

Saturday, Nov. 21

Oregon  
Ducks vs.  
USC Trojans  
in Eugene,  
12:30 p.m.Oregon State  
Beavers vs.  
Washington  
Huskies in  
Corvallis, 3  
p.m.WEDNESDAY  
November 18, 2015

## Oregon delists gray wolves

West side wolves still under federal protection

By Eric Mortenson  
Capital Press

SALEM — After nearly 11 hours of emotional testimony, back and forth discussion and two timeouts for legal advice from a state attorney, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission voted 4-2 Monday to take gray wolves off the state endangered species list.

In making the decision, commission members agreed with an ODFW staff appraisal that the state's wolves have expanded in number and range to the point that they no longer need protection under the state Endangered Species Act.

Oregon's wolves remain covered under the federal ESA in the western two-thirds of the state, and ODFW officials say the state wolf management plan remains in effect and will protect wolves from illegal hunting.

The decision doesn't close the book on Oregon's work to manage wolves. Some commission members made it clear they preferred to delist wolves only in the eastern third of the state, where most of Oregon's 82 confirmed wolves live, but were prevented from doing so by language in the state law.

Meanwhile, conservation groups are expected to file a lawsuit over the commission's decision.

"I think that's very likely," said Amaroq Weiss of the Center for Biological Diversity. "I think they're in violation of the law. They didn't pay attention to the science."

Conservation groups believe Oregon's wolf population is too small and too fragile to delist. They point out wolves occupy only 12 percent of their potential territory.

See WOLVES, Page B8



Eagle photos by Angel Carpenter

Youth wrestling coach Mike Strong, back left, helps the athletes learn proper form in Monday's practice at Grant Union.

# Youth wrestlers learn discipline, hard work

Athletes take 27 wins at Pendleton Meet

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant County Wrestling Club is in full swing, and their practice is paying off.

At the Pendleton Meet last weekend, which included 400 participants, 12 Grant County wrestlers competed for 27 wins, nine losses and 16 pins.

Last Monday, about two dozen of the local wrestlers started practice at Grant Union with

warm-up stretches, push-ups and sit-ups.

After a demonstration of wrestling moves by coach Mike Strong, the athletes paired up and went to work.

Strong has coached the wrestling club for three years, and has help from several assistant coaches, including Ty Parsons, Drew Knowles, Mike Gast, Terry Harper, Zane Rookstool and Mitch Wilson.

Other volunteers include Tobe Zwegardt, Trevor Knowles, Steve Parsons, Rick Jensen, Cindy Dougharity-Spencer and brother Jake and Caleb Batease.

This season, 30 athletes are in the club, ranging in age from 5 to 12 years old.

"We have a great group of coaches, and with that many young kids, we need a lot of coaches," Strong said.

He said his team, which is an Oregon Wrestling Association for Youth club, will attend five or six tournaments in Eastern Oregon during the season.

Strong said he hopes the success the young wrestlers gain in the program will carry over as they continue on to junior high and high school.

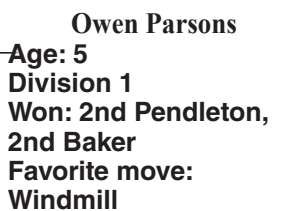
"Our goal for the wrestlers in the club is to learn discipline, respect, and most important, hard work," he said, adding their coaching centers on fundamentals — "learning the basics and doing them right."



Tatyn Harper  
Age: 6  
Division 2  
Won: 1st Pendleton,  
3rd Baker  
Favorite move: Front  
flip



Taylor Parsons  
Age: 7  
Division 2  
Won: 1st Pendleton,  
1st Baker  
Favorite move:  
Fireman's carry



Owen Parsons  
Age: 5  
Division 1  
Won: 2nd Pendleton,  
2nd Baker  
Favorite move:  
Windmill



Eli Wright  
Age: 11  
Division 4  
Won: 2nd Baker  
Favorite move: Single  
leg



Zeke Rookstool  
Age: 7  
Division 2  
Won: 2nd Pendleton  
Favorite move: "I like  
to pin"



Tristan Clarry  
Age: 8  
Division 2  
Won: 3rd Pendleton,  
3rd Baker  
Favorite move: Double  
leg

## New Panther basketball coach eager to fill stands



Jonathon Gill

Jonathon Gill leads with high aspirations

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — "One team, one family, one love — Prairie City!"

That's the new motto for Prairie City's basketball team, said new head coach Jonathon Gill.

Gill, who was an assistant

coach for the Panthers last year, said he wants to establish a winning mentality and involve the fans.

"We want to galvanize the community and get them behind the kids," he said.

"This is a blue collar team that works hard, and reflects the environment of the community, and they can outwork their opponents," he added.

Gill is from Mobile, Ala., and has lived in Canyon City for two years.

This is his first year coaching, and last year was his first

year as an assistant coach to Mark Woodbury.

Gill said he's played basketball throughout his life, and his experience includes playing on the high school team, and he was a Division 1 player at University of Alabama his freshman year of college.

He gave up college ball to pursue his career as a civil engineer.

"It's going to be a learning curve for me this year, but I'm dedicated and very passionate," he said. "I eat, sleep and live basketball."

The coach said he's optimistic this season, and is happy to have some key players back on the court, including team captain Garrett Hitz, Ethan Camarena, Brandon Gillihan and Dorrin Wilson.

"Our expectations are high," he said. "Our ultimate goal is establishing these kids to be young men."

He said he and assistant coach Bob Hassmiller want to prepare the athletes to be successful in their families, community and as students.

"We want to give them

tools," he said.

Although he plans to take it a day at a time, and look for improvement as the season moves along, Gill said his expectations are high.

"I'm a competitive guy, our aspirations are the best — state championship," he said.

The Panthers, in the 1A-8 High Desert League, have scheduled their first varsity game for Friday, Dec. 4, hosting the Redmond junior varsity game at 6:30 p.m., following the girls game. They also host Burnt River Saturday, Dec. 5 at 3:30 p.m.

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