

# GU Golfers earn second at Echo Hills

Nathan Gehley earns second lowest score

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

ECHO — Grant Union golf head coach Ron Lundbom said each of his team members learned something as they had their first tee off of the season at the Heppner Invitational held at Echo Hills Golf Course in Echo.

The Grant Union team came away with a second-place finish with 459. Nixyaawii placed first with 402, and Enterprise was third with 461.

Grant Union senior Nathan Gehley had the second lowest individual score with 94 at the event, behind Riley Langford and Blake Kannier of Nixyaawii, who each scored 86.

Grant Union's Duane Stokes had 106, Jay Goldblatt 119 and Connor White 140.

For the Grant Union girls, Tiana Allen finished third with 126 behind Heppner golfers, Amanda Rea 98 and Madison Combe 123.

Grant Union's Rose Vandehy scored 142.

"We scored better than I thought we would, and everyone had fun," Lundbom said.

The Prospectors compete at the Friday, April 1, Class 1A/2A Pendleton Invite at Pendleton Country Club.

## TRACK

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Ten Tiger athletes from the 1A school finished at least "mid-pack" against their competitors, which included five 4A schools and 13 other mostly larger schools.

A few highlights include Sophia Pettit placing second in the 100-meter dash and third in the 200.

Kyla Emerson finished 10th in the 100, out of 66 competitors, and seventh in the long jump.

Pettit, Emerson, Dinorha Vidrio Landin and Faythe Schafer made up a 4x400 relay team, finishing in 10th place.

Maya Thomas placed 11th in the 3000.

For the boys, Hayden Schafer took seventh in javelin out of 75 competitors.

Next on Monument's schedule is the March 23 All-Comers event at Oregon City High School and the Wednesday, March 30, Culver Invite.

### Long Creek

Long Creek head coach Linda Studtmann took 10 athletes to last Friday's Diana Thurmond Invitational in Harper.

Highlights for the boys include Kirill Borisov finishing fifth in the 200-meter dash with teammate Aaron Yeung taking sixth, Philipp Dessau ninth and Adam Rajabeliev 11th.

Borisov also placed seventh in javelin, and Fernando Rodriguez was sixth in the high jump and ninth in long jump.

For the girls, Andrea Moreno placed seventh in the 800-meter and 11th in the long jump for the girls. Lilly Stemmann was 12th in the long jump.

Long Creek will next compete at the Tuesday, April 5, Grant Union Small Schools Invitational.

The Prairie City and Dayville teams plan to start their season at the April 1 Don Walker Invitational.

## PROS

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and the ability to come back. We just ran out of time."

Grant Union now looks forward to hosting their annual spring break games, the Les Schwab Invitational at Seventh Street Complex in John Day.

"We look forward to Oakland and Sheridan," Delaney

said. "We have a good idea of what works and our identity as a team. We should put in a better performance and hope to come out with the 'W.'"

Grant Union faces Sheridan at 12:30 p.m. on Friday and Oakland at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Other teams joining in include Sherman/Arlington/Condon and Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students (elementary through high school) and free for children 6 and under.

The Prospectors also host their annual fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Grant Union old gym.

Delaney said it's a fun, not-to-miss event.

The event is catered by Kris and Kjer Kizer with a tri-tip dinner.

## Lady Pros face tough Tigers team

GU girls host Heppner/Ione Friday, April 1

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

LA GRANDE — The Grant Union Lady Prospectors had a tough first outing in La Grande last Friday where

they suffered a near shutout to the Tigers.

The Prospectors lost Game One 1-15 and Game Two 1-17.

A challenging early schedule is just the way Grant Union head coach DeAnna Nash likes it.

She said she knew La Grande would be a tough competitor, but it will only help them as they prepare for

league games which include some of the best in the state.

"Our league is strong, but if our goal is to make a run at state, that competition will only help us," she said.

The Grant Union girls, who are in the Class 3A Eastern Oregon League, will host 2A/1A Heppner/Ione on Friday, April 1, at the Seventh Street Complex in John Day.



Contributed photo

Grant Union junior high wrestlers Kevin Duvall (fourth place), left, Drew Lusco (first place) and Russell Hodge (third place) at the Regional Qualifier in Boardman at Riverside High School. The three advanced to the state championship, where Lusco won first place in the 220 weight class.

## LUSCO

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The junior high team is led by head coach Andy Lusco and assistant coaches Tye Parsons, Jake Batease and Guy Johnson.

At the state competition, Drew Lusco won his first two matches by pin and then a 2-0 decision in the semifinals. He took first place in the finals with a 4-2 decision.

Hodge (150) went 2-2 and finished one place out of the medals, wrestling well, while Duvall (195), a new wrestler, competed hard but didn't win a match, coach Lusco said.

At the regional competition, Drew Lusco won first, Hodge third and Duvall fourth.

"This is a very competitive process," coach Lusco said.

"The 1A through 6A teams all compete together. There were over 1,000 total wrestlers at four regional tournaments throughout the state."

He said each region sends the best four into a 16-person bracket at Woodburn a week later.

A total of 99 schools participated at the state level, and twice as many participated at regionals.

"Our junior high wrestlers finished the season strong with some excellent performances at the regional meet in addition to our state qualifiers," coach Lusco said. "Multiple match winners included Airron Glimpse, Justin Hodge, Ethan Moore, Nathan Moore, Angel Oliver, Eli Sheedy and Damion Young — overall a great season with a dedicated group of young wrestlers."

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Andy Lusco, head coach

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## DANCERS

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Catholic (91.44), followed by 4A Stayton (90.83) and 4A Crook County (84.11).

She said that while her team didn't earn a first- or second-place finish, their scoring was close to the four teams placed just ahead of them in the preliminaries — the top seven advanced to the final round.

"They were fully committed," Adair said of her team. "Their expression and spacial awareness rose to the level it needed to be to perform at the Coliseum. They hit several things that we hadn't seen them hit yet."

Adair is stepping down as head coach after 19 years of leading the team she was once a member of herself when she attended Grant Union.

"I look forward to watching them continue to be competitive in a sport that is becoming more difficult for 2A schools to participate in," she said.

She added, although her group of 10 was comprised of mostly beginners, their excellent work ethic helped them improve week after week.

"I love working with kids and seeing their confidence increase," she said. "You have to be confident in yourself to perform and step outside your comfort zone. It's why I coached as long I have. Our team is like family."

## Kids can kick up fun with soccer

Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation is offering an indoor soccer program for 4-7-year-olds.

Soccer practice starts Monday, April 4, at the Humbolt Elementary School gym.

Registration is open, and forms are available at the Parks and Rec website, <http://jdccparksandrec.weebly.com>, and at local schools.

For questions, contact the Parks and Rec office at 541-575-0110.

**the corner's HOT SHOT OF THE WEEK**

**MACKENZIE WOODCOCK**

School: Grant Union  
Grade: 12  
Parents: Lance Woodcock and Shannon Adair  
Sport: Dance

*What I like best about my sport:* "I have been on dance team for four years, and in those four years I've made great friends that are like family. I have also had amazing coaches over the years that have had a very positive influence on my life."

*Coach's Comment:* "She has been a joy to coach and is an incredible leader for her team. She is comfortable in her skin and strives to be positive at all times. She is very talented and always works hard to accomplish more."

- Coach Shannon Adair

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**Date:** April 2, 2016  
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