

The Blue Mountain EAGLE

Grant County's newspaper since 1868



Garrett Hitz breaks PC's school pole vault record in Union.

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Contributed photo/Nancy Hitz

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MNF projects draw managers worldwide

International seminar coming to John Day

By **Scotta Callister**
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Foresters and land managers from across the globe will come to Grant County next month to see collaboration and restoration in action.

The visit, set for May 6-8, is part of an International Seminar on Forest Landscape Restoration, a gathering that also will include programs and workshops in Portland and Bend. Participants will fly into Portland April

27 and depart May 13.

Organizers say Oregon is an ideal location to learn about “innovative approaches to forest landscape restoration, with its diverse ecosystems and range of resource uses.” The program aims to give participants tools for assessing and implementing landscape restoration plans and fostering collaboratives, as well as opportunities to network with other professionals.

The Grant County leg of the tour will include field visits to the Camp

Creek Restoration Area, the Oxbow Conservation Area, and the Marshall/Devine project area on the Malheur National Forest.

Organizer Lindsay Buchanan said the seminar has drawn 19 participants from as far away as Malawi, China, Brazil and Philippines. They will be looking at the range of restoration activities in action, from stream work to economic effects.

She said the itinerary includes the Malheur because it is home to the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition,

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Restoration gets boost on Malheur

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Restoration efforts on the Malheur National Forest are getting a vote of confidence from the top.

Leslie Weldon, deputy chief of national forest systems for the Forest Service, recently approved an expansion of the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) boundaries.

The revision was requested last

September by the Malheur Forest staff and the forest's two collaborative groups, the Blue Mountains Forest Partners and the Harney County Restoration Collaborative.

The slate of CFLR work currently receives \$2.5 million, per year, above normal funding to help pay up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on the Malheur Forest.

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New queen takes the reins

By **Angel Carpenter**
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Reitta Wyllie of John Day has been chosen to reign over the 2015 Grant County Fair and Rodeo.

The new queen is the daughter of Lindsey and Colleen Wyllie, and granddaughter of Donna Wyllie.

The try-out took place April 18, with Tracy Bird, Laurie Hueckman and Karen Officer as judges.



Reitta Wyllie

They scored Wyllie on reining pattern and grand entry run (for horsemanship), interview and speech.

Wyllie was the only girl to sign up as a contestant this year, but fair queen advisor Donna Palmer of Long Creek said she was well-qualified by the scores she tallied in the tryout.

Wyllie, 16, is a sophomore at Grant Union and belongs to the Harney County High School Rodeo Club. She competes in barrel racing, pole bending and goat tying. She also participates in 4-H.

“I'm looking forward to representing Grant County,” she said.

Palmer said Wyllie, as queen, will attend various fairs and rodeos in Central and Eastern Oregon to promote the Grant County Fair and Rodeo, starting with the May 23-24 Spray Rodeo.

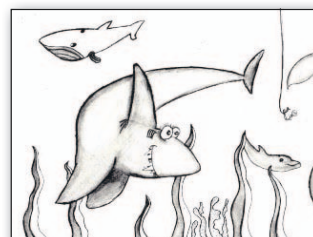
She'll also help with events at the fairgrounds, such as the camp cookoff and Challenge of Champions Bull Riding events.

When she's not busy with her own 4-H events, she'll be on hand at the Fair and Rodeo.

The last fair and rodeo queen was Desiree Robison in 2012 with princess CheyAnne Maley and Makaela Speakman and Sasha Juarez as ambassadors.

A coronation dinner will be announced soon, Palmer said. The event will be her main fundraiser.

STUDENT ART



Mercedes Locke
Grade 6
Humbolt Elementary

TRAVELING ABROAD ... WITHOUT LEAVING THE GYM

Humbolt kids explore Europe with NatGeo

By **Cheryl Hoefler**
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – No passports – even shoes – are needed for this overseas venture.

Humbolt Elementary students are getting to know the lay of the European land, thanks to a Giant Traveling Map from National Geographic.

The 26-by-26 foot vinyl map covers nearly half the school's gym floor, and comes with a treasure trove of accessories to be used in a variety of interactive, age-appropriate activities and games.

Students discard their shoes and embark on an exploration of Europe's climate, natural resources, landmarks and demographics – all while learning lessons in math, social studies, science and geography.

In some activities, children work in pairs or teams to identify such items as landmarks, peninsulas or capital cities. Others are games played as a group.

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Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler

Humbolt teacher **Caroline Colson** helps a few of her students, from left, **Quinlan Taylor, Lane Clark, Mia Adams, Abbie Justice** and **Sivanna Hodge** try to find a location on the map. Top photo: Humbolt Elementary third-graders use clues and directions on cards to find locations on a giant map of Europe.

EAGLE Q&A

Local author still in the saddle

By **Scotta Callister**
Blue Mountain Eagle

IZEE – Kristy St. Clair comes to ranching with some trepidation and an equal dose of good humor – and that combination makes for more than a few good yarns.

In her first book, “Accidental Cowgirl: A City Slicker's Life on an Eastern Oregon Ranch,” the local author offered vignettes from her adventures with husband Phil, as they adapted to ranch life in the Izee country. She continues the theme in her recently published volume, appropriately titled, “Accidental Cowgirl Rides Again.”

The Eagle recently caught up with St. Clair for a conversation about writing, ranch-



Contributed photo

Kristy St. Clair takes a break from the ranch chores she's adapted to as a self-described “accidental cowgirl.”

ing and what's next.

Q. For readers who missed the first book, can you give us a brief explanation of the “Accidental Cowgirl” moniker?

A. When we moved here in 1974, we had to learn to ride, work cattle, endure a harsh winter or two, and try to be a good neighbor. Phil learned fast and became

fairly skilled – I say “fairly” because someone out there might laugh at my explanation.

We had a long way to go. Phil got there, and I still haven't. But I wanted to help Phil with the chores, so I rode when I was petrified of horses and stayed in the saddle even when following Phil and his horse on creepy rocky cliffs in the dark. When I wrote the first book, Phil – knowing my fears – came up with the title. He was being kind.

After we decided on the title, I Googled it and found another “Accidental Cowgirl” book. The author's copyright came after mine but with only a month's difference. I also

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