitat and hunt-

ing as a tool to help manage wildlife numbers.

Nelson, who’s been teaching the course for 20 years, said this year’s class included youth ages 8-15, but he’s also taught older youth, up to age 17 and some adults as well.

“Some other states require hunter ed, no matter their age,” he said.

The field day included a chance to shoot muzzle loaders and a compound bow, and if they earned 95 or better on the test, students could shoot a machine gun.

“Most enjoy the class and find it fun,” Nelson said.

The next class is set for July 6 and will be taught by Deanna Maley.

Nelson said they are looking for adults interested in becoming instructors.

Contact Nelson at 541-575-1808, or Maley at 541-575-1167.

Trio take to state mats

Middle schoolers face tough foes in Woodburn

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

WOODBURN – A trio of Grant Union middle school wrestlers climbed their way to the March 14 Oregon Middle School State Wrestling Meet this season.

Seventh-grader Drew Lusco in the 195 weight class, eighth-grader Braden Spencer (102) and eighth-grader Roen Langum (150), all achieved the goal of making it to the top tournament.

They had “super-tough competition from 1A to 6A schools,” said head coach Andy Lusco. “Making it to state is a great accomplishment for these three wrestlers.”

Lusco said he expects his two eighth-grade wrestlers to make strides next year on the high school wrestling team.

At the tournament, Spencer lost by a



Grant Union seventh-grader Drew Lusco goes for a pin in his second match at the Oregon Middle School State Meet last weekend.

Contributed photo
Cindy Dougharty-Spencer

decision in the first round, 4-2, and then lost 13-5 in his second match.

“He has worked very hard and is an exceptional wrestler who will make a big contribution next season in high school,” Lusco said.

Langum lost by pin to the eventual fifth-place finisher at the tournament then lost 13-5 in his second match.

“He is another great wrestler who will make a significant contribution to the high school team through his hard work and excellent attitude,” the coach said.

Drew Lusco lost by a pin in his first

round to the eventual fifth-place finisher, but came back, pinning his next opponent in the third round.

He then lost the next round by a pin. “He accomplished his goal of going to his first big tournament and winning a match,” coach Lusco said. “He will return next year as an eighth-grader, and he hopes to place at the state meet.”

“Coach Jake Batease has done an exceptional job coaching these young men,” Lusco said. “His time and effort were much appreciated by the coaching staff and particularly by these young wrestlers.”

Teen leaps to national ranks



Contributed photo

Monument eighth-grader Sophia Pettit clears the high jump at the March 7 AAU U14 Indoor National Track and Field Championships at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Mich.

Sophia Pettit is champion at AAU field event

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

MONUMENT – Eighth-grade sprinter Sophia Pettit, a Monument School student, recently hit national championship status in high jump.

The daughter of Earl and Nittaya Pettit, Sophia won first place in the high jump at the March 7 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) U14 National Track and Field Championships held at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

The 13-year-old also placed fifth in long jump, 10th in the 60-meter dash and 23rd in the 200 at the inaugural meet.

“The competition was intense,” Sophia said regarding the sprint events. “For girls only being in eighth grade from across the country, several are setting near world-class times in the sprints.”

Pettit’s win in high jump was unexpected – her main focus has been on sprints and long jump, and she hadn’t

competed in high jump for two years. She decided to add it to her list at the event.

“I was originally planning to do the triple jump, but decided to do high jump,” Sophia said. “There were five others competing, and all the girls were really good – they all had high marks, but weren’t competing well.”

Four of her competitors were out after reaching the 4-foot mark.

And when Sophia hit 4-4, her last opponent was unable

to clear the bar, finishing at 4-2, giving the Monument athlete the win.

Sophia comes from one of the smallest schools in Grant County where there is no fancy track – just a field with a cinder-gravel track.

She said she practices sprints on the grassy field and only occasionally works out at the Grant Union Junior-Senior High School track in John Day.

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SPRINTING INTO THE SEASON



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union track and field athletes are prepping for their season, which gets underway at 3:30 p.m. this Thursday in Prineville, at the Breaking the Ice – Ice Breaker. Above: Track team members warm up during a recent practice on the new 8-lane track at Three Flags Field, completed last summer.



Dayville/Monument



Grant Union



Long Creek



Prairie City

2015 COUNTY SPORTS SCHEDULE

Track

Thursday, March 19
Friday, March 20

Grant Union @ Breaking the Ice Meet
Prairie City, Monument @ Diana Thurmond Invite

Prineville
Harper

3:30 p.m.
10 a.m.

Baseball

Thursday, March 19
Saturday, March 21
Thursday, March 26
Friday-Sat. March 27-28

Grant Union @ Culver
Grant Union vs. Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii
Grant Union vs. Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii
Grant Union’s Les Schwab Icebreaker Tourney

Culver
John Day
John Day
John Day

2 p.m.
10 a.m./2 p.m.
10 a.m.
TBA

Softball

Thursday, March 19
Saturday, March 21

Grant Union @ Culver
Grant Union vs. Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii

Culver
John Day

2 p.m./4 p.m.
12 p.m./2 p.m.

Dance

Wed.-Sat., March 18-21

Grant Union @ Dance and Drill State Championships

Portland

TBA

Golf

Friday, March 20

Grant Union @ Echo Hills

Heppner

10 a.m.



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