



Dancers spring into spotlight

Audience enjoys performances from 60 dancers

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Friday's Spring Showcase highlighted the talents of 60 dancers performing for a full house.

Showcase coordinator Shannon Adair said the evening's presentations were "excellent."

"There was a great variety, and the kids who choreographed their own routines did an outstanding job," she said.

From the youngest Level 1 group to the Grant Union var-

sity dance team, the groups spotlighted an array of dance styles.

Levels 1 and 2 are led by coach Chandra Holliday, Level 3 by Sierra Elliott, the Junior Team by Kattie Piazza and assistant Rebecca Batease, and the varsity team head coach is Adair with assistants Jessica Moore and Kattie Piazza.

The highlight of the event came when several of Adair's alumni dance students joined her for a final hip hop routine.

Although Adair is stepping down as head coach at the close of the school year, she said she'd like to stay involved with the program.

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Contributed photo/Stephanie Parsons

The Body Fitness and Dance Junior Platinum team is in ready mode for their performance, including Rhea Mead, Madison Spencer, Taylor Osgood, Harli Grove and Brianna Majors.

Mark calendars for spring sports

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Spring sports athletes are in training, gearing up for their first competitions.

Grant Union has track and field, baseball, softball and golf teams.

The Prospector track and field team with head coach Sonna Smith will first com-

pete in Prineville on Thursday at the Breaking the Ice: Ice-breaker. Grant Union will host the Small Schools Invitational on April 5. Schools invited include: Dayville, Long Creek, Prairie City, Mitchell-Spray, Crane, Burns, La Grande and Grant Union.

The Grant Union baseball

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Photo contributed by Andi Harmon/LC Ranch Photography

Long Creek resident Cauy Pool, 16, takes a wild ride at Prineville's Challenge of Champions junior bull riding competition, winning first place last Saturday.

YOUNG BULL RIDER ASPIRES TO BE THE BEST

Local teen is a champ at junior bull riding event

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

MONUMENT — Monument High School junior Cauy Pool is on his way up as a rodeo cowboy.

He won first place at the Challenge of Champions junior bull riding compe-

tion in Prineville last Saturday.

Pool said he and three other competitors in his division drew good bulls.

"It was a good rodeo and a lot of good competition," he said. "It's a sport. I like the competition, and I can go out there and make a career out of it."

Pool's family moved from Klamath County this year to Long Creek where they work as ranchers.

He's still involved as a member of the District 1 high school rodeo club in Cottonwood, California, where he's in the top three and is qualified for the

state event.

He's competed in bareback, saddle bronc and bull riding events and hopes to qualify for the July 17-23 National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming. His goal is to eventually make it to the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Pool's mom, Karla, said her son "lives and breathes rodeo," working out every night and traveling to rodeos each weekend, while keeping his grades up.

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Hunters ed class teaches firearm safety

Students share what they learned

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Hunters Education is big in Grant County.

A total of 40 students completed the Feb. 22 through March 3 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife-sponsored class.

The class had more students than usual for area coordinator and instructor Bryan Nelson, though he said his largest class had 51 students.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife-sponsored class is open to all ages.

Most students were between the ages of 9 and 16, with three adults taking the course to receive their concealed weapons permit.

"The class is about gun safety and being a responsible person with a firearm, and being a responsible hunter and treating wildlife with respect," Nelson said.

He noted girls completing the class outnumbered boys, 23-17.

Nelson had assistance from a team of instructors/volunteers: Katy Nelson, assistant coordinator Deanna

Maley, Dillon Maley, Mike Springer, Gordon Black, Mark Boss, Ken Kincaid, Mike Billman and parent volunteer Gordon Larson.

A field day to test the students' skills was held March 12 at the law enforcement gun range west of Prairie City, with an additional test day held March 16.

Students shared what they learned and enjoyed most about the course.

"I learned a lot about survival and how to identify different animals," said 12-year-old Riley Robertson. "Mark Boss showed us his gun collection. He had flintlocks and sidelocks."

"I learned responsibility

and how to tell the difference between stalking and post (when hunting wildlife)," said 12-year-old Dakota Ballou. "In stalking you go and look for tracks, and in post you stay in one place and wait for herds or single animals."

She added, "I also learned that if you mix up .20 gauge with .12 gauge (ammunition) you will explode your gun, and you could possibly lose your eyesight."

Jack Strong, 11, said he enjoyed learning about bolt-action and lever-action guns.

What part did he like best about the class?

"Shooting," he said.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Hunter Education area coordinator Bryan Nelson watches as Jack Strong, 11, takes aim during a field day test with students Dakota Ballou, 12, and Riley Robertson, 12 (right), watch. All the students received their hunters ed certification after completing a course and passing the practical skills/safety test at the field day held at the law enforcement gun range outside Prairie City.



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