

FIREFIGHTERS GRADUATE



Contributed photo

Twenty firefighters from Grant and Harney counties graduated from the Entry Level Firefighter Academy sponsored by the Grant-Harney Training Association. Back row, from left, Brennan Huffman, Prairie City Fire; Dale Plemon and Shane Koppel, Seneca Fire; Tony Homan, Monument Fire; Thomas Taylor Sr. and Thomas Taylor Jr., Long Creek Fire; Kody Stoddard, Canyon City Fire; and Jordon Walker, Seneca Fire. Middle row, from left, Micha Porter, Connor King and Marilyn Alexander, Hines Fire; Don and Denise Porter, Long Creek Fire; and Rocky Desimin, instructor from the Department of Public Safety Standards & Training. Front row, from left, Ryan Pettyjohn, Matt Wenick, and Josh Walker, Seneca Fire; Quade Day and Tamara Homan, Monument Fire; and Nathan Gordanier and Dan Vandehey, Canyon City Fire.

Twenty men and women complete 60 hours of training

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Twenty firefighters from Grant and Harney counties graduated on Feb. 14 with certificates of completion from the 2016 Entry Level Firefighter Academy.

Those from Grant County were Ryan Pettyjohn, Matt Wenick, Josh

Walker, Quade Day, Tamara Homan, Nathan Gordanier, Dan Vandehey, Don Porter, Denise Porter, Brennan Huffman, Dale Plemon, Shane Koppel, Tony Homan, Thomas Taylor Sr., Thomas Taylor Jr., Kody Stoddard and Jordon Walker.

Harney County students were Mica Porter, Connor

King and Marilyn Alexander. Rocky Desimin from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training was the instructor.

The academy, which encompassed 60 hours over three weekends, was sponsored by the Grant-Harney Training Association.

Monument speech and debate duo compete

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

FOREST GROVE — Monument High School sent a start-up speech and debate team to the Jan. 8-9 Hap Hingston Forensics Tournament at Pacific University in Forest Grove.

It was freshman Sophia Pettit's second time competing this school year, and junior Brittani Hays' first, up against about 420 competitors, mainly from larger schools.

Pettit earned a spot on the



Sophia Pettit



Brittani Hays

podium, and a trophy, with a fifth-place overall finish in Expository Speaking.

She also placed ninth in Radio and competed in Impromptu Speaking.

Hays, a junior, competed for

her first time in the Impromptu and Original Oratory categories.

Their speech and debate coach Earl Pettit, who is also superintendent/principal, said he was pleased with both girls' performances.

"Despite our small size and limited resources, our speakers compete at the highest level in the state due to their dedication and hours of practice," he said. "I am hopeful that this is the start of a long-lasting and growing forensics team at Monument School."

Prairie City FFA competes in Burns

Blue Mountain Eagle

BURNS — Several members of Prairie City School's Future Farmers of America came away winners at the Strawberry Mountain District FFA Career Development Event Feb. 10 in Burns.

Both of the Advanced and Beginning Parliamentary Procedure teams took first place. Advanced members were Brianna Zwegardt, Wyatt Williams, Amaya Zwegardt, Danner Davis, Sierra Dahlen and Marnie Woodbury. Beginning members were Aries Bice, Declan Zwegardt, Shaelynn Bice, Jonathan Haskins, Emily Ennis and Carson McKay.

Lane Williams received third place and Kyla Winton, second, in the FFA Creed Speaking Contest.

In Sophomore Public Speaking, Megan Camarena took third place and Marnie Woodbury, second. And in Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Amaya Zwegardt received third place.



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Prairie City School FFA students competed at the Strawberry Mountain District FFA Career Development event Feb. 10 in Burns.

Overall, the Prairie City Chapter brought seven banners home.

On Monday, Feb. 29, both Parliamentary Procedure teams,

and members of Creed Speaking and Sophomore Public Speaking will compete at the Sectional Career Development Event in Bend.

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