

**26 MEDALS,
 7 TITLES,
 2 STATE
 RECORDS
 AND 1 TEAM
 VICTORY**
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EO Media Group/Kathy Aney
Kori Pentzer, of Grant Union, wins the triple jump Friday at the State Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field in Eugene. Pentzer also won the long jump Thursday.

TRACK CHAMPIONS

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Families fill a nurturing need

Foster parents open hearts, homes to kids

By Cheryl Hoefler
 Blue Mountain Eagle

It's no secret that parenting is one tough job.

Most parents would agree that while the intrinsic rewards run high, so do the day in and day out challenges.

Foster parents respond to the calling at an even higher level, willingly and even eagerly opening their hearts and homes to children in need on a temporary basis.

May is National Foster Care Month, launched in 1988 to give recognition and increase awareness.

Children enter into the foster care system primarily because they cannot remain safely in their own homes. The reasons vary, but usually it is as a result of their parents' actions and not the child's behavior.

So just why do some people sign up to foster a child — a job that requires patience, perseverance and unpredictability? What motivates them to keep going? And what is day-to-day life like, juggling the changing moods and needs of their foster child while still managing a household and caring for other family members?

Kimberly McManus, who, with her husband,

Mike, has fostered over 40 children the past 11 years, said, "It's all about the kids and how we can help them."

"We're strong advocates for them," she said. "They don't have a voice."

She said they used to mentor children in the Heros and Her-os program at Families First Parent Resource Center years ago.

"We have so much to offer and felt like we needed to do more," McManus said.

The couple adopted one foster child, a girl who is now 9, and are in the process of adopting another one, a 4-year-old boy.

Among the rewards of fostering, she said, are seeing the positive changes later with children who are doing well either back in their family's home or in an adopted home.

"I would encourage anyone who has even a little bit to offer, to consider becoming a foster parent or a certified respite person," McManus said. "You'll love it."

Certified respite people are the ones who offer valuable relief for foster parents for all or part of a day. McManus said they don't have to go through training; only a background check is required.

"Even a single mom could do it," she said.

Bill and Cammi Copenhagen of John Day also adopted one of their foster children, Andrew, who was 13 when he arrived at their home and is now 18 and graduating from Grant Union Junior-Senior High School.

"It feels like he's been here forever," Cammi said.

The Copenhavers have fostered over a dozen children during the past 10 years.

Copenhagen said they became foster parents after hearing negative stories in the news involving foster homes.

"We would always say, 'Send them our way!'" she said. "One day, we just said, 'Why don't we do it?'"

She said it's a job that has ups and downs, and they don't always agree with the way things turn out.

But Copenhagen said she loves seeing the growth in the kids.

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Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler

Julianne Hansen, left, dishes out hot corn, while Kimberly McManus serves up oysters. The Seneca Oyster Feed menu also includes garlic bread, a variety of salads and beverages. See more photos on Page A12

Oysters don't mind the rain

Seafood lovers line up at annual feast

Blue Mountain Eagle

SENECA — What's a little rain and cold to an oyster — or an oyster lover, for that matter?

Gloomy, damp weather was no deterrent to people lining up for the 25th annual Seneca Oyster Feed at Seneca City Park last Saturday. Those attending this year were well-prepared for the elements.

About 275 oyster dinners were served, while still more feasted on burgers, hot dogs and fries.

In the raffle, Renee Scott of Gresham won the Ruger American rifle, and Andy Radinovich Sr. won the \$500 cash prize.

The Chad Howard Construction team from Prineville won the softball tournament.

Winners in the golf scramble were the team of Brad Armstrong, Colt Carpenter, Trevor Simmons and Nathan Long. Each



Nothing — not long lines nor cold, gloomy weather — deters Seneca Oyster Feed lovers from their seafood feast.

won a single membership at Bear Valley Meadows Golf Course. Proceeds from the event go toward maintenance and improvements at the golf course.

Palmer's legal woes

Sheriff responds to record tampering allegation, is sued to release records

By Sean Hart
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The same day Sheriff Glenn Palmer's attorneys responded to an allegation he deleted a public record, a lawsuit was filed asking a judge to force him to release other records.

On Friday, May 20, Palmer's attorneys, Benjamin Boyd and D. Zachary Hostetter, released a statement responding to a portion of a complaint filed with the Oregon police licensing agency by John Day Police Chief Richard Gray. In addition to stating Palm-



Sheriff Glenn Palmer

er supported the occupiers of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and endangered the public, Gray accused Palmer of "tampering with public records" by deleting an electronic record of an incident in 2012 involving Gray.

Palmer's attorneys said in the statement the sheriff followed state law: "Although See *PALMER*, Page A12

Grant County ESD hit by ransomware attack

County, school online services affected

By Sean Hart
 Blue Mountain Eagle

A ransomware attack on Grant County Education Service District shut down county and school email and internet operations last week.

Superintendent Robert Waltenburg said services have been restored, and the ESD is making changes to try to prevent further problems in the future.

"While we have recovered for the most part, we are in the middle of tightening security as well as becoming more restrictive on our filtering," he said in an email. "We have learned that while our network is above industry-standards with filtering, antivirus, and antimalware, we cannot prepare for every possible outcome and still have a somewhat usable network."

Waltenburg said the ransomware was a .LOL! variant, and information technology departments around the world have seen large

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