

WEDNESDAY
July 8, 2015



Blue Mountain Eagle
Grant County Life
SPORTS • OUTDOORS • CLASSIFIEDS

Softball all-stars earn state berth

Grant County Wildfire team claims title

By Angel Carpenter
and Matt Entrup
Blue Mountain Eagle

time in the tournament after the teams met in the opening round.

The outcome was closer this time, but a seven run fourth inning by Grant County erased Hermiston's 4-3 lead and sealed their fate.



E.J. Harris/EO Media Group

Hermiston's Megan Wampler catches the ball as Grant County's Hailie Wright slides into second base on June 30 in Irrigon.

Kaylee Wright led the charge with three doubles in a 4-for-5 game and Hailie Wright led the team in runs scored with three while going 2 for 2 with two walks. Madi McKrola also was 2 for 2 with two walks and scored twice.

The last time a Grant County Little League softball team made state was in 2009. The 2009 Grant

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The Eagle/Marissa Williams

The Grant County Wildfire Junior Little League softball team poses after winning the Oregon District 3 Championship Tournament in Irrigon June 30. Front row, from left: Taylor Allen, Baylee Metcalf, Madi McKrola, Hailie Wright. Back row, from left: coach Zach Williams, Kaylee Wright, Brianna Zwegardt, Macy Strong, Tiler Voigt, Shaine Madden, Baylee Combs, Jordyn Young, Savanna Randleas, Marissa Smith, coach Mike Strong and coach Tammy Clark. Not pictured: coach Lance Zwegardt. The team advances to state Saturday, July 11 in Pilot Rock.

Sea Dragons splash into season

Coaches have positive outlook for the team

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – The John Day Swim Team has grown significantly this year, and head coach Crista Waldner is optimistic about the season.

The team went from 48 members last year to 61.

"We've only been in the water for two weeks, and they're doing really well," Waldner said.

She's pleased this year's team has even more numbers with several new kids joining.

Several of last year's 10-year-olds have moved up to the 11-18-year-old group, making it a larger group than last year.

There are 20 new and returning swimmers in the 8-and-under group.

Waldner has helped this year from assistant coach Sabrina Howard, who moved to Prairie City last year with her family.

Both coaches said they've noticed some new youth on the team who have a "natural gift with the water."

On June 26-28, the team traveled for their first swim meet of the season in Prineville.

"We had a really big first meet," Waldner said.

The Sea Dragons faced experienced teams, including three which swim year-round, Redmond, Klamath Falls and Bend's 12-and-under group.

Other competition came from the Cascade East District which includes Burns, Lakeview and Prineville – John Day is also in this district.

Waldner and Howard said they feel hopeful after that first meet.

"It made our season outlook really promising," Howard said.

Waldner said they both lost their voices, cheering on their team and coaching them down the lanes.

The team continues to work on foundation skills including kicks, streamlines and flip turns to increase speeds, hopefully by the Lakeview Meet, she said.

"I think they'll do really well," she said. "The kids who are working hard in practice are improving."

She said Lakeview's pool improvements, nice park and well-run meet make it one of her favorites of the season.



Contributed photo

John Day Sea Dragons assistant coach Sabrina Howard leads the team out during the June 26-28 Prineville Swim Meet.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Head swim coach Crista Waldner and assistant coach Sabrina Howard lead the John Day Sea Dragons this year.

Howard added the Fishies, the youngest group, are also picking up skills.

"At first they could barely make it across the pool, and now they're swimming 50s – 50 meters, down the pool and back – without stopping," she said.

Prineville Swim Meet results:

Mickayla Coalwell
Female 15 & Over 100 Breast, 5th
Tori Coalwell
Female 13-14 200 Free, 4th
Female 13-14 100 Fly, 2nd
Female 13-14 50 Free, 1st
Auna Waldner
Female 15 & Over 100 Free, 4th
Female 15 & Over 100 Back 4th
Mixed 18 & Under 400 IM, 4th
Ryan Coalwell
Male 10 & Under 200 Free, 5th

Trevyn Coalwell
Male 11-12 200 Free, 5th
Quinten Hallgarth
Male 13-14 200 Free, 4th
Male 13-14 100 Fly 4th
Justin Hodge
Male 11-12 200 Free, 2nd
Male 11-12 100 Free, 5th
Male 11-12 50 Free, 5th
Russell Hodge
Male 13-14 200 Free, 3rd
Male 13-14 100 Free, 4th
Male 13-14 200 IM, 4th
Male 13-14 100 Breast, 4th
Male 13-14 50 Free, 4th
Cayden Howard
Male 8 & Under 25 Back, 4th
Taylor Hunt
Male 13-14 100 Free, 5th
Male 13-14 100 Fly, 2nd
Male 13-14 100 Back, 2nd
Male 13-14 200 IM, 4th
Male 13-14 100 Breast, 4th
Male 13-14 50 Free, 5th
Mixed 18 & Under 400 IM, 5th
Zeri Janssen
Male 8 & Under 25 Fly, 3rd
Male 8 & Under 25 Back, 3rd
Male 8 & Under 25 Breast, 5th
Male 8 & Under 25 Free, 3rd
200 Medley Relay
18 & Under, 4th
Jessica Reames, Mykay Coalwell, Tori Coalwell and Auna Waldner
200 Free Relay
12 & Under, 5th
Laken McKay, Dakota Ballou, Sivanna Hodge and Majik Leigh
200 Free Relay
14 & Under, 3rd
Rhea Mead, Jessica Reames, Riley Robertson, Tori Coalwell
1st - Taylor Hunt, Quinten Hallgarth, Grant LeQuieu, Russell Hodge



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Junior golf coach Ron Lundbom, left, watches as Duane Stokes makes the last putt for the team in last Thursday's golf scramble. Stokes helped younger golfers during the six-day camp. The group divided into two teams for the tournament. Other golfers, from left, are Clyde Holliday, Eli Speth, Will Carpenter, Silvie Holliday and Rose Vandehey.

Junior golfers give their best shot

Youth end lessons with golf scramble

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Ron Lundbom wrapped up a successful six-day junior golf camp for youth last week at the John Day Golf Club.

This year he had 14 participants learning golfing basics.

"I think the kids did better than any group we've ever had," said Lundbom, who is also the Grant Union High School golf coach.

He had assistance again this year from Patch Freeman of Long Creek.

Two players from Lund-

bom's 2014-15 golf team, Nathan Gehley and Duane Stokes, also helped the young golfers.

The lessons culminated in a golf scramble with the group dividing into two teams for the tournament July 2, and the youth cooled off with some ice cream cake after the event.

The winning team members each received a Dairy Queen gift card.

Lundbom was pleased with the progress of his golfing students.

"They definitely showed improvements in hitting the ball, and had good attitudes," he said.



Participating in the junior golf camp scramble tournament are, from left, Nathan Gehley (who helped younger players during the camp), Michael Martin, Devon Stokes, Curtis Perry (back), Riddick Hutchison, Christian Glimpse and assistant coach Patch Freeman.



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Wildlife - Etc.

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