

SPORTS
SCHEDULE

Friday, Jan. 15

Grant Union wrestling @
Redmond Classic in Red-
mond, begins at 8 a.m.Grant Union basketball
vs. Imbler in John Day, JV
games begin at 3 p.m.Prairie City
basketball
@ Adrian in
Adrian, varsity
begins at
7:30 p.m. (MT)Dayville/
Monument
basketball @
Jordan Val-
ley in Jordan
Valley, varsity
begins at 6
p.m. (MT)Long Creek/
Ukiah JV @
Harper/Hun-
tington in
Huntington,
games begin
7 p.m. (MT)

Saturday, Jan. 16

Grant Union wrestling @
Redmond Classic in Red-
mond, begins at 10 a.m.Grant Union basketball
vs. Cove in John Day, JV
games begin at 1 p.m.Prairie City basketball vs.
Burnt River in Prairie City,
varsity begins at 3:30 pm.Dayville/Monument bas-
ketball @ Adrian in Adrian,
varsity begins at 2 p.m. (MT)

Prairie City basketball teams overtake Harper/Huntington



Prairie City Panther Brianna Zwegardt (20) lays up a shot last Friday against Harper/Huntington, her teammate Amaya Zwegardt (2) in the action.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

First league contests are a success

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — The Prairie City Panther girls and boys basketball teams hosted Harper/Huntington last Friday with the local teams claiming victory.

The Lady Panthers kept a steady lead, taking a 38-23 win. Prairie City finished the first half 23-13.

Near the end of the third quarter, the Hornets, trailing by seven, tried closing in, but Prairie City jumped ahead. Amaya Zwegardt added two free throws, Sarah Ennis scored and, with seconds left, Zwegardt scored to end the third 33-20.

"I'm very happy," said head coach Penny Black. "Offensively, they did really well moving the ball. We left some easy shots out there, but we shot better as a team — it was a total team effort. Our goal was to play intense defense the whole game."

"I thought we did pretty good," said Panther Cassie Hire. "We didn't shoot as good as we could have. We will work hard for the next games."

"We practiced hard all week and it showed," said Brianna Zwegardt. "We read the defense and got the open looks needed."

The Prairie City boys toppled the Hornets, 59-40.

The Panthers had 13 points on the scoreboard before Harper/Huntington scored a three-point shot.

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Lady Panthers show competitive spirit

Team faces tough league foes this season

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — In her 12th year coaching Prairie City girls basketball, Penny Black challenges her team in practice to increase their game speed and intensity.

"The advice I give them is to challenge the next person as hard as you can — guarding and offense — to be in attack mode, and go 100 percent," she said.

Attack mode may be just what it takes

to conquer league opponents this season.

Other members of the 1A High Desert League are: Crane, Jordan Valley, Adrian, Dayville/Monument, Harper/Huntington and Burnt River.

"We have one of the tougher leagues in state," Black said. "Crane, Jordan Valley and Adrian are state contenders in our league."

She added Dayville/Monument will also be a tough competitor this season, and Crane has a good chance to win the state championship this year.

So far, the Panthers are 5-4 overall, and 1-0 in league, after beating Harper/Huntington last Friday.

One specific goal the team is working on is improving defense to slow their

opponents' scoring.

"I believe we have the athletes to compete," Black said. "We've got a lot of length in the arms and legs, and they work hard."

Black's assistant coach is Brook Williams, and Amber Ford is the conditioning coach.

Last week, the team was focused on hand-eye coordination drills and building muscle strength, and the group also practices yoga.

"Yoga helps them focus on their bodies and helps prevent injury," Black said.

Ford added the exercise also promotes mobility.

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The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

The Prairie City Lady Panthers, at practice last Thursday with head coach Penny Black, work on arm strength and hand-eye coordination.

Prospectors leash Huskies at home

Grant Union teams split wins on the road

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant Union Prospectors girls and boys teams came out ready to win last Saturday, hosting the Elgin Huskies.

The Lady Prospectors won 47-22, and the boys team, 81-42.

The Grant Union girls also beat Union, 49-26, on the road the previous night.

Head coach Mark Mosley said the game

against Elgin provided a good opportunity to give all his players time on the court.

The Prospectors went into the fourth ahead 37-16, and the intensity didn't let up.

Scoring was going back and fourth when Grant Union freshman Kaylee Wright was injured. She went up to score and collided with an opponent, hitting the floor hard.

Freshman Madi McKrola stepped in and nailed the free throw.

After the game, coach Mosley said Wright will be fine.

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Grant Union Prospector Cauy Weaver goes up to score off an assist from Trace Gill (back) on Saturday against the Elgin Huskies in John Day.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter



Eastern Oregon University returns to college wrestling

Blue Mountain Eagle

Eastern Oregon University is re-establishing its wrestling program.

State Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) helped secure a \$300,000 allocation from the Oregon Legislature to offer the collegiate sport in Eastern Oregon.

"Eastern Oregon is home to many wrestling champions both on individual and team levels," Smith said. "EOU is unable to attract these athletes who desire to continue



wrestling in college. I believe wrestling will give EOU another tool for recruitment and help keep our youth in Eastern Oregon."

During the 2015 Legislative Session, Smith worked with leadership and a group called Restore College Wres-

tling to find funding to reactivate a wrestling program at Eastern Oregon University, which is Eastern Oregon's only university.

"Representative Greg Smith has been a pivotal person in the effort to restart competitive wrestling at EOU," said Dr. Mike Clock, chair of the Restore College Wrestling Oregon Committee. "Over the past 17 years, teams from east of the Cascades have won almost 55 percent of the team titles. Since the late '70s, there have been no geographically

convenient opportunities for those young individuals to compete at the college level in Oregon."

Smith serves as co-vice chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee and is a member of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction, which helps appropriate resources throughout the state. Smith is also an avid supporter of wrestling programs throughout Eastern Oregon and the father of two-time state champion, Ryan Smith.

PC athlete receives All-State volleyball honor

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — Prairie City sophomore Brianna Zwegardt received All-State honorable mention for volleyball.

Brianna led the team stats in serving, setting hit/tipping and blocking.

She's also been recognized as Setter of the Year in the 1A High Desert League the past two seasons.

Head coach Louanne

Zwegardt said she appreciates Brianna's drive to improve her skills.

"She is willing to put in the extra time it takes to get to the next level," coach Zwegardt said. "Receiving All-State honorable mention as a sophomore is a real accomplishment."

Louanne and assistant coach Lance Zwegardt, Brianna's parents, said they look forward to what the future holds for their daughter.

"She is a pleasure to coach," Louanne said.



Prairie City Panther Brianna Zwegardt, a sophomore, was selected for honorable mention on the All-State team in volleyball. In the photo, Zwegardt is in action at the October 1A District Tournament in John Day.

Eagle file photo