

Nick Springer will go to D.C.

GU junior is one of four selected for OTEC Youth Tour



Nick Springer

Blue Mountain Eagle

Nick Springer is one of four regional students who will head to Washington, D.C., in June as a delegate for Oregon Trail Electric Co-op's 2016 Youth Tour.

Springer, who lives in Prairie City, is a junior at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School.

He and three other regional high-schoolers — Heather Keniry of La Grande, Emily Faulk of Imbler and Elina Jenks of Hines — will represent Oregon and the Northwest as they join nearly 2,000 students from across the United States for the June 9-16 tour.

During the tour, the delegates will visit famous historical sites, meet with congressional leaders and learn leadership skills.

They will create podcasts and digital photo projects as they learn about electric cooperatives and current issues in energy and climate change legislation that face their communities and the nation.

High-school sophomores interested in pursuing this opportunity during their junior year can find details at www.otecc.com under the "Community" tab. Applications for the 2017 tour will be available in November.

Event focuses on health for teens

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Junior high and high school students came away from the March 16 Teen Health Fair at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School armed with information on healthy living.

Students in grades seven through 12 from Grant Union, Prairie City and Dayville schools attended the event, sponsored by the Grant County Health Department and Grant County School-Based Health Clinic. All Grant County schools were invited.

Health Department manager Jessica Winegar coordinated the event, and several organizations had representatives teaching short workshops on a variety of topics.

The most popular of the 11 stations seemed to be the Jeopardy-style game about alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants and energy drinks, led by Russ Comer and Lisa Weigum of Grant County Safe Communities; the Oregon State University extension office's smoothie bike, led by Shanna Northway; and the simulated driving game which shows what happens when people text while at the wheel, led by Haley and Debi Hueckman.

Students also learned about nutrition, good hand hygiene, dental health, bully prevention, common causes of ACL injuries and how to have a good night's rest.

The Grant County Deputy District Attorney Matt Ipson and Heart of Grant County representatives also taught the consequences of sexting, and Blue Mountain Hospital District paramedics and EMTs taught what to do in case of 9-1-1 bleeding emergencies.

"So far, we have heard great things from the students," Winegar said, adding they plan to continue to offer the event in the future.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Dayville School students show a competitive spirit during the Jeopardy-style game sponsored by Grant County Safe Communities Coalition during last week's Teen Health Fair at Grant Union.



Grant County Deputy District Attorney Matt Ipson teaches the harms and consequences of sexting with a group at the Teen Health Fair held March 16 at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School. Ipson is assisted by Heart of Grant County representatives, Executive Director Shelly Whale, back left, victim advocate Cindy Kalin, and victim intervention specialist Kathy Smartt from the DA's office.



Grant County Health Department Manager Jessica Winegar, left, shows James Jones and Serena Pace the germs on their hands using a special liquid and a black light at the School-Based Health Center at Grant Union.

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Chris has visited every town and city in Grant County and has attended city council meetings and school board meetings in all the communities.

Each year, the county has allocated monies from the SRS excess road fund for county schools, cities and towns

In fiscal year 2014-15, Grant County schools received **\$511,117**

In fiscal year 2014-15, cities and towns in Grant County received **\$606,118**

Chris has worked hard as a member of the Association of Oregon Counties Public Lands and Natural Resources steering committee to help ensure funding for our schools, cities and towns

For fiscal year 2015-16, schools, towns and cities will again receive SRS excess road funds. Payments should be out in April

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Teacher of the Year nominations now open

Blue Mountain Eagle

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2016-17 Oregon Teacher of the Year award.

The Oregon Lottery and Oregon Department of Education have partnered for the competition which recognizes noteworthy teachers across the state.

The teacher chosen for the award and their school will each receive a \$5,000 cash prize. He/she will continue to teach in the classroom and have opportunities to speak throughout the state. The winner will also be able to apply for the National Teacher of the Year award and attend events such as International Space Camp, National Teacher of the Year conference and National Teacher of the Year Recognition Week in Washington, D.C., and meet the president at the White House.

Two runners-up will receive \$2,000 each.

Anyone can nominate a teacher, but teachers may not nominate themselves. The deadline is May 13.

For more information, visit www.oregonteacherofttheyear.org.

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COUNTRY FINANCIAL

ODF raises \$6K for food banks

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Oregon Department of Forestry's John Day Unit, in coordination with the Governor's Food Drive for Oregon, raised over \$6,600 for local food banks in Grant and Wheeler counties.

The amount will provide for nearly 20,000 meals for families in need.

The money was raised from several ODF employee-sponsored fundraisers including a chili feed and yard sale, silent auction for tree planing in the Canyon Creek Complex Fire area, and items for ODF's employee auction.

The John Day Unit partnered with the U.S. Forest Service for seedlings used in the tree planting, and Malheur Lumber Company donated a Landowner Preference cow tag which was auctioned off.

ODF's contribution to the Governor's Food drive was 320 pounds per employee, up from 250 pounds in 2015. The 12 John Day employees averaged over 2,200 pounds each.

For more information on ODF's Central Oregon District and the John Day Unit, visit www.ODFcentraloregon.com.

Wishing you a Happy Easter!

From all of us at the

BLUE MOUNTAIN EAGLE