



John Day Swim Team captures first at home meet

Team hosts district championships this weekend

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Practice paid off for the John Day Sea Dragons as they flew to first place at last weekend's home invitational before a large crowd that turned out to cheer on the teams at Gleason Pool in John Day. The local team also earned the Sportsmanship Award. Lakeview took second place and Prineville finished third; the Burns team also competed and Baker, La Grande and Pendleton teams brought in a few swimmers as well.

Some visiting swimmers at the meet were heard commenting about John Day team members for cheering them on, and they intended to reciprocate.

Head coach Crista Waldner said the combination of hard work and a home meet helped her team win the competition. Home meets, she said, bring out more participants, and the swimmers' familiarity with the pool is a bonus.

"That helps a little bit, but also the kids are improving a lot," Waldner said. "They've had all season to practice and improve their technique."

The local team hosts the East Cascade District Championship Swim Meet this weekend which includes Lakeview, Burns, Prineville and John Day. The action begins Friday evening and continues Saturday and Sunday with preliminaries in the mornings and finals starting early afternoon each day.

"They're at a good place in the season right now," said Waldner. "A lot of the kids on the team are working really hard, and we're excited to see the kids swimming at districts this weekend. We would love community support. It's free, and the swim meet is definitely worth attending to see the kids compete."

The John Day Swim Team awards banquet will be held 5:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 3, at the John Day City Park.

John Day Swim Invitational
John Day team results, top three:
Ryan Coalwell
Male 9-10 200 Free, 3
Male 9-10 100 IM, 2
Male 9-10 50 Free, 1
Tori Coalwell
Female 13-14 200 Free, 1
Female 13-14 100 Free, 1
Female 13-14 100 Fly, 1
Female 13-14 200 IM, 1



Three John Day Swim Team athletes compete in Saturday's event. Front to back: Grant LeQueiu (JDST), Taylor Hunt (JDST), Thomas Burleigh (Prineville) and Russell Hodge (JDST).

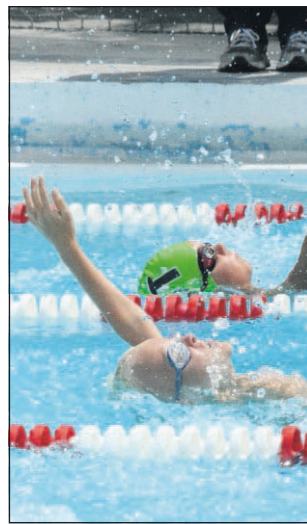
Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter



Above: Justin Hodge, front and Trevyn Coalwell race in Saturday's invitational. Right: Cole Gravem and another swimmer are neck and neck in a race at the John Day Invitational.

Female 13-14 100 Breast, 1
Female 13-14 50 Free, 1
Trevyn Coalwell
Male 11-12 50 Back, 1
Amelia Hall (10) F
Female 9-10 200 Free, 3
Travion Hall
Male 6 & Under 25 Free, 1
Elexas Helmick
Female 6 & Under 25 Free, 3
Justin Hodge
Male 11-12 200 Free, 2
Male 11-12 100 Free, 1
Male 11-12 50 Back, 2
Male 11-12 100 IM, 3
Male 11-12 50 Breast, 3
Male 11-12 50 Free, 3
Russell Hodge
Male 13-14 200 Free, 2
Male 13-14 100 Free, 2

Male 13-14 100 Back, 3
Male 13-14 100 Breast, 3
Male 13-14 50 Free, 2
Sivanna Hodge
Female 9-10 200 Free, 2
Female 9-10 100 Free, 3
Female 9-10 50 Free, 3
Cayden Howard
Male 8 & Under 50 Free, 3
Colbie Howard
Female 6 & Under 25 Back, 3
Taylor Hunt
Male 13-14 200 Free, 3
Male 13-14 100 Fly, 2
Male 13-14 100 Back, 2
Male 13-14 200 IM, 2
Zeri Janssen
Male 8 & Under 25 Back, 1
Male 8 & Under 25 Free, 3
Clay Johnson



Male 15-18 100 Breast, 3
Thomas LeQueiu
Male 11-12 50 Back, 3
Aiden Martell
Male 6 & Under 25 Free, 3
Male 6 & Under 25 Back, 1
Sierra May
Female 8 & Under 25 Back, 3
Rhea Mead
Female 11-12 100 Free, 2
Female 11-12 50 Breast, 3
Female 11-12 50 Free, 3
Jessica Reames
Female 13-14 100 Back, 3
Talon Van Cleave
Male 9-10 50 Back, 3
Auna Waldner
Female 15-18 200 IM, 2

Amy Black is back at hoops

Basketball star plans on nursing major at EOU

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle



Amy Black

SISTERS – Before getting full swing into summer work, Prairie City High School 2015 graduate Amy Black returned to the basketball court.

She was selected to play in the June 26-27 1A Oregon Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Series basketball tournament in Sisters.

Making it all the more special, her team, one of two east side teams, was coached by Crane's Travis Stub and her mom Penny Black as assistant coach.

"It's a great honor," said Penny, who was Amy's coach throughout high school. "It was great to get all these girls together as seniors – Amy has had a relationship with these girls since the Huntington Tournament as junior high athletes."

She said Amy also formed new friendships with other girls involved in the tournament.

"They developed a great camaraderie," Penny said of the seven girls on their team.

"It's fun to see them relax and use their talents with each other instead of against each other."

The team won their first game, with Amy scoring in the double digits, then lost to the other east side team, which included talented Condon athletes.

Amy will attend Eastern Oregon University in La Grande this fall with plans to enter the nursing program.

Currently, EOU has a full and senior-heavy women's basketball roster, coach Black said.

Amy plans to take a year to develop her basketball skills, playing intramural ball, and try out for the team next year.

"She's looking forward to getting a feel for the campus and focusing on academics," Penny said.

Track event takes two athletes across the globe

Hitz earns gold, silver at Down Under event

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

GOLD COAST, Australia – Two local track athletes jumped at the opportunity to compete in Australia at the 15th Annual Down Under Track and Field Event.

Garrett Hitz of Prairie City School and Kenzie Wilson of Grant Union, who will both be seniors this fall, were invited to attend the meet which included 300 or more athletes competing at Griffith University.

Hitz, son of Joe and Nancy Hitz of Prairie City, earned gold in the pole vault event,

reaching 4.04 meters (13.25 feet).

He also took silver in javelin, throwing a lighter rod than he's used to, hitting the 48.68 meter mark (159.71 feet), and placed seventh in the 110-meter hurdles and eighth in the 300 hurdles.

Wilson, daughter of Jeanette and Charlie Wilson of John Day, finished fifth in the triple jump with 9.7 meters (31.82 feet) and sixth in the high jump with 1.40 meters (4.59 feet).

She also competed in long jump, but scratched in the event.

Both athletes said the experience will help them as they continue track and field at their high schools.

Hitz said he practiced hard

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Contributed photo/Nancy Hitz

Grant Union athlete Kenzie Wilson and Prairie City athlete Garrett Hitz enjoyed the opportunity of a lifetime, competing at the Down Under Sports Track and Field event in Gold Coast, Australia, earlier this month.

Safety first: students hone firearm-handling skills



Contributed photo
Hunter Education instructor Deanna Maley stands with a few of the students during the July 18 field day event.

Deanna Maley shares passion for gun safety

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Ten hunter education students learned firearm safety in a July 6-18 class, ending the hard work with a fun field day. The class is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Instructor Deanna Maley led students, young and old, in the class, teaching topics such as muzzle control (keeping the firearm pointed in a

safe direction), types of actions (bolt action, break action, pump action), as well as ethical and unethical situations, which includes being respectful to the non-hunting population, respectful to wildlife and to the land, she said.

Firearm safety is the No. 1 lesson learned.

"Once they pull the trigger – whether it's a bow, shotgun or pistol – that decision can't be changed at that point, so it's about being aware of their surroundings," she said. "If there is a bad decision made, it could affect them for the rest of their lives."

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Old Photos
Kids - Family - Trophy
Wildlife - Etc.

NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL YOUR TROPHY WAS

or you just want to share a hunting adventure,

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Your photos will be published in this year's EAGLE HUNTING JOURNAL
Please have them to the Eagle by August 7th