

GONE FISHIN': Buddies pair up for fun day at Mt. Vernon ranch

Kids catch and release bass and blue gill

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON — Adult volunteers and younger counterparts were angling for a fun day of fishing during last Friday's Elks Fishing Buddies event.

This is the fourth year Gail and Shirley Enright have hosted the event at their Mt. Vernon property, Wagon Wrench Ranch, where ponds are stocked with blue gill and largemouth bass and scenery includes lush green grass and a variety of birds.

Sponsored by the John Day Elks Lodge No. 1824 and Grant School District No. 3, the event pairs adult volunteers with students in elementary and middle school grades for a day of fishing.

"It was a very successful year again," Shirley said, adding that some of the students hadn't been fishing before.

"One boy caught 21 fish," Gail added. "Everyone caught fish."



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Students of Grant School District No. 3 show their fishing awards after a successful day at last Friday's Elks Fishing Buddies event held at Gail and Shirley Enright's Wagon Wrench Ranch in Mt. Vernon. From left, front row: Matthew Musgrove, Charlotte Prechtl, Ernie Shorts, Leroy Cowan, Lacey Warrington, Mercedes Locke. Back row: Kayana McLean, Matthew Shorts, Joshua Shockley, Tristan Clarry, Austin Cash, Sammantha Guy, Noah Spencer, Alex Hoffman (back) and Katie Shockley.

There were 17 students buddied up with 13 volunteers, who brought fishing poles, gear and knowledge to share with the kids.

Matthew Shorts, who attended with his mom, Tina, and brother, Ernie, said he caught five for the day.

"I like catching fish and having fun with my mom," he said. Sammantha Guy said she enjoyed the day of fishing.

"You can learn more about fish that you didn't know, and it's a pretty sight," she said.

Matthew Musgrove said he also likes the beautiful views at the ranch.

"I just like the chance to be here again," he said.

Lacey Warrington said it was fun working with the fishing buddies, who knew what to do. One buddy helping the students was Jim Spell of John Day.

"Working with the kids, they were a little apprehensive at first, but excited," he said. "I think they were successful. They listened well and followed instructions. They enjoyed it, and I enjoyed it. It's relaxing for me."

Elks Lodge volunteer Connie Wood, who helps find adults to pair up with the students, said she enjoyed seeing the expressions on the kids' faces when they caught fish.

Gail added, "It's a good experience for the adults and the kids as well, and that's what we hope to see every year."



Contributed photo

Mercedes Locke, left, with fishing buddy Neil Bauer who helped her catch a large mouth bass.



Contributed photo

Noah Spencer and Charlotte Prechtl show a largemouth bass that Spencer caught.

The People Mover will be traveling to Seneca on May 21st for the Seneca Oyster Feed. The first trip leaves John Day at 10:00 AM and every hour and a half after that until 2:30 PM. Contact The People Mover at 541-575-2370 for more information.

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Horse trainer comes to John Day

Joe Wolter horse clinic will be June 2-6 at the fairgrounds

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Horse trainer and competitor, Joe Wolter, will conduct a colt starting, cow work and roping clinic Thursday-Monday, June 2-6, at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day.

Known for his deep understanding of livestock and his simple, thoughtful approach to helping both animals and people, Wolter holds training clinics across the country, and at his facilities in Aspermont, Texas, and Ballantine, Mont.

"We're very lucky to have someone of this caliber coming to Grant County," says clinic sponsor Patti

Hudson of Long Creek. "This is Joe's third year here and it just keeps growing. I have riders signed up from all over Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California," Hudson said.

Wolter began his career working for renowned horseman Ray Hunt on the Soldier Meadows Ranch in Nevada. Later, he joined with legendary roper and rawhide braider Bill Dorrance to conduct the first ranch roping clinics, and also worked with Dorrance's brother, master horseman Tom Dorrance.

Today he trains horses and competes as his clinic schedule allows. His winnings include numerous versatility ranch horse competitions and ranch roping events. The past few years, he has been a judge for the Road to the Horse, World Championship Colt Starting Competition in Lexington Kent. He's also a ranch

roping judge at the annual Will James Roundup in Hardin, Mont., and a headliner at the Legacy of Legends annual gathering in Fort Worth, Texas.

For those who want to come and watch, the cost is \$30 per day, but admission is free to the first colt starting session on the afternoon of June 2.

The Longview Ranch is providing cattle for the cow working and roping classes. Toni Clark's Chuck Wagon from Long Creek will serve a no host tri-tip dinner to participants on Saturday night.

"It's just a great opportunity for horse folks from all over to get together, have a good time and learn," said Hudson.

A few spots are available for riders in John Day. Anyone interested should contact Hudson at 541-421-3456.

For more about Joe Wolter visit JoeWolter.com.



Invitation to Bid -- Grant County Fire & Life Safety Systems

Grant County, Oregon is currently accepting bids from qualified service providers to annually inspect and service the county's emergency and fire suppression systems. This includes emergency and exit lighting, fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, kitchen exhaust fire suppression, and all types of fire extinguishers including those associated with mobile units located in the field and the Long Creek Shop. Qualified bidders must submit a written proposal that separately addresses each facility listed below including all emergency and fire suppression systems located there. All work performed shall be in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rules, OR-OSHA codes and regulations, and standards adopted by the State of Oregon. Bidders shall also provide copies of service provider's current CCB registration, liability insurance, and surety bond. Bidder will be provided a location guide and will be responsible for finding fire extinguishers located on the property. Fire extinguishers stored off-site will NOT be the responsibility of bidder.

Inspection of the properties listed below may be arranged by contacting the designated person at each location during regular business hours.

NOTE *Access keys needed at some locations.

For more information, please contact Laurie at 541-575-0059 or wrightl@grantcounty-or.gov.

Courthouse (includes *elevator), 201 S. Humbolt St, Canyon City
Laurie Wright 541-575-0059

Criminal Justice Facility, 205 S. Humbolt St, Canyon City
Josh Wolf 541-575-1134

Juvenile & Adult Services, 200 S. Humbolt St, Canyon City
Todd McKinley 575-1722 / 1743

***C-2 Utilities Contractors**, 323 S. Humbolt St, Canyon City
Kathy Smith 541-575-1798

Airport Facility, 72000 Airport Rd., John Day
Haley Walker 541-575-1151

Fairgrounds, 411 N.W. Bridge St, John Day
Mary Weaver 541-575-1900

Health Dept & Community Counseling, 528 E. Main St, John Day
Thad Labhart 575-1466

***L-Building Complex**, 530 E. Main St, John Day
Laurie Wright 541-575-0059

OSU Extension Service, 530 E. Main St, John Day
Shanna Northway 541-575-1911

Library, 507 S. Canyon Blvd, John Day
Vicki Waters 541-575-1992

Road Facility, 27941 Lower Yard Rd, John Day
Kathy Gillam 541-575-3782

Bids must be received by the Grant County Court at 201 S. Humbolt St, Box 280, Canyon City OR 97820 by 3 pm, Monday, June 13, 2016. Bids received by e-mail or facsimile will not be accepted. Bid opening: Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

Contract period: July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018.

Grant County retains the right to refuse any and all bids, to waive any informalities or irregularities therein, and to accept the proposal that, in the opinion of the Court, is in the best interest of Grant County.

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