



The Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler

Buddy the elk joined the Bunny Hop 5K in Dayville Saturday. A wildlife biologist speculates the 3-year-old elk was raised by humans. Buddy had been moved from the Prineville area last month to the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area in the Murderers Creek Basin in hopes he would join other elk. After Buddy made his first appearance in town at the race, he was moved to the Wildlife Safari in Winston this week.

BUDDY THE ELK JOINS DAYVILLE'S BUNNY HOP 5K

Dayville's annual Easter run features a four-legged friend

By Cheryl Hoefler
 Blue Mountain Eagle

DAYVILLE — What's a nice elk like you doing in a race like this?

Dayville's Bunny Hop 5K last Saturday picked up an unexpected participant — an elk, known as "Buddy" to locals.

Buddy ran the entire race, alongside the 54 human runners, on South Fork Road from south of town to the Dayville City Park. He stopped at least twice and headed off the route, but returned again each time to rejoin the other 5K racers.

He did have a number, but it was just an ear tag and not a sanctioned race bib. Buddy also didn't pay any entry fees, nor did he tech-

More inside

Turn to page B10 for results from this year's Bunny Hop 5K.

nically finish the race, meandering through the crowd at the park instead of crossing the finish line.

Buddy also didn't take part in the Easter egg hunt at the park afterward; human help guided him back up South Fork so young egg hunters could have the park to themselves.

Though Buddy is well-known by people in Dayville, this was his first trip to town, according to city recorder Ruthie Moore.

See BUDDY, Page B10



ABOVE: Buddy, the Easter Elk, enjoys an off-course break during the 5K. He paused a few times, rejoining the human runners after each brief respite.

BELOW: Runners share the road with Buddy as they approach Dayville and the finish line at the park. Buddy was moved in February to the Murderers Creek area in Grant County from Central Oregon. ODFW speculates the elk, who seems comfortable around people, was possibly raised as a calf.



Lady Pros ready to fight for each game

Coach Nash says pitching is team's strength

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — A sure sign of spring is bats cracking at the Seventh Street Complex ballparks.

The Grant Union Prospector softball team is in its 10th year, with head coach DeAnna Nash at the helm.

"To think, we started 10 years ago, with no funding and no high school experience — and in seven years, we made it to state," she said, adding the years have flown by quickly.

Although the school fits in the 2A class, Nash has her team competing in the 3A-5 Eastern Oregon League.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

The Grant Union Prospector softball seniors, from left: Jaylyn Bishop, Mariah Gibson, Taylor McCluskey, Jocelynn Smith, Railey Namitz and Janelle King.

See LADY PROS, Page B2

Pro boys warm up bats at ice breaker

Team loses to Sheridan, defeats Oakland

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant Union Prospectors hosted the March 25-26 Les Schwab Invitational, breaking the ice for baseball season.

Four teams joined Grant Union for the two-day tournament, the Prospectors taking a 7-10 loss to the 3A Sheridan Spartans on Friday and defeating the 2A Oakland Oakers 6-4 on Saturday.

"Sheridan is a good ball club, and they played well," Grant Union head coach Brian Delaney said. "We put ourselves in a position to win, just made too many mental mistakes."

The teams were scoreless in the first two innings of play.

After some back and forth scoring, including Billy Copenhaver's two-run single in the fourth, Grant Union tied the score in the sixth with Clayton Vaughan's RBI single and Zack Deiter's sacrifice fly.

See PROS, Page B2



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography

Grant Union Prospector Zack Deiter slides in at home during last weekend's Les Schwab Tournament.

Monument track and field competes at All-Comers

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

OREGON CITY — The Monument School track and field team members had a good showing at the All-Comers event at the Oregon City High School track.

Teams from 15 other schools, 1A through 6A, competed.

Monument head coach Darrin Dailey said the title of the event, "All-Comers," was fitting, because all schools and all ages are welcome to compete, and no preregistration is required.

"Monument athletes did very well with many season and career PRs," Dailey said.

He said it's unfortunate that none of the times or marks are official, as the event is just for fun, and all athletes compete unattached to their school.

Highlights for the Tigers include Sophia Pettit earning first place in the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.1, and she was also first in the 200 with 27.3, improving her season time.

Kyla Emerson took third in the 100 with 14.3 and third in the 100 hurdles with 20.4.

Faythe Schafer finished third in the 400 with 68.9, fifth in discus and fourth in javelin, improving her season mark in javelin.

Maya Thomas was eighth in the 800 and ninth in the 1500. She was eighth in shot put, improving her season's best mark.

Dinorha Vidrio Landin earned personal records, placing sixth in the 400, seventh in long jump and ninth in the 800. She also finished 11th in discus.

For the boys, Hayden Schafer earned first in discus with a throw of 88-05, and was third in shot put and javelin, earning a personal record in shot put and improving his season mark in javelin.

Jess Hoodenpyl finished eighth in the shot put and ninth in the 800.

The Monument team will compete at the Culver Invite on Wednesday, March 30.